

Working title dissertation:

## **ME AND THE CITY**

### **Towards more urban resilience through local identification**

*Development of a concept and guideline to strengthen an immediate urban design*

#### **Abstract**

For quite some time now, it appears that inequality in society and political radicalization are increasing in various countries. Ever-increasing population density in cities, climatic and health catastrophes, and political conflicts are shaping the discussions about the future of cities. These are phenomena which will confront us with even greater socio-cultural and socio-political challenges in the future (Dilk, 2019, S. URL). Urban open spaces will play an important role as places for negotiation and agreements. (Kuge, 2020, S. 32–33). At the same time, we will be confronted with even greater health problems and the effects of climate change in the coming years (Kraas u. a., 2016, S. 37-58,89-101). In 2016, the UN established the 17 goals for sustainable development (Short form: SDGs), which specify that sustainable development on an ecological, economic and social level must be monitored and ensured by the year of 2030. The goal 11 (SDG11) aims to achieve an inclusive, safe and resilient development of our cities. Thereby safe and inclusive access to green spaces as well as a more participatory human planning should be guaranteed. In 2018, for example, only 21% of the population had sufficient access to public spaces (Ströbel, 2020, URL).

Regarding the relationship between the Covid19 pandemic and future urban development, it is emphasized that particularly flexible strategies are required to guarantee cities with a high quality of life (Akers, 2020, S. URL):

*To manage public spaces in an ever shifting 'new normal', cities will need flexible strategies to prioritize interventions that have the most impact (Akers, 2020, S. URL)."*

The planned research investigates whether and how a better relationship can be generated between city dwellers and their city and which role a stronger local identification plays in this process. The goal is to find out if a better relationship and stronger local identification can be generated primarily through increased, self-determined interaction with urban space and through increased individual responsibility for urban space. It is anticipated that by increasing the individual sense of responsibility for urban space, that means if the individual person directly wants to take more care of their city, more urban resilience will be generated.

*The resilience of cities, i.e. urban systems that are more flexible, more robust and more intelligently designed, is closely related to the establishment of experimental sites or real laboratories in the local environment (Schneidewind u. a., 2020, S. 11,12)."*

The main focus is not on the mere improvement of spatial design, but on the improvement of the understanding of space by the individual urban dweller.

**Literature:**

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