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**Workshop Theme 2: Diversity, Cohesion and the Richness of Cities**



# **The Concept of “Culture” in Multi-Ethnic Areas Regeneration Policies: Common Views, Weaknesses, Experiences, Perspectives**

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## **ABSTRACT**

In recent years, cultural policies for urban regeneration have explored ways of looking at the culture of immigrant groups as a resource for the vitality of urban life and economy. In this perspective, the paper examines how the concept of “culture” can be constructed, in order to analyse the dynamics of urban multi-ethnic settlements, and to show how it can be used in urban regeneration policies that aim to face problems of diversity, local development, and social exclusion.

Two main research frameworks will be considered:

- based on the current debate on multi-ethnic societies, the paper will provide an overview of the most recognized weaknesses of the more traditional “models of inclusion” – assimilation, integration, multiculturalism – in order to point out the most interesting aspects of the emerging pluralist mode of integration. In particular, this model is interesting because it recognizes that integration is a two-way process including both immigrants and the host society;
- the pluralist mode of integration helps also to render problematic the most commonly held views of immigrants as all potentially excluded people, and of their culture as only linked to national, ethnic or religious origins. Culture is also a matter of gender, age, education, permanence within the host society, and socio-economic condition.

Recognizing these differences implies assuming that not all immigrants have the same needs and that not all immigrants are poor or potentially socially excluded. Policies that aim to deal with diversity without creating problems of social justice between immigrants and natives should be able to recognize these differences.

The paper examines how the concept of immigrants’ culture has been used in the last seven years’ experience of the SRB urban regeneration programmes of the Spitalfields area in East London, a case that, in recent literature, is often quoted as a best practice of cultural policy for urban regeneration in a multi-ethnic area.

**Key Words:** diversity, culture, regeneration policies

# **Socio-Residential Characteristics of Immigration Areas in Spain: a Comparative Metropolitan Approach**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Foreign immigration is a very recent phenomenon in Spain. Over the last few years, and especially since 2001, there has been strong growth in the number of non-EU immigrants changing the historical characterisation of Spain as a country of emigration, above all in the 1960s and 1970s. As in other countries with a high degree of foreign population, one of the principal consequences has been the transformation of the social structure, with a special focus on the larger cities. In this way, the main metropolises (Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Sevilla, Malaga, Bilbao and Zaragoza) have been the principal areas for the settlement of those migration waves. Between 1999 and 2005, these metropolises have absorbed some 45% of the 3,000,000 immigrants who have arrived in Spain.

This phenomenon has led to these metropolises becoming more diverse over a short time, generating different kinds of problems relating to housing and the residential segregation of such immigrants. This paper seeks to analyse from a metropolitan comparative approach, what the socio-residential characteristics of immigrants' concentration areas in those metropolises are and the differences with the Spanish population. In order to do this, the paper will focus on socio-residential clusters and their ethnic composition of each metropolis, comparing the clusters with immigrant overrepresentation and without it. The analysis for each metropolis will be carried by at the small scale of Census sections (or enumeration districts) for 2001 and 2005, in order to show the recent evolution.

**Key Words:** immigration, socio-residential cluster, metropolises

# **Enterprise and Diversity: Competitiveness and Cohesion in the Global City**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Diversity is increasingly recognised as a defining feature of global cities. Such cities which bring together and mix migrants from across the world are seen as archetypes of the cultural and economic diversity widely believed to be a fundamental attribute of thriving cities in an era of increasing globalisation. Migrants, refugees and new comers constitute the actors and developing architectures of such diversity and are viewed as an economic asset promoting urban economic competitiveness. Through the distinctive skills, entrepreneurial potential, and connections to international trade networks brought by such groups, as well as their impacts upon creativity, innovation and the urban landscape, policy-makers increasingly identify a ‘diversity dividend’ to be realised by economically successful cities. Yet beyond the rhetoric, there is only limited understanding of how in practice diversity feeds into economic competitiveness whilst simultaneously recognising the considerable challenges to social inclusion and community cohesion brought by an increasingly diverse city population.

This paper seeks to develop a more fully developed understanding of the relationship between urban economic competitiveness and diversity through a focus on one aspect; enterprise activity among new arrivals and refugees. Despite the considerable policy interest in entrepreneurship and ethnic minority businesses, little is known about the impacts of self-employment and enterprise owned-managed by new arrivals, and the roles that such activities play in the process of socio-economic integration of these often disadvantaged ethnic populations. Drawing upon original primary research, findings are presented with regard to the nature of formal and informal enterprise activity among different groups of new arrivals within deprived areas of London. These findings demonstrate both the constrained economic impacts that such enterprises have in promoting competitiveness and their important role in the process of socio-economic integration of new arrival groups. The paper concludes with consideration of the implications of these findings to the development and delivery of enterprise and social policy within diverse urban environments.

**Key Words:** urban competitiveness, diversity, enterprise