The Sensorial Map of the City

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ABSTRACT

Our daily urban experiences are the product of our perceptions and senses, yet the complete sensorial range is strikingly absent from urban studies. Sight has been historically privileged over the other senses and urban studies. However, smell and sound have also a huge influence over how we perceive places, they impact our behavior, attitudes and health. Yet, city planning is concerned only with a few bad smells and with limiting noise levels. We propose a new way of capturing nuanced sensorial perceptions of cities from data implicitly generated by social media users and of producing detailed sensorial maps of our cities.

Keywords

Urban informatics; smell; sound

A positive perspective on smell and sound

Previous work in urban planning has mainly focused on the negative side of urban smells and sounds, aiming at reducing the incidence of diseases and illnesses they cause in the population. Pleasant smells and sounds have been left out from the urban planning literature, yet they have been shown to positively impact city dwellers' health. Also, both positive and negative sensorial perceptions contribute to the city's identity as they provide insights into the social life of cities. Not knowing which of smells and sounds exist in cities may result in partial views of the collective image of our urban areas, favorkduion353(our-353(ouclon-2485tht25(wn)-s2485thd)]T 0 [(threformang)-300(souncio-entromic300(sobnds)ars.)]T /T1 2 11.955

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