

Rolf Lindner: 'Habitus of the City'

Abstract

The basic idea of the anthropology of a city is that of an anthropomorphic concept, comparing the city to a person with a specific biography (history). Related to it is the idea that cities, too, have their own habitus, or character, in the sense of Pierre Bourdieu, which becomes the generative principle of life-styles. Taking Paris and Los Angeles as an example it will be shown that both cities depend mainly on cultural capital. At the same time this cultural capital is established at opposed poles of culture. This feature shapes the character of the place in the sense of distinctive landscapes of taste.