

Tourism and crisis: new urban tourism and multilocality as multi-scalar crisis solving agency?

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By dealing with the topic of tourism and crisis, two different perspectives come into mind: One out of different subjective agencies and the other related to positions of the local state. This multiperspectivity means, that on the one hand, some cities have become the „place to be“ for a highly mobile precariat of young students and unemployed creatives from all over the world. While on the other hand, touristification of urban areas has become one of the main issues to foster economic growth under the auspices of a competitive Global Cities approach in crisis ridden cities like Berlin, Barcelona, London or New York. The emerging „new urban tourism“ therefore is double sided. The so called Crisis has become a tool for austerity politics with a huge impact on the local state, the demand on affordable housing, real estate and infrastructures of all sorts. Often this multilocal “tourists” are seen as a threat to the local community, protest and xenophobic revolt emerges against parts of their economy like Airb&b, cheap hostels and international bars and newspapers. To refrain from the imagination that this kind of urban tourism is mainly leisure oriented, it has to be scrutinized how being “at the right time at the right place” has become an economical survival strategy of young creatives to boost their social and cultural capital. This subjectivities of self - gouvernementality to go where you can optimize your skills and networks lead to a broad variety of practices in multilocal and its (often informalized) economies. One of the most striking forms is the development of a broad range of micro-economies around the basic needs of visitors and part time residents like housing, food, caring and sharing contacts and information. Historically this is not new, but the scalar and temporal range has changed dramatically. In my paper I will focus on research in Berlin and Barcelona on the impact and debates on the “Right to the City” for tourists and part time residents. The recent “crisis” is regarded as a crucial process of transformation from former welfare state concepts over the neoliberal paradigm to new (neo)nationalistic forms of exclusion and xenophobia. Hence, this crisis can also be seen as a possibility to develop new forms of urban and local citizenship by inclusion of the temporary present people and the opening for a wider horizon of social and political imaginations, not only in Europe but also global.