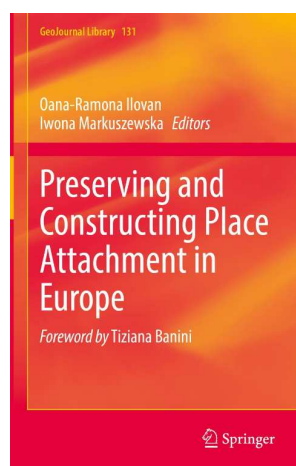


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OANA-RAMONA ILOVAN & IWONA MARKUSZEWSKA (Eds.). 2022.
Preserving and Constructing Place Attachment in Europe. Cham: Springer, 369 p.



Despite its variety, the book is structured in four sections, each one dealing with a specific aspect of place attachment.

Part I brings together four case studies on the topic of „Place making and place attachment through place-based development and community place-driven actions”.

Iwona Markuszewska presents the concept of sensitive planning which is meant as an alternative to the traditional planning systems. Her chapter explores the ways that the local communities may get involved

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in landscape planning and in the process of reconstructing place meanings. Theories of social and procedural justice are considered.

Adam Czarnecki, Aneta Dacko, Mariusz Dacko and Manu Rantanen present a case study on the relationship between place attachment (in the form of community attachment, place belonging and rootedness) and second-home usage in the region of the Silesian Beskids in Poland. The chapter emphasises the dynamic process of building and re-building place-based relations in the rural area and the authors aim to estimate potential changes in the second home usage pattern because this impacts the host community.

The next two chapters rise the issues of building and maintaining place bonding from the perspective of bottom-up actions (participatory communities), proposing two analyses of the role of entrepreneurs and common people as active agents that can improve the attachment to the place of residence in several Estonian regions.

Grete Kindel discusses the strong connection between local entrepreneurs' place attachment, place identity and their involvement in the development of the local community in two peripheral areas of Estonia. To this aim, Kindel draws on three concepts and related theories: place attachment, place identity and place-based leadership.

Ingmar Pastak's chapter fills a research gap concerning the creation of place attachment by new residents in gentrifying neighbourhoods. The trialectic nature of place attachment is presented based on Edward Soja's ontological understanding of place perceptions (perceived space, conceived space and lived space) and on a case study in Estonia. Actively place attached newcomers employ practices that contribute to place-making and place attachment. The author explores, through qualitative methods, these residents' actions, and motivations behind their actions.

Oana-Ramona Ilovan and Bianca Sorina Răcășan research territorial identities and place attachments in an urban neighbourhood of Romania. They use research material made of representations produced by a community-led newspaper. The focus of this study is on the connection between the neighbourhood identity as constructed in the local newspaper and the mutually constitutive place attachments and grassroots initiatives. Their research is based on a dynamic and relational understanding of two key concepts: *territorial identity* and *place attachment*.

From a methodological perspective, this section is varied, comprising research data obtained through: semi-structured and in-depth interviews, discourse analysis, a classification and regression tree.

The second part of the book includes four chapters strongly connected by an overarching topic, of *creating nature- and culture-based place attachment*, underlining nature-culture relationships, territorial awareness, sustainable local development and wellbeing. The case studies represent three geographically spread variants of open landscape: urban area (Germany and Spain), coastal area (Ireland), and forested (Sweden).

Anna-Lisa Müller exemplifies through an urban square, in Germany, how place attachment is created through negotiation between the materiality of places and sociality. Individuals and groups interact with each other and the ambient materiality and co-create place attachment. The dynamics of place and place attachment may contribute to urban social cohesion.

The authors of the next three chapters focused on natural (environmental) and cultural (anthropogenic) aspects of the landscape in a process of (re)shaping place bonding and paying attention to factors and circumstances (external and internal) that change the landscape, and, at the same time, transform the meaning of a place.

Desiree Farrell and Liam M. Carr explore, for a rural coastal area in Ireland, the creation of identities and place attachments, through top-down and community-driven practices in tourism. Their approach underlines the opportunities for future sustainable development at the community level, considering the impact and tensions generated by tourism within the local community.

Hugo Castro Noblejas, José M. Orellana Macías and Matías F. Mérida Rodríguez propose a classification that enables correlations between urban types and place attachments. They based the production of their methodology on a case study in a coastal Mediterranean area of Spain. The authors work with representative variables of urban habitability in order to assess the urban landscapes.

Åsa Ode Sang, Andrew Butler and Igor Knez research the impact of a catastrophic landscape change caused by fire on the people living in the proximity of the affected forest. They use measures of landscape perceptual quality to explore gender and age differences for connections

to place. Their study discusses the implications of landscape change for the loss of place attachment and the appearance of spatial anxiety.

The third part, „Sustainable Planning and Territorial Identities Enhancing Place Attachment“, epitomises the diversity of theoretical and methodological approaches. This part of the book rises the issues of building and maintaining place bonding from the perspective of top-down procedures (spatial planning), and how these influence the place-making process. In particular, this research presents an introductory discussion aimed at coupling the concepts of design for territories and green economy and identifying possible synergies to promote sustainable growth and territorial resilience. In addition, this part of the book focuses on the crucial role of individuals in place perception and self-identification, constructions, and re-constructions of place identities.

In the first chapter, Anna Maria Colavitti and Sergio Serra discuss the historical and contemporary links between the city and the countryside in Sardinia, Italy. For this, they consider the concept of *identity*, *place attachment* and *landscape*. They point out at the sustainability of development and the balancing of urban-rural relations that participatory planning and the bioregional framework can bring about. The authors focus on adapting planning techniques to improve the tools for managing the territory and the urban-rural landscape and to better regulate the policies linked to them and that would increase the meaning of place, within local communities.

According to David Fanfani and Massimo Rovai, the authors of the second chapter, another way to improve bonding to place is a City-Region Food System. These turn out as suitable entities to create local socio-economic self-reliance and, especially, sense of belonging, place attachment and stewardship on behalf of inhabitants and local communities. The authors discuss several case studies featuring a place-based and bottom-up approach to development in the region of Tuscany, Italy, which enhances belonging and place attachment through the regeneration of local food systems. The bonding between people and places is realised through capitalising on local heritage and place values and is explored in the framework of urban bioregions.

The next two chapters deal with place attachment and identity in border regions. Srećko Kajić, Marin Bogdanić and Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš present

the case study of a transborder region divided between Croatia and Serbia. Their research considers residents' perceptions, and findings show the recognition of the region from both sides of the present state border, self-identification, and place attachments. The regional identity of Syrmia is expressed with different intensity on the two sides of the state border, leading authors to conclude on the necessity to strengthen cross-border cooperation.

Alexis Sancho Reinoso investigates the role of microtoponyms in south Carinthia (in Austria) by setting a question: whether microtoponyms can contribute not just to normalise relationships between the majority and the minority in south Carinthia, but also to strengthen social and territorial ties across a border area that faces its own challenges as a traditionally peripheral, rural and mountain space at a crossroads between Germanic, Romanic and Slavic cultures. The author aims to assess the impact of social acceptance on social appreciation and manifestation of toponymic attachment in the case of this region, a bilingual area in Austria. He shows the existence of uneven bilingual policies and a neglect of valorising bilingual place names in development strategies, despite the fact that bilingualism is acknowledged as an asset of the region.

In all these contributions, one is aware of the salience of the social and policy discourses, as their impact on the evolution of those regions and individual/collective place-making processes is brought into the foreground. In addition, spatial scales intersect within the same case study, underlining the relational nature of place attachment. Methodology includes mix-method approaches, where questionnaire surveys and interviews are used frequently.

The last part of the book, titled „(Re)Constructing Place Attachment: Regeneration of (Post)Industrial Areas and Urban Recovery“, brings the readers through places and landscapes that undergo change. Chapters discuss themes such as landscape resources, local heritage, environmental, social and economic redevelopment, sustainable regeneration, adapting planning, etc. Authors present the varied options of places within transition processes and how such processes (re)construct place identity. The case studies present urban sites, post-industrial areas, and mining regions. This part of the book contains the most varied methods and research approaches: questionnaire surveys, in-depth interviews, GIS techniques, visual imagery analysis, qualitative and quantitative mass

media and social media content analysis, video and audio material analysis, discourse analysis, life-narratives, photo-elicitation interviews).

In the first chapter, Liliana Popescu, Cristiana Vilcea and Amalia Niță enquire about the correlation between place appropriation, residence time, place attachment, and support for revitalisation projects in the case of an urban area in Romania. Their research is based on fieldwork and an online survey in order to assess the use and appropriation/perception of this space by the residents. It focuses on the significance for residents of the revitalisation works done to the tangible heritage of a historical urban centre.

Magdalena Miśkowiec emphasises the role of participatory action at the local scale for successful regeneration processes, exemplifying with case studies from six Polish cities. The places of attachment are urban courtyards, areas that are defined by residents' memories and experiences related to family and home.

The third chapter, authored by Emanuel-Cristian Adorean, Oana-Ramona Ilovan and Iwona Markuszewska, includes reflections on what extent the introduction of metro systems reshaped the territorial identity and place attachment in three Portuguese cities (Lisbon, Porto, Almada). The authors challenge the assumption that transport infrastructure creates non-place and alienation (i.e., lack of attachment). Their research on the discursive construction of three Portuguese metros enquires about the relationship between the material and social features of the metros and users' place attachment. To find the features of this relationship, the authors explore representations in mass-media (newspapers) and social media, analysing both the 'official' discourse about the metros and users' opinions, perceptions and feelings about those metro places.

Kinga Xénia Havadi-Nagy and Tihamér-Levente Sebestyén, authors of the fourth chapter, analyse a former mining centre – Baia Mare (in Romania), by raising the following issue: *How to regenerate extensive contaminated land and the urban post-industrial landscape?* The authors explore the tools and strategies in the process of the multi-stakeholder co-creation and co-production framework to assess the effectiveness of the applied instruments in reconnecting people to urban places. The contributors bring valuable insights into the process of constructing place attachment through co-creation and co-development, arguing that

such a collaborative approach is significant in the recovery strategy of brownfields. It might lead to sustainable development if the local community is involved, due to the creation of new bonds and loyalties between people and places. Risks and limitations of such an approach are also pointed out, but the presented case study has potential to inspire actions in areas with similar features.

The next chapter proves that devastated post-industrial landscapes are imbued with singular and collective memories and possess sensory qualities that can create senses of place attachment. Based on the case study of Barreiro, in Portugal, Eduardo Brito-Henriques and Pablo Costa analyse the new post-industrial place emphasising the link between place attachment and arts in a ruined landscape. Despite its stigma produced by the process of de-industrialisation, the case of this shrinking town in Portugal shows that the arts can mediate place-making (i.e., the regeneration of former industrial places and the formation of place attachment).

In the last chapter of the book, „Conclusions: Reshaping place attachment research“, the editors draw the conclusions to the collective volume. The conclusions summarise the main results that emerged from the contributions to the book, underlining the most relevant issues about place attachment. The conclusions also suggest the directions towards which further and broader studies on place attachment could be oriented.

Considering all the above, this collective volume is a must-have for those interested in place attachment research.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS

The author declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.