Ideas for Social Researches − Chapter 11 − Urbanism and Architectural Tourism

Author: Kamil Rafikov
ORCID: 0000-0002-7828-2488
Email: mailbox@kamil-rafik.com
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Lifestyle in cities with minimally developed pedestrian infrastructure

Kochi city in India is one of the largest cities in Kerala (the most socially developed state in India). But considering its size, it has the worst infrastructure for pedestrians in 140+ human settlements of the 2nd world that I have visited by now. Conjunction of large size of the city with minimally developed pedestrian infrastructure should create a lot of issues. I suppose, the case of Kochi should be researched especially deeply, because it is somewhat exceptional.

Dates: 2018. Locations: Kochi, India.

Cleanliness as the most important quality of urban environment for females

In informal communication with young Turkish female, it was found that she considers “cleanliness” as the best attribute of European cities. In informal communication with young Moroccan female, it was found that she uses the word “clean” to highlight positive sides of Istanbul shown on photos. It looked somewhat funny for me (as male grown up in Russia), because all these places (Europe, Turkey, Morocco) are “equally clean” from my point of view. This observation gives the general idea to compare differences in perception of urban environment between males and females from different cultures, including potential and recent immigrants. The results of this research may help to improve urban policies.

Dates: 2018, 2019.

Architecture of village mosques in Southern Uganda as one of the best examples of modern African folk art

In the car trip across Southern Uganda, it has been found that the most part of village mosques have rather unique architectural elements (about 10 mosques were observed from car window); these elements are very simple but make architectural landscape more rich in comparison to North Africa and "Albania − Kyrgyzstan" regions where all village mosques are either made in standard "Turkish" style or carefully designed by professional architects. It is supposed, these Ugandan mosques may be considered as the most noticeable and the best example of modern African folk art.

Dates: 2019. Locations: Southern Uganda.

Underestimated touristic potential of wooden architecture of Istanbul

If you will walk through both European and Asian parts of Istanbul by feet for several weeks, you will have a chance to see several tens carefully kept wooden buildings constructed in 19th century by professional architects (former country palaces and country houses of rich people). It is supposed that almost all these buildings are skipped by the most part of tourists coming just to see the center of Istanbul; so, there is large underestimated touristic potential.

Dates: 2017, 2019. Locations: Istanbul, Turkey.

Kigali city in Rwanda as the best example of intermediary urban development goals for the hilly cities of 2nd and 3rd worlds

In my honest opinion, Kigali in Rwanda has the best urban environment between hilly cities of the 2nd and 3rd worlds, in comparison to such cities as Kathmandu in Nepal (2018), Vladivostok in Russia (2014), Mexico City in Mexico (2017), Valparaiso in Chile (2011). That's why it would be interesting to use Kigali as example of intermediary urban development goals for managers and population of other hilly cities of 2nd and 3rd worlds. Just because it will have better motivational effect than comparison with the cities of the first word, and will allow to test some urban development decisions in real world, but not in theory.

Dates: 2019. Locations: Kigali, Rwanda.

Elimination of wire protection around houses: case of Kigali in Rwanda

If you will walk through Kigali in Rwanda, you will see wire protection just around some houses, and it is probably just remaining from the past, because its presence does not correlate with the costs of houses. At the same time, I suppose that in 1990's and 2000's it was used by property owners much more actively. If my guess is true, then it would be great to research the topic of elimination of wire protection in Kigali much more deeply, because this experience will be extremely useful for cities that currently have very bad criminal reputation (like Mexico City, for example).

Dates: 2019. Locations: Kigali, Rwanda.

Effect of high quality urban environment on traditional African cultures

Is it possible to measure and predict effect of improving quality of urban environment on traditional African cultures?

Dates: 2019. Locations: Kigali, Rwanda.

Antananarivo, as a possible single future destination of architectural tourism in Sub-Saharan Africa

Antananarivo city in Madagascar has the great potential to become the only future destination of architectural tourism in Sub-Saharan Africa within the next 20-40 years, if the following actions will be performed:

- preserving existing colonial architecture carefully;
- implementing standard set of urban development projects that is needed in any city;
- developing taxi park to keep design of cars in the style of old European cars made in the mid of 20th century; collaboration with car design companies and car manufacturers is required to meet this goal;
- contracting several design studios to develop unique Malagasy architectural style that may mix elements from European colonial architecture and traditional architectural elements of South East Asia (as historical origin of Malagasy nation); all future construction works in the city should follow this style.

It should be noted that current architectural environment of the city may be considered just as a basis for future development; it cannot attract many tourists in its current amount, and moreover, in case of incompetent management it may be almost destroyed for the next 20-40 years.

Dates: 2019. Locations: Antananarivo, Madagascar.

Touristic hubs phenomenon

Osh city (Kyrgyzstan) and Irkutsk city (Russia) function as touristic hubs on multiple touristic trans-Eurasian routes. Such social phenomenon as “touristic hub” may be explored deeper on examples of these two cities. It is supposed, that other similar locations may exist in other parts of the world.

Dates: 2014, 2019.

Distribution of people in mass recreational pedestrian areas

I suppose, such research has been performed already; but in case if not, you are welcome to be the first. The idea is that people are distributed in mass recreational pedestrian areas in according to some mathematical rules, but not completely randomly. All types of such areas should be considered: squares with minimal number of green parts, parks, overcrowded territories in festivals, streets with the length up to 10-20 km (such long distance pedestrian streets may be present in some resort towns).