RESOLUTION
INTERNATIONAL PRACTICAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
“CITY AS A CLASSROOM”
24-28 AUGUST, 2020

EDITORS: VITALII LUNOV AND MAXIM LEPSKIY
RESOLUTION
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“City as a Classroom”
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Key Speakers:

Dr. Felipe Fernández-Armesto is an award-winning historian and the author of several bestselling books, including 1492, Ideas that Changed the World, and The Americas. He lives in Indiana and is a professor of history at the University of Notre Dame. He has written numerous books on a variety of subjects from American History to the Spanish Armada. His works appeared and were reviewed by leading world publications. One of the recent works is The Oxford Illustrated History of the World edited by him.

Prof. Dr. Michael Batty (CBE FRS FBA) is a Bartlett Professor of Planning at University College London (UCL) where he is Chair of the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA). His work is focused on computer models of cities and their visualisation, and more recently how computation lies at the heart of the smart cities movement. His most recent books are The New Science of Cities (2013) and Inventing Future Cities (2018). He is the Editor of Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science.

Ph.D. Dr. Oleg Maltsev is an author, criminologist, psychologist, photographer, investigative journalist. He is an Academician of Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. Founder and director of The Memory Institute, head of Expeditionary Corps. He is an author of numerous books in the areas such as applied history, sociology, depth psychology, philosophy, criminalistics, criminology. He has been conducting field research with the Expeditionary Corps in many countries for more than 6 years to explore on what levels and how people are shaped by cities. He is an editor of several interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journals.
Prof. Maxim Lepskiy – Professor, Doctor of Sciences, Philosophy (Dr.Sc. in Philosophy), Full Professor, Professor of the Chair of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Administration, Zaporizhzhya National University. Head of Research Board in Social Forecasting Sociological Association of Ukraine, Academician of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

Ph.D. Oleksandr Sahaidak is the Head of Theurung Association. He is a psychologist, Jungian analyst, hypnologist, academician, expert in anthropology and sociology. Chairman of the Psychological-philosophical scientific society at the UAS.

Prof. Dr. Jerome Krase is an Emeritus Professor, sociologist, Murray Koppelman Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Expert in sociology, gentrification in Brooklyn, Brooklyn ethnic groups, Italian-American politics, culture, race, class, urban life and Ethnicity in New York. One of his recent books includes Race, Class, and Gentrification in Brooklyn: A View from the Street. He is a public activist-scholar and serves as a consultant to public and private agencies regarding urban community issues. Co-Editor of Urbanities, and Editorial Board Member of Visual Studies, and CIDADES.

Carol Highsmith is an American photographer, author, and publisher who has photographed in all the states of the United States, as well as the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. She photographs the entire American vista (including landscapes, architecture, urban and rural life, and people in their work environments) in all fifty U.S. states as a record of the early 21st century. Highsmith donated her life's work of more than 100,000 images, royalty-free, to the Library of Congress, which established a rare, one-person archive.

Prof. Vitalii Lunov is an Associate Professor in the university named after O.O. Bogomoltsa. Member of the American psychological Association, the American Academy of clinical psychology, World Federation for mental health (USA), the European Academy of natural Sciences (Hannover, Germany).
Charles Landry is an expert in the use of imagination and creativity in urban change. He is a fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin. He invented the concept of the Creative City in the late 1980’s. The notion has become a global movement and changed the way cities thought about their capabilities and resources. He is best known for The Creative City: A toolkit for Urban Innovators.

Eduardo Almeida is the CEO at INDRA and Minsait Brazil. He manages more than 8,500 specialists and has more than 25 years of professional experience in companies such as Alcatel, Cisco Systems and Unisys. Previously, he served as Vice President and general Manager for Unisys Corporation in Latin America.

Dwight Wilson has spent over a decade working in the private security industry protecting high profile clients and working in high risk areas. He currently works for Valor Force as a security professional. He is an author of two books on human and wildlife tracking, Following Tracks Vol 1 and 2, and has contracted with several government agencies as a professional tracker and instructor. Dwight is a Guro of Filipino Martial Arts with Rister International Martial Arts for more than 20 years experience.

Dr. Ryan Bishop is an author, editor, critical theorist with an interest in urban studies. Professor at the Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton, UK. Director of Research and Doctoral Research within Winchester School of Art at the University of Southampton. He is a co-editor of Cultural Politics (Duke UP); editorial member of Theory Culture & Society (Sage) and others.

Avi Nardia is a martial artist, founder of the defence martial art KAPAP. In the course of 24 years as a reserve officer, he (Major, IDF Res.) has served as an official hand-to-hand instructor, safety officer and served in the Special Counter Terror Unit. He has also trained Police agencies and armed forces all over the world, from Police patrol and corrections officers to SWAT, SRT and SERT team members along with Army, Marine and counter terror units and Special Forces.
Prof. Dr. Peter J. M. Nas is an author, emeritus professor of cultural anthropology at Leiden University (Netherlands); he used to work at the institutes of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology, and Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia and Oceania (Leiden University). He has published extensively in the fields of urban anthropology, development sociology and urban symbolism, among which are “Hypercit. Symbolic side of urbanism”, “Cities Full of Symbols: A Theory of Urban Space and Culture”, “Town-Talk: The Dynamics of Urban Anthropology” and “Urban Symbolism”.

Prof. Liudmyla Fylypovych is a religious scholar, head of the Department of Philosophy and History of Religion in Institute of Philosophy by G.S. Skovoroda, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Professor of National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy”. Vice President of the Ukrainian Association of Religious Studies. Executive Director of the Center for Religious information and freedom of the Ukrainian Association of Religious Studies.

Prof. Dr. Spiro N. Pollalis is a Professor of Design, Technology and Management at the Harvard Design School. Since 2008, he is the Director of the Zofnass Program for the Sustainability of Infrastructure that has led to the Envision Rating System. He is also the Principal Investigator of the project “Gulf Sustainable Urbanism” for 10 cities in the Arab Gulf. He has taught as a visiting professor at the ETH-Zurich, Switzerland; TU-Delft, Holland; Uni-Stuttgart, Germany; U-Patras, Greece; and has offered joint courses with the Harvard Business School on planning and development.

Bryan Darr is an Executive Vice-President of Smart Cities at Ookla, the company behind Speedtest and President & CEO of Mosaik. In June 2018, Mosaik was acquired by Ookla, combining the vast Speedtest network performance data with the mapping and coverage expertise of Mosaik. Bryan has served on many industry committees during his career. He currently serves on the Wireless Industry Association’s Innovation and Technology Council and CTIA’s Smart Cities Business & Technology Working Group.
**Dr. Michael Hynes** is an Environmental Sociology Lecturer in the School of Political Science & Sociology at NUI Galway, with long-standing research interests in sustainability issues related to transport, urban design and liveability, technology adoption and diffusion and socio-technical transitions. Mike’s current research interests continue to focus in the connection between urban form and transportation systems which are crucial importance to creating well-designed and liveable urban environments, while improving the health of individuals and building community resilience.

**Prof. Ellen Dunham-Jones** is an architectural educator and urbanist best known for her work on re-educating the public how to interact with their environment, she is also an authority on suburban redevelopment. Author of over 60 articles linking contemporary theory and practice. She is a Professor in the School of Architecture at Georgia Tech, where she also serves as Director of its MS in Urban Design Program. She and June Williamson co-authored Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs which was awarded the Architecture & Urban Planning category of the 2009 PROSE Award.

**Iryna Lopatiuk** is an Associate fellow of Ukraine Academy of Science and the Memory Institute. Member of the special scientific unit “Expeditionary corps”. Chairman of Odessa Historic-literature scientific society. Secretary of Psychological and Philosophical Scientific Society.
RESOLUTION

Big cities have always summoned people who were looking for a better life. Every year millions of people come to megacities in pursuit of their dream. There are ones for whom this decision was the best thing they did, they light up like stars, build a successful career, and reach unparalleled heights. For others, moving to another city does not end well but what is the reason? Why do the same cities become an ideal condition for some and an obstacle for others? According to the paradigm shared by interdisciplinary academia, every human being is born as a blank “white sheet of paper” and one becomes who he is in the process of becoming an adult, socialization and experiencing trials on the path of life. So what writes the human being? Indisputably, one of the fundamental categories in the development of a person is the environment. The environment is where one grows up and is shaped by that very “invisible Author”. The processes of urbanization, which actively catalyzed the dynamics of the development of civilization long before the 21st century, draw attention to the particular environment which is occupied by a modern person — a CITY.

Through critical and objective view on enduring factors of cities that directly impact and reshape individuals and the personality traits, it was proposed to find explanations to questions such as “what do cities teach and show us?”, “in what ways cities shape and train us?”, and most importantly “how people can ‘use’ cities to accomplish things possessing knowledge to above-mentioned questions”.

This conference is designed to consolidate the efforts of scientists and experts to ultimately comprehend existing questions with scientifically based keys, directed at uncovering the logic and tactics of implementing “HOW TO MAKE THIS CIVILIZATION A FLOURISHING ONE”.

In the course of six days of the conference, the following topics were covered in the format of online discussion panels:

1. Theoretical foundations for studying cities. City as a set of factors defining the status and level of personality development;
2. Symbolism, photography, expeditionary scientific activities, and other methods of exploring cities;
3. Ongoing threats in the context of the city;
4. Symbolism, mysticism and visual sociology of the European continent. Sociological, psychological, anthropological and religious perspectives on cities in other continents;
5. City as a university and training program in life;
6. Architecture as textbooks for city residents and unconscious training in the course of their lives in a city.

As an outcome of the scientific discussion, the following aspects were considered and analyzed: the way the urban environment affects a person and determines his or her future; how may the methodology of researching a city as a classroom
may; security in the city; the stages of personal development; statuses and factors determining personal development and photography as a tool for looking into historical enigmas.

Throughout 5 discussion panels, Dr. Oleg Maltsev has presented a fundamental methodology of conducting research in the city and the way the city impacts a person. (Prior to its presentation at the Conference, the methodology has been successfully tested in more than 30 field studies in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Croatia, Turkey, Mexico, USA, South Africa, Ukraine, and other countries.) Oleg Maltsev noted that, certainly, cities can teach a lot, but for it to be possible there are two conditions that should be met:

1) availability of a certain methodology that would allow to explore cities most effectively through an interdisciplinary approach and transform the data obtained into tools for accomplishing different tasks;

2) a dedicated scientific highly qualified group that is capable to conduct systematic research activities on a global scale.

“The methodology of researching cities is quite a complex thing by itself. Let us look at the city from the perspective of a multilevel system of different disciplines. Every city has certain components: anthropological; psychophysiological; psychological; mentality, which comprises different disciplines such as sociology, cultural studies, statistics; and the last level is the symbolic component of the city, which encompasses many things starting from cultural heritage to architecture”, said Dr. Maltsev. Approaching the research of the city from the perspective of one discipline is going to give the data that would correspond only to that level. In other words, only an interdisciplinary approach can give a whole picture of the city.

Ph.D. Oleksandr Sahaidak, pointed out that historically—in anthropogenesis—a city begins with a crime, or rather a robbery, because most historical cities that we know started as either robber camps or sanctuaries, and some cities combined both (like Rome). Regardless of the origin of the cities, there was a sacred legend and history at the foundation of each city. It was necessary to have a mystical basis. Thus, each new city symbolically and mystically had to emerge from the foundation of the old one. Even in these days, most cities are bound to form a legend as they develop. O. Sahaidak provided several examples: “For instance, the city of Odessa remembers a famous legend about oranges that ‘saved’ the city. The legend underlies the city and one of those factors that contribute to the union of traditionalist and modernist levels of this society”. This is the reason the collective unconscious of cities is a powerful and continuously acting and manifesting force.

Since the phenomenon of “the city as a classroom” is discussed in the context of scientific discourse, it has been ascertained that all levels of the city research methodology educate personality as a resident in this or that city. Charles Landry made an analogy between the development of the urban environment and the biological organism, “[...] I looked at the “senses” of the city (senses from every dimension); what does it look like, what its color (yellow city, grey city or blue). All
different senses shape the city and then, the city shapes us, since there is psychological interaction going on”. Charles Landry looked at the city as an organism rather than a machine, which develops along with the culture: “Creativity is what shapes the city”. Having been engaged in field research of different cities and locations around the world to obtain various scientific and practical information allowed Dr. Maltsev and his colleagues in the Expeditionary Corps to develop a distinct methodology for researching the city. In the context of the discussion dedicated to the methodology validation, it was determined that the symbolic level of the city directly ranks all other levels downwards. Visible physical symbols and invisible symbols relate to this level. Here is an example of an “invisible symbol”, the extraordinary historical figure that used to live in the city, somebody who is still remembered and respected can be an invisible symbol of the city (but that won’t be true for other territories as that figure is well known only on the local level). It is believed that visible and invisible symbols construct the mentality component of a city. Corresponding the mentality component would be responsible for the psychology of the city. If we go further, we would be dealing with disciplines such as psychology and anthropology. The saying “people are shaped by cities” is totally true on different levels and in different ways. Every human living in the city goes through a certain “training” which might be unconscious or conscious but he is still shaped and influenced by a lot of factors of the city. Today it is quite hard to keep two parts of the city together which are traditional and postmodern parts of them. It is quite hard to make them cohesive. Only symbolism as it is can at least try to make them cohesive and keep them together in the city.

Professor Maxim Lepskiy noted in his report the importance of scientific tools in conducting research activities and valid methodology. Professor also emphasized that the Expeditionary Corps of the Memory Institute he works with researches all levels of the city (from anthropology to symbolism) with necessary tools and methodology available for these purposes. “The first issue to outline”, Prof. Lepskiy explains, “is that methods that are applied in different countries by the Expeditionary Corps headed by my colleague Oleg Maltsev are well structured and highly efficiently implemented by highly trained academics, researchers, scientists, journalists, businessmen and photographers”. It is important to distinguish the monograph “Photography as a Source of Scientific Information” authored by UAS academician Oleg Maltsev, Associate Fellow of UAS Alexei Samsonov and UAS academician Maxim Lepskiy, which contains important educational influence of Peter Shtompka’s work “Visual Sociology”. “Camera is one of the important tools in expeditions which also trains attentiveness and observation and has a positive influence on one’s own memory and perception,” concluded Professor Lepskiy. Photographer Carol Highsmith highlighted the fact that photography helps us to study the lessons of history. For instance, images in the archives of the Library of Congress tell a lot about American history and are extremely important in the view of documenting and understanding history. “The work of photographers is
extremely important, no matter what was photographed in the past. Sometimes it is the only evidence of what had happened before, what cities and people looked like. An importance of each photograph sooner or later is acknowledged even if we are unable to understand exactly what time or epoch was depicted. Any images captured today will certainly be valuable in a hundred years.” The most historic photographic collection on Earth in the Library of Congress, as Carol Highsmith stated, consists around 15 million images. “I am very fortunate to be a photographer to have contributed thousands of images to the Library of Congress. I understand the importance of all other collections that are featured because I’m alive. I get the importance of every image. Each of them is important even if we don’t realise it at the time. At times, when I snap a photograph, I think “Well, that’s kind of a common scene, but it may not be a hundred year from now. The photographer who documented the 1918 pandemic—the Spanish Flu—accomplished an amazingly important job from the perspective of Carol Highsmith. “What photographs give us when we look at them? Matthew Brady is in the same collection that I’m in. He photographed the American Civil War, he built a huge camera (maybe 15 feet by 10 feet) and photographed the entire Civil War. The problem was when he finished his job no one was interested in the Civil War. People had lost relatives and everything else, so they didn’t want to remember the tragedy. He was destitute and left a magnificent career. But his feat was acknowledged many years later”.

C. Highsmith also made an important conclusion: “photography itself is an archaeology of sociology and allows one to learn history.” Photography is practically the sole source of factual information to be used by scientists, researchers and other experts. In other words, the written source can be forged, rewritten, while photography cannot be rewritten (especially film one). Professor Lunov made an important remark that photography is one of the most challenging and relevant research methods in historical and cultural psychology; it is “not an easy slice of some reality, but is a direct way of how reality was created”. He noted that his perspective of the professional activity, after several expeditions with the Expeditionary Corps, has widened and allowed him to have a different vision of the psychological research possibilities “I discovered that photography is one of the most serious and important methods of research in historical and cultural psychology”.

Moving further from the analysis of the psychological component of the city to its mental component, special attention should be paid to the report of Dr. Felipe Fernandez-Armesto. According to Dr. Fernandez-Armesto research, the city carries certain messages in the form of ‘living memory’. “Unless you are a person of exceptional sensibility, the best way to study a city is through the experiences of teachers—and that term includes writers and creators of images”. Cities can function as classrooms, because they are documents of their own pasts and cultures they belong to, “[...] as I speak, in August, 2020, it is impossible to elude mention of monuments and, in particular, of statues and inscriptions, because of the misplaced vengeance that now makes people want to tear down, deface,
vandalise and obliterate records of a past of which they disapprove. The Taliban started the fashion by blasting the Buddhas of Bamyan. Bourgeois in Western cities follow – unwittingly, I suppose – their example, as confident of their unique virtue and rectitude as any fanatic. Obviously, such acts of destruction become part of the history of the places where they happen, and the bare plinths, ugly graffiti, and barren streetscapes become materials for teachers of future generations, just as the lost statues and inscriptions functioned in the past. Education, however, is better served by preservation than destruction. Even relocation of a monument to a setting for which it was not designed is an act of partial destruction: it destroys the integrity of the historic site. And it makes both the site and the statue harder to understand in isolation from one another. An inscription over a place important to me says, “Speak to the Past and It Shall Teach Thee.” No one ever learned anything by declining dialogue, obliterating evidence, averting eyes or shutting ears.” - Dr. Felipe Fernandez-Armesto concludes.

One of the types of classification of the “symbolic component” represented at the conference was as follows, Professor Peter Nas identified 4 types of symbolism: discursive (logical) (e.g. street name), material (sights), portrait (traditional, canonical) and behavioural (holidays, rituals); each city is dominated by some types of symbolism.

“Sign and symbol has to be distinguished; Sign is a thing which refers to itself, but a symbol is always referring outside itself. Then I distinguish four types of symbolism:

● Discursive symbolism (street names or poems about the city);
● Material type of symbolism (statues or landmarks);
● Iconic type of symbolism (a holy person and/or a figure that symbolized the city);
● Behavioral type of symbolism. (festivities, rituals).”

And according to Professor Liudmyla Fylypovych, the city should also be seen as a symbol and sacral centre; in particular, Kyiv is justly associated with the East Slavic and East Christian areas of the European continent. For several centuries it assuredly retains the symbolism and mysticism of this distinct part of the world. Many researchers have repeatedly studied the peculiarities of this territory, the culture specifics which originated in this area and was titled as “Kyiv culture”. The mysteriousness of this country has attracted both Kyiv residents and travelers since ancient times. There are many medieval sources that have survived to this day which tells us about the great city on the Dnieper, the heroes of the Rus’ folk epic, the legendary heroes such as Dobrynia Mykytych, Illya Muromets, and Oleshka Popovych—about the glorious royalties of Kyiv and their wives and children, about the city with four hundred temples, prophetically foreseen by the apostle Andrew, astonishing Cathedral of St. Sophia of Kyiv, the first school in East Slavic Europe and its library. Kyiv is deservedly titled as the “Mother of Rus’ cities” and even “the second Jerusalem.” Therefore, Kyiv is truly a city-cradle of Rus’ civilization, a place
where the sacred set foot on the earth, becoming the inspiration for an entire nation. This place was the center that spread spiritual, intellectual, cultural enlightenment, developing civilizational progress to neighboring territories, spreading to the future to be empires with an ideological basis specifically interpreted by them.

**Prof. Fylypovych** also mentioned a theory related to classification of cities as “female” or “male” type, “[…] out of 9 types of civilizations identified by Huntington, the authors of this paper managed to visit 6 cities, which makes it possible to compare the types of settlements of these different civilizations. Kyiv is different among all others. While comparing it with other cities, what comes to mind is to define Kyiv as a city of Orthodox civilization with noticeable femininity (female type) opposite to cities of Catholic-Protestant origin, typically male.”

**Dr. Spiro Pollalis** presented at the conference his approach about urban planning and sustainability “[…] the research that professors do at Harvard related to the sustainability of cities is very complex. When I plan a city I make sure that the city has a circular economy. For example, garbage should not leave the city but should be recycled within. The water should be recycled as much as possible. Energy, food production, and all other relevant resources should be produced in the city itself. I believe that this is a great opportunity to make the city teach us about the limited resources that we have on the earth, the city that teaches us how to deal with sustainability, resilience, and climate change. It is our priority to plan the infrastructure in such a way it promotes a circular economy.” **Prof. Pollalis** emphasized that we have to keep in mind that we do not live in the entire city. For instance, he was born in the city of Athens, but he used to reside in a small enclave of Athens with a population around 30000. He paid attention that people never interact and are aware of an entire city but only a part of it, which related to all other cities globally. In assessing the dynamics of the urban environment, **Bryan Darr** suggested that as cities grow and expand, they need information, require better planning, and the people who manage these cities need to implement economic objectives. Without reliable information it is impossible to make effective decisions. Further, he shared some technological overview in the view of cities, particularly in America, “At Ookla we have a platform that allows people to check their network connectivity. They can use Speedtest online or download a mobile application, that provides us with an enormous dataset that gives us visibility into where network connectivity is good and where it is not. The city’s infrastructure allows many people to live in the same place, its roads, delivery of water, removal of sewage, access to the power and to the various cultural things that make it an attractive place to live. The advancement of new technology provides more convenience for people. For example, today we have Google Maps that enable the zoom of a specific building and provide information about the entity. That kind of access to technology provides a learning capability of itself. As we travel to a location and try to navigate our way around, we’ve got a much easier way to do that with digital maps in our hands. But as we look forward to the next few years with 5G
which is rapidly evolving at the moment, we are going to be able to find all kinds of information and it will be visually displayed in front of us with the new glasses. Many people are working on these technologies right now which allows literally walking through a strange place you’ve never been before. This is great for people that do not have an opportunity to travel and/or incapable to explore different places without leaving their houses.”

The further significant achievement of the experts’ collaboration was the classification of the city status scale, which implies a systematic comprehension of many factors that affect one’s status in the city. According to the research methodology of cities, research concepts are arranged from top to down mainly from symbolic to anthropological level. However, the status scale starts from the bottom and goes to the top (similar to the model of a growing tree). The scheme presented in this resolution has two correlated systems identified as a scale:

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**Scale 1** “Methodology for Urban Research” strictly corresponds to **Scale 2** “Status and Self-Awareness in the City”. Every person who is born in a city or resides in it for a long period unconsciously strives to become a symbol of that city.

**First level** of Scale 2 “Status and Self-Awareness in the City” represents the
community of the residents of the city. Differentiation classifies residents into those who live permanently in the city and those who come for a short time (tourists, guests), i.e. the individual either belongs to this city or does not. Residents of one city are different from ones’ in another city (personality traits, character, habits, world outlook, dialect, mentality etc. are different).

**Second level** of status differentiation defines what a person does, i.e. who he or she is by **occupation or profession**. For instance, if one considers Venice, a profession such as gondolier has already become a symbol of Venice, and the profession is passed from one generation to another. Therefore, already on the level of professional activity one may become a symbol of the city.

**Third level** determines the where a person belongs to in the city representing the **personal degree of influence and power** (e.g. membership in a public organisation, subculture, party, etc.).

**Fourth level** indicates how an individual is viewed and **perceived in the other countries**, in other cities, when a resident names his/her city.

**Fifth level** testifies if a person is a symbol of his or her city of residence. Other individuals may not know anything about the city itself, but all they associate the city with a certain person, i.e., the hero figure who was born there and made his path to triumph (example is the figure like Erasmo of Narni. A son of baker became a commander, heroic figure dear to Venetians and many Italians).

There are certain cities that are closely associated with each other symbolically. For example, in Heidelberg there were many famous and outstanding people who graduated from Heidelberg university; at the same time the city has symbolic spots that are known globally. Professor Vitalii Lunov, while conducting an analysis of the symbolism in the urban environment, shared some of his considerations that he made during several expeditions (Mexico, 2019; Southern Italy, 2019) with the Expeditionary Corps. “We are observing something fundamental in the creation of old cities. Evidences are found that the city is created by its symbolism. Symbolic level makes it possible to immortalise a legendary hero. Whoever is depicted in the symbol is no longer there, but he speaks to the outer world forever. In fact, the city is a classroom that becomes the “audience” due to the symbolic component”. Also, in reviewing the methods of studying a city or urban environment, Vitalii Lunov emphasized that “[...] one more methodology that has proved to be a brilliant heuristic opportunity at the Expeditionary Corps is applying Rorschach methodology to exploring urban space that we used together with Dr. Maltsev in the field research in Mexico. It was extremely interesting to examine areas as the Rorschach methodology turns your attention to the prototype of the city and its impact on the personality and its further drives.”

Dr. Jerome Krase emphasized the importance of visual sociology while researching cities and processing information “I’ve been doing sociology visually since the late 1960’s. Some urban and ethnic communities in New York City were regarded as “good” ones. Others, predominantly African-American and Afro-
Caribbean neighborhoods were regarded as dangerous areas. People used terms like “ghetto” and “slums” to describe them. That raised the issue of “what were they seeing?”. They were seeing something in their mind that I could not see in the neighborhoods that I was studying. So I began to look into sociological theories that might be of assistance in understanding this phenomenon. I was attracted to the work of Erving Goffman and he was talking about “stigma”. Most of the stigma that I was concerned about was visual. In other words, it was the idea that in the minds of people, who didn’t live in that particular neighborhood, the neighborhood looked a particular way.” Professor Krase considers a camera to be one of the most important tools in visual research, his theory and method are best represented by the book “Seeing Cities Change: Local Culture and Class”, it is about cities around the world he photographed. “What ordinary people do is present themselves to potential viewers, just like their existence. Think about, as an example, in terms of Belarus how just showing up—how powerful that was, the scene of that power. You take a picture of it, and you re-present them and this changes the meaning. There are three levels of meanings: 1) What people themselves mean by the scenes they create?; 2) How their meanings are presented in the media; 3) What we see later are representations.” - concluded Jerome Krase.

Charles Landry emphasised that he was always interested in what are the deeper drivers of what people want when they live in a city. He also have come up with five main areas of what people search in cities:

1) People want places of anchorage and distinctiveness, originality. “I still think that is true within the pandemic, people want to belong somewhere and have a place of belonging” (Correlates with level #1 of “Status and self-awareness as a city resident”).

2) “They want places of connection and communication. The pandemic, of course, is shown that people want to link and connect to each other as ever before” (Correlates with level #2 and #4).

3) “The idea of places of opportunity and ambition, which I think is still true within the pandemic era - people want to explore, they want to make the best of themselves, they want to create possibilities” (Correlates with Level #3).

4) Places of nurture and nourishment. People aspire to be healthy. (Correlates with level #1).

5) People want some extra dimension, which Charles Landry terms as “places of inspiration” that might come from the outside as well as the imagination which is their own work (Correlates with Level #5)

On the other hand, Eduardo Almeida stated, “As we realize today’s cities are growing at unprecedented rate and are the natural home of many jobs, consequently, we have to start considering what risks are worth taking when deciding to live in a city”. Eduardo Almeida believes it is critical that local authorities and city officials act together to improve city resilience based on a risk assessment to anticipate the most common causes of unsafe feelings. The outcome of a risk assessment is to
share the understanding about city safety and gather efforts together to address these identified risks, making the city safer and better to everyone. E. Almeida noted that today digital technologies are amazing help to support data collection from new sources, data interpretation based on advanced analytics, automation and machine learning to improve citizen’s services, allowing more personalized products to be developed and made available. ‘I hope that these reflections can help to establish a solid and conscious footprint in a City, preventing adversities and avoid feeling vulnerable; by doing so, we are also helping to build better Cities for future generations,’ - Eduardo Almeida concludes. To answer the question “Is it safe to reside in Cities nowadays?” he believes it is crucial to categorize the different risks, probabilities and, more importantly, how local authorities manage these risks and support citizens to prevent from incurring on them.

Furthermore, Oleg Maltsev remarked that today we are facing a certain ‘safety overkill’. In the past, the lower one’s status was, the more vulnerable he was and vice versa. In contrast, today, the higher is the status the more are the risks of danger (unfair competition in market, extortion, robberies, property acquisition, assassinations, etc). To put it simply, nobody is interested in a homeless person begging in streets. Analysing the psychological component of the city, Dwight Wilson commented that a new source of threats has recently emerged in the urban environment, i.e., social networks and media by means of which diverse groups of people could be organized in one place within a few hours. “Talking about tens of thousands of people, sometimes that can be organized literally within hours, actually faster than the police can get people there to help stop the threat. So that is kind of one of the things that I see as a new threat is social media. The security industry is constantly changing to deal with threats as they change and evolve. “I saw a major shift in threats in August of 2014 when Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson Missouri by a local police officer. Protests and riots spread quickly across the United States organized online through social media. This incident was the spark that ignited the Black Lives Matter movement and the Slogan “Hands up. Don’t shoot.” The media reported that Michael Brown an 18-year-old teen was shot and killed while unarmed and holding his hands up. The officer was arrested and put on trial. During the trial supporting evidence and eyewitnesses confirmed the officer’s account of what happened that day. The officer was released from custody. Ferguson Missouri was burned, looted, and destroyed causing millions of dollars in damage. What role did false claims in the media and online play in the widespread rioting and destruction? Social media is a great way to introduce new people, new cultures, and information. It instantly connects people all around the world, and that is a striking achievement. However, in the absence of credible and verifiable sources social media’s disinformation becomes the default truth for many people” - D. Wilson explains.

Moving from social media and disinformation to critical theory view on urban studies, Dr. Ryan Bishop highlighted the significance of urban environment
threats, “The militarization of everyday life profoundly affects our most basic assumptions about and engagements with urban space and our positions within it. The paradoxical conditions that make the city possible, as articulated in the scopic and episcopal dimensions of targeting open a ground of urban inquiry that underpins daily experience but which is largely ignored in our everydayness. The expansion and intensification of targeting is the story of what has been called globalization, but which was begun in the polis as that which makes the city a city. Much of what targets the city in the current moment comes in the form of what is called “blowback,” defined as unintended consequences of political or economic or military actions that adversely affect the instigator of the actions. The city has unintentionally targeted itself in the dual threats of pandemic and climate crises. Each of these results from unshakeable beliefs in agency and control essential to urban surveillance and oversight. Current conditions and crises reveal that humility and openness to alterity and diversity is required because we do not even control what we control.” In a praxeological overview and analysis of urban psychological components, the safety expert from Israel, Avi Nardia, concluded the risk today takes its roots in media politics of constant fearsome news and facts sharing. He says, “[...] fear mongering is the action of deliberately arousing public fear or alarm about a particular issue, spreading frightening and exaggerating rumors of impending danger to purposely arouse fear in order to manipulate the public. It can be done via different media. Nowadays it can be easily done through different popular social media’. Dr. Oleg Maltsev and Avi Nardia have pointed out that it is obvious that third parties are behind what is called “pandemic”, even though there are many theories that it was not a planned event. Avi Nardia calls the military action the “plan-demia” and not a “pandemia”, “As a person with military skill and mindset, I call this pandemic a “plandemia” (plan). It is like a Cold War between two mega power governments. Speaking of risk management, it might be the case that in the future we are going to be more dependent on the government because the food or benefits will depend on the government. Without these basic things we humans cannot live. Why don’t we look at the current situation- the “plandemia” as the strategy and tactics used to keep people in awe and trespass human rights.”

It was also suggested by Farida Tikhomirova that the current state of the environment is defined as a state of global environmental crisis. The Chernobyl disaster, technological accidents, explosions at ammunition depots, fires, the destruction of biodiversity and the pollution of the environment are bringing urgent social and environmental problems to Ukrainian society. With the intensification of the environmental crisis and the COVID-19 epidemic, the concept of a safe city is expanding significantly. Socio-ecological problems arise at the intersection of natural processes and anthropogenic activities, which is the rationale why research requires interaction between natural, technical, social, medical and legal sciences. Vitalii Krivoshein expressed the idea that ‘urbanization’ is a rather complex process that cannot be reduced to just ‘urban growth and an increasing urban population’.
Urbanisation is now referred to as a new stage in social development that is defined by the concentration of economic, demographic and political potential, which makes it possible to concentrate and control significant amounts of financial resources, develop new technologies, new types of services and conduct innovative activities. In general, urbanization is seen as a positive trend in the world's development, as an objective process related to providing more and more people on the planet with the conditions for a more comfortable, comfortable, healthy lifestyle and fuller development of abilities. However, urbanization is associated not only with the positive transformations taking place in people's lives, but also with negative changes - in particular, environmental pollution, overpopulation of the territory, an increase in negative social phenomena, etc. Furthermore, professor Valentina Voronkova suggests today we also face the urban crisis. In the current global challenges, high-tech agglomerations (megacities) remain the focus of all issues - economic, social, cultural, demographic and environmental. One of the challenges we face is how to accelerate inclusive urbanism that attracts innovation and creates wealth, good jobs and better conditions for everyone. Recovery from the urban crisis will contribute to economic recovery, improve living standards and create new business opportunities. In a globalised world, there are profound differences in the wealth and productivity of mega-cities, which divide the less successful countries of the world that are developing and which differ from the wealthy cities in developed countries. The urban crisis is intensifying and requires more investments and resources in order to invest in poorer cities - from roads and highways, investments in transport and various types of economic, social and cultural human activities. “If we do not act on the urban crisis as the main crisis of our time, then urban problems will come first”, - professor Voronkova concludes. Professor Ellen-Dunham Jones shared about her research on how to make suburbs more sustainable places and how they shape our environment and in particular, personal development at the panel and noted that loneliness is one of serious problems at the moment. “Loneliness in the US becomes an epidemic. There are doctors who are diagnosing especially in the younger people, what they call Facebook depression. The more time that people are spending online, especially on social media, the more lonely they feel. They’re not getting into real social interactions and it is prevalent amongst people. Having a strong big family often reduces it”, said Professor Ellen-Dunham Jones.

Anna Varina also expressed the opinion that a contemporary city is a vast platform and resource for designing and renovating individual and social educational spaces. A modern city is one of the key factors of socialisation and culture, a centre for the development of an individual’s intellectual, mental and spiritual abilities. In the context of modern social, economic and pandemic transformation of the city’s public space, a brand new social, cultural and educational environment is being created, which provides special conditions for the forming of the individual, as well as opportunities for further education, which are included in the social
and spatial environment and are traditionally regarded as a sphere of social life and as a driver of education. In his comprehensive analysis of the city structural components, **Dr. Michael Hynes** outlined the following significant challenge: methods for communicating scientific information to the general public. The expert believes that regardless of scientific achievements and discoveries (including those presented at the conference), academicians must take a step towards meeting and represent ideas and discoveries in an accessible and comprehensible way. “I would suggest the academics in the field should really take more time and care to get a deeper appreciation and understanding of what a city does and what it does well, and what it really lacks and what it does badly that needs improvement. As a classroom setting, we should take the city as our blank canvas in many ways. With that new found insight and understanding, we must then be able to translate that into some sort of meaningful and practical message to the communities in which we serve in the city. We must be able to train or retrain others to see and notice in a better way. I think it’s almost pointless to keep producing academic articles to a target audience that is outside the day-to-day community we serve in many respects. So we need to be able to translate our research to the relevant audience, which is the community which we serve. It’s our duty of care to our communities and we as academics and experts in the field need to be able to talk and explain at that level, and treat the community as a classroom and also be able to translate our research in some really meaningful way.” - **Dr. Michael Hynes** explains.

In her report **Iryna Lopatiuk** emphasises that the personal development levels are organised from its bottom to the top. Furthermore, the environmental factors influence personal status in this city: how people are perceived at family, district, city and beyond, up to an international level (see the image). Nevertheless, most significant of all is the symbolic component, which includes a huge number of sections, commencing with architectural monuments, cult institutions, etc.

“Symbols are not just any figures or ornaments, they are a whole language that carries a tremendous and invaluable knowledge. Whoever knows this language and knows how to read it can clearly understand what the ancestors wanted to convey us.”

“The senselessness of today’s present-day cities suggests that modern science has recently lost this knowledge, earlier known as “European Mysticism”. Hence, all efforts must be made to restore and rehabilitate them. Still, relatively recently, between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, the architecture of cities was completely different, as the knowledge concerning the symbolic level of city development was the crucially sacred one. It is the symbolism of cities that makes a city a learning audience”, - **I. Lopatiuk** concludes.

In the judgment of **Costantino Slobodyanyuk** and **Olga Prokopova** it was pointed out that the demonstration of art objects and various decorative curiosities arouses research interest in the territory in which these curiosities were created as a consequence of the symbolic component. Speaking about ‘Murano glass’, for
instance: today this ‘curiosity’ is to be undoubtedly considered one of the most symbolic of Venice. For instance, symbols, jewellery and decorative objects are today, as they were many centuries ago, function as a kind of magnet and at the same time a kind of flag of this or that city. Thus, a city at some stage of development, emphasising its identity and singularity, generates a symbolic group that may encompass not only curiosities and objects, but also the loud names of outstanding minds of its time, as well as events. Sicily Vespers, for example, is one of the symbols of Sicily and clearly illustrates the character of this incredible island. In turn, by exporting the culture of the cities, thousands of people who live a distance of thousands of kilometres are starting to take an interest and, over time, learn about Venice or Sicily, its culture, history and traditions. In such a manner, a city may become a classroom even for people who may never physically walk around San Marco in their lifetime.

By considering the configuration of the city’s components (symbolic leaving, mental, psychological, psychophysiological and anthropological), I. Lopatiuk believes that it produces a research level, which at its current stage is at the point of primary definition and study of modern academic science, which is also expressed in the key academic approach in the psychology of the 21st century in the form of degree psychology, where the key research category is inferiority (which, in particular, is declared by the resolution of the previous conference PALE-2020). As a result of application of the urban research methodology developed by academician Oleg Maltsev and validated in different field researches with other scholars in the course of 7 years, the following could be summarized: there are 5 milestones on the path of personality formation.

- The first begins with awareness—namely, belonging to a certain environment—to a particular city, which is expressed in the phrase “I am the resident of Tokyo/New York/Odessa”, etc.
- The second level of personal development in a city is a professional activity, it is determined by one profession, occupation or craft.
- The third level of personal development determines which society this person belongs to in the city, and this implies the degree of his or her influence and power.
- The fourth level of personal development speaks about how a person is perceived in other countries.
- The fifth level, could be compared with a certain manifestation of a triumph in life. This level of personal development is when one has reached the symbolic level. His name is world-known and not without reason, such a personality sets an example for future generations.

In addition, Dr. Michael Batty noted that historically, different individuals and ideas have influenced cities at different times, which also enables us to conclude that the city is associated with people who live in it: “There are almost as many opinions about cities, as there are people who live in this particular context. It really relates to different perceptions of the city. And to actually reflect these different
perceptions is really quite hard. If we actually look at ways of learning about cities and changing them, then we find it very difficult to synthesize, to combine many different viewpoints. One of the great challenges about city planning is to begin to think about how we can combine a very wide number of different viewpoints which reflect different personalities. If we look at the development of cities historically, then we can see the imposition of different points of view, different personalities, different themes with respect to cities over time. And this is actually reflected in the city themselves”

Furthermore, Ph.D. Oleksandr Sahaidak claimed that the symbolic level is the most ancient and the most significant one, reflecting and shaping personality. Moreover, the symbolism of the city is also the reflection of previous generations’ contributions. It is a “coded” archive of collective unconscious one may use to improve his personal life and achieve results. Many of the aforementioned conclusions reflect in different ways that an unconscious objective of an individual is to become a symbol of the city he belongs to.
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