



## PREFACE

Urban space is first of all a life region with certain cultural narratives. On the one hand, cultural regionalistics covers such existential environment as a city. In other words, a city is already our life space with particular communication channels. On the other hand, the cities belong to a region with certain cultural spaces being in communication with global “centre”. In this way we can speak about urban anti-centre in twofold way: about individual existential communication in a private region that is inseparable from public space and about regional cultural environment while a city is a channel of communication with other cities around the world. As a result, we have a new research perspective after convergence of city studies and cultural regionalistics. This research perspective is to be oriented to such phenomena as private region in a public space, cultural narratives circulating in the city, creative economy as an aspect of existential communication, cultural politics as monopolizing of urban space, cultural capitals and festivals as a compensation for being in the periphery, “crazy” buildings as the dominants that organize the urban space, historical urban accents as the claim to communicate with our predecessors, lightening as an aspect of ecological catastrophe, criminality as a kind of heroics, etc.

As a result, city studies is a new multi- and interdisciplinary research sphere. The tendencies of global economics, which promote socio-economic and socio-cultural challenges and change these indicators on the national and international scales, had the significant impact on their emergence. Taking due account of the importance of global economics, there are undoubtedly important rapid urbanization processes arising, which are integral to the free movement of commodities and services, persons and labour force, material properties and human capital, information and communication. On the other hand, face such phenomenon as turning of the city into a “global village” (Marshall McLuhan) with informal communication and culture of rumours. Cities of different types, i.e. from the capital cities to the megapolises and megalopolises, become the centers of such “free movement”. On the other hand, the cities have always been a space of certain financial privileges, i.e. of obstacles to free financial communication. The intensive social, economic, cultural processes, closely related to the constantly increasing amounts of information, broadening perspectives of virtual communication, expanding networking opportunities, strengthening of the structures of the late monopoly capitalism, innovative projects of cultural activities, etc. take place in the urban spaces. On the other hand, these spaces became especially closed spaces due to social stratification. Contemporary cities are the places where there are concentrated clusters, centers of science, education, business and culture, technology platforms – all that promotes the competitiveness of various regions, the conducting of innovations and cultural politics not only nationally and internationally but also

globally. On the other hand, the city is a place for fanatical ideas and obscurant movements that find the place even in state policy.

This journal volume is devoted to city studies from cultural regionalistics' point of view. Here the topical subjects of the sociology of the city, the creative industries influence on the development of the city as well as the philosophical conceptions and visual interpretations of the city are developed. In the first part, which is devoted to the researches on the (trans)formation and its peculiarities of cultural space of the city, there are published articles, explaining the emergence of philosophical discourse in the 19th century, its future development and the impact on the public spaces of the city (Béla Mester). Other articles are taken to analyse what changes of the city and its cultural space are seen in the historical perspective, varying in the socio-economic orders and government regimes (Larissa Titarenko, Anna Shirokanova). Also, it is examined how various cultural events and projects organize the contemporary city space (Rasa Levickaitė). The second part of this issue is devoted to the problems of the city as a cultural narrative. Here the contemporary city emerges as a narrative through the rituals (Jekaterina Lavrinec), myths (Gábor Kovács), art movies (Agnieška Juzefovič). The third part is devoted to the researches on the city as a creative space (Jūratė Černevičiūtė) as well as in another one a phenomenological landscape of the city is developed (Basia Nikiforova).

The editors of this issue are thankful to the authors who submitted current researches into city studies and have a hope for the resultative contribution in the future.

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