

5 PERORATION

The core idea of urban planning is to ensure the city's livability and provides citizens a peaceful, convenient, and enjoyable environment for work and life. This project of Shenzhen Bay Recreative Seafront is a reflection and a breakthrough of modern city concrete stereotype. Shenzhen often received this stereotype of as a public space and nature ignorant; nonetheless, this project demonstrates a rational decision of rus in urbe after twenty years of insane urban constructions. Urban space will no longer serve as the urban economic development solely; urban spaces in the future will be people-oriented, nature-oriented. Only incorporating public leisure spaces, ecology preservation, and sustainable living into urban planning will guarantee a better city tomorrow.



Figure 10 - Shenzhen Bay Recreative Seafront Belt

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

[Shenzhen Urban Planning Bureau. Compilation of Shenzhen Bay Recreative Seafront Landscape Design International Consultation.2004.]

ID 1348 | USE AND DESIGN OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AS PAROCHIAL REALMS BY MOTHERS AND ELDERLY: A CASE STUDY IN IZMIR, TURKEY

Kastas-Uzun¹, Fatma Senol¹

¹Izmir University of Economics, Faculty of Fine Arts and Design,
 Department of Interior Architecture and Environmental Design
ipek.kastas@ieu.edu.tr ; fatmasenol@iyte.edu.tr

1 INTRODUCTION

Neighborhoods parks are core living environments that create an important part of the public life which help to fulfill residents' social needs and satisfaction through social relations of neighborliness and familiarity. Neighborhood parks can ideally provide various opportunities for the well-being of especially those whose daily lives are bounded to their place-of-residence, such as women, children and elderly people. In fact, they can be used as parochial realms by these "groups-in-need." In daily life, however, not all of these groups do and can use neighborhood parks in the ways as desired, because the access to park use is not equitable among all. In order to improve urban planning and urban design strategies that

support equitable access to neighborhood parks, we need to investigate the factors causing inequitable access to the use of neighborhood parks and especially how neighborhood parks evolve on daily basis as the parochial realms by the groups-in-need.

Literature mostly tends to analyze neighborhood parks as public realms. However, as Bose (2005) also state studies that are limited to “binary conceptualization (public-private)” loose the interconnections between public and private realms and obscure the experiences of women in between these realms as (Bose, 2005). So this study considers that especially “groups-in-need” use neighborhood parks as their parochial realm. Ultimately, the physical and social factors that cause these perceptions should be investigated.

Parochial realms are shaped as a result of a sense of shared benefits among acquaintances or neighbours who are a part of close interpersonal networks that are located within communities of neighbourhood or workplace (Lofland, 1989). Parochial realms are areas where people accept the physical, cultural and social differences among themselves and share the commonalities. Hunter (1985) and Lofland (1989) define public realm as the world in streets, parks, public transport or commercial spaces that create chances for strangers to come across, while personal affair of each individual in the homeplace can characterize the private realm (Hunter, 1985; Lofland 1989). Parochial realms are located at the intersection of public and private realms and the boundaries in between these realms are fluid and flexible. Such flexibility helps these areas to function like ties in between and makes it easier both physically and psychologically for people to travel in between public and private realms (Gehl, 2011). According to Wessendorf (2013) the differentiation among private, parochial and public realms depends on the degree of social relations and familiarity among people (Wessendorf, 2013). Familiarity can be defined with “a sense of commonality among acquaintances or neighbors who are involved in interpersonal networks that are located within “communities.”” (McKenzie et. al. 2006, p. 118).

More than defining a physical territory, parochial realm of neighbourhoods define close relationships of daily lives and can house to various narratives and ways of lives especially for people who are bounded to residential environments due to variety of reasons. As number of close ties in a public space and the level of intimacy among the inhabitants and their knowledge of the space increases, the spaces start to function as private realms for its inhabitants. Negotiation on the activities starts at this point. Negotiation means that inhabitants start to treat those areas as they are treating to their homes and they start to use those areas for their own private purposes with more informal and casual behaviours which are different than the original intentions for those spaces and people start to behave as if they also own the proprietary rights of those settings (McKenzie et. al., 2006).

In order to improve the use of neighborhood parks, we need to investigate factors affecting the perceptions regarding neighborhood parks especially for groups-in-need. Along with the importance of familiarity and social relations, this study highlights the importance of several other factors that may affect the perceptions of neighborhood parks as important examples of parochial realms where uses can be easily transformed and negotiated by users according to their needs. These factors are design of neighborhood parks and their surrounding environments, their accessibility, social relations among users and their feeling of safety; and secondly the socio-economic characteristics of users such as their age and gender.

To understand the role of these factors, questions of “how physical and social characteristics of neighborhood parks and their immediate surroundings, and potential park users’ socio-economic characteristics affect perception of parks as parochial realms?” and “how does the perception of neighborhood parks as parochial realms affect park use by people whose daily lives are bounded to residential space?” is answered in this paper.

2 FACTORS AFFECTING THE PERCEPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AS PAROCHIAL REALMS

Together with users’ socio-economic characteristics, parks’ physical and social characteristics affect park uses and perceptions differently and thus, might cause inequitable access to parks (Van Herzele and Wiedemann, 2002; Carr et. al., 1992; Low et. al., 2005). Socio-economic characteristics and resulting traditional daily responsibilities can play an important role especially for groups-in-need with physical,

social, economic and cultural limitations to use city space and have limited access to other public spaces. These factors may bind them to the neighbourhood space. Yet Neighbourhood parks may provide opportunities for women with children and housewives to socialize (Mackenzie, 1989; Kaplan, 1997; Greed, 2007); prevent social exclusion of elderly people with limited mobility (Chaudhury et. al, 2016); serve facilities for children to gain the habit of exercising as they are close to home place and easily accessible and arguably safer (Coşaner et. al., 2014). These opportunities cause groups-in-need to perceive neighbourhood parks as parochial realms – as the extension of their private spaces – and they may use neighbourhood parks for interaction with their immediate environment.

In order for groups-in-need to perceive and use neighbourhood parks as parochial realms, parks' physical characteristics such as design of neighborhood parks and their surrounding environments, their accessibility in relation to home or workplace of users, and parks' social characteristics which is based on the social relations among users, opportunities that parks provide such as cultural and social activities in parks and the relationship between different familiar groups of people who are using the park and the surrounding environment together.

Physical characteristics and quality of green spaces have serious effects on the determination of behavior patterns, chosen activities, the ways and frequencies of park visits, ideas and feelings regarding their immediate environment and the chances of escaping from the stress of the daily life (Van Herzele and Wiedemann, 2002 cited in Kemperman and Timmermans, 2008). While park design can promote opportunities for socialization, and, encountering with nature, when parks are not well designed to fulfill the needs of potential users, than those same parks can be used for incivilities including homelessness, voyeurism, exhibitionism, sexual gratification, drug use, thievery and so on (Byrne and Wolch, 2009)

Studies indicate that higher levels of park use is also related with the accessibility of parks which means the availability of attractive, pedestrian friendly walking routes (Booth et al., 2000; Michael et al., 2006). Accessibility of parks increases the likelihood that especially groups-in-need can visit a park and potentially engage in physical activities. Specific characteristics of parks' surrounding environments such as slope of the terrain, park density, connectivity, land-use mix, attractiveness and physical appeal can be associated with the active park use and the life satisfaction of residents (Moudon et. al., 2006 and WHO, 2007 cited in Donder et. al. 2013; Parra et. al. 2010). Negative issues and problems in the access to the parks such as crossing roads and walking on rough pavements, or a poor general overall appearance can be strongly felt negatives (Fokkema et al., 1996; Scharf et al., 2002) and they can work as barriers to use a park.

Social characteristics of both users of neighborhood parks have a crucial role in neighborhood's social life since they provide chances for building and maintaining a certain level of social relationships (Hunter, 1985; Bedimo-Rung et al., 2005). Additionally, relations of neighboring provide support, feeling of safety along with personal identity and place attachment (Kusenbach, 2006).

3 CASE STUDY: NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS OF BALÇOVA, İZMİR

The research focuses on the findings of the case study site in Balçova, a district of İzmir, a metropolitan city on the Aegean coast of Turkey . Balçova is located in the south of İzmir Bay with a total of 6km long shore (Figure 1). Balçova has the oldest population when compared to other counties of İzmir and Balçova is the mostly preferred county by retired people in İzmir (Balçova Municipality, 2016). Balçova's location between shores of İzmir Bay and hills of Teleferik Mountain, provide many waterfront and mountain recreation area opportunities. In addition to waterfront open green spaces; there are 32 neighbourhood parks (Balçova Municipality, 2016) in variety of sizes and characteristics depending on the residential settlements, level differences on the north-south direction and dense traffic routes.

3.1 STUDY METHODOLOGY

For this study, we had observations in each parks of Balçova, a user survey in 4 elected parks, and interviews with parks users at 2 parks. Observations were about land-use at park surroundings, park design and amenities, use of parks, and physical thresholds around parks. As a result, we selected four parks according to their number of users, surrounding land use diversity, park's physical characteristic and

amenities and surrounding thresholds. At these four parks, we had a user survey with 159 participants about people’s personal park use habits such as use frequency and durations, their perceptions regarding parks’ physical and social settings, and surrounding environments, their experiences in relation with their socio-economic characteristics. Ultimately, we determined the number of regular and non-regular park users and their park satisfactions in four parks. Out of these four, we focused on two parks, Duru Park (See Figure 1, 2 & 3) and Süleyman Ersever Parkı (See Figure 4, 5 & 6) according to number of non-regular park users, satisfaction level of regular park users, characteristics of parks’ surrounding environments, total park area and provided amenities in parks. Ultimately we developed in-depth interviews with 30 park users, 5 focus group interviews with women at nearby community houses and also interviews with 8 men working in these parks to find the details of people’s park perceptions and park use experiences.

3.1.1 CHARACTERISTICS OF PARKS WHERE THE STUDY REALIZED DURU PARK



Figure 1 Map of Duru Park



Figure 2 and 3 - View from Duru Park



Figure 4 Map of Süleyman Ersever Parkı



Figure 5 and 6 - View from Süleyman Ersever Parkı

3.2 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Two parks that we focus on in this study have different physical and social characteristics, which cause major differences in perceptions and uses of neighborhood parks. Paper outlines findings of the study in three main parts. The first part concentrates on the importance of feeling of familiarity as a factor that supports the sense of safety and comfort in neighbourhood parks and perceives them as parochial realms. The second part focuses on the physical characteristics of parks such as park design and provided amenities and parks' surrounding environments such as land uses and their users as factors that make users perceive and use neighbourhood parks as parochial realms especially by mothers and elderly users. The last part raises the importance of accessibility. Being in close vicinity of mothers' and elderly's daily routine routes can increase the use of these parks' as they have higher accessibility and can easily be reached by walking. So they are used as a space for socialization opportunity with others but usually with the ones who have same daily responsibilities.

3.2.1 FEELING OF FAMILIARITY TO SUPPORT THE SENSE OF SAFETY AND COMFORT IN THE PAROCHIAL REALM

This study finds out that being together with familiar people affects park use preferences of women significantly. According to interview results in Süleyman Ersever Parkı, different than Duru Park, most of the users are frequent users and they have a familiarity towards each other and the environment. This familiarity in Süleyman Ersever Parkı is partially based on the relative residential stability of the surrounding neighborhood, existence of school nearby and the existence of the café which is being run by the same family for the last 15 years. These support the feeling of familiarity. Most of the respondents mention that they feel like a family and they never experienced any negative looks or actions towards them in Süleyman Ersever Parkı. Especially women whose children are at the school mention that they can sit together with other mothers while waiting for their children and socialize in the park. Observation results indicate that women get together in the park in large groups, bring food from their houses and buy beverages from the café and spend long hours in the park. Sometimes the same group of women also comes to park during the weekends for birthday parties of their children and use the park as a spot for getting together with neighbors.

"There is family environment. I know who is coming here why. If a stranger comes, I can recognize. If I feel discomfort, I can go and tell this to Murat Ağabey (owner of the café) and he takes care of it" (Woman, 40, married with one child).

Whereas in Duru Park, the level of familiarity for women users is much lower due to surrounding commercial facilities and their users who are coming from all parts of Izmir. In between shopping these outcomers use the park for resting. Existence of tea houses around the park, their male users, the way that they extend their tables to the interior of the park and use of the park by people who are not from the same neighborhood affect the feeling of familiarity especially for women.

One of the dominant user groups of Duru Park is elderly men of the neighborhood. As most of them are retired and want to spend their time in open air with their friends they prefer to come to Duru Park and

spend all day there. However, dominance of male users is perceived as discomforting for women users of all ages. So while elderly men use the park for longer hours for sitting and chatting with their friends, mothers prefer to use the parks for their children and elderly women for resting for very short periods.

“I go Duru Park but I do not like there. Men are looking at women with dirty eyes. Especially elderly men! I heard an incident. A man sat next to a woman i and asked her whether she is a widow. He told that he wants to marry. I heard this I swear. He told that he has a car and a house. So I am worried about these things. They should leave the park to women” (Woman, 53, married with one child)

On the contrary to women users, results of the interviews with men who are working in the park indicate that elderly men use Duru Park very comfortably together with their friends for very long hours. These men come to park early in the morning; most of them sit on the same benches everyday. They chat together about daily matters and order tea from the teahouses and spend all their leisure time in Duru Park.

“I’ve been living almost for twenty years. We all know each other here. When I come to this park I always meet with my friends. I know all the users of this park, all of them are from this neighborhood and I come here everyday to see them” (Man, 62, widow with one child, sitting at the same bench all day and everyday)

Neighborhood parks not only create socialization opportunities for children but also for their mothers. While children can easily find playmates in the playground who are living in close proximity and going to the same school, mothers also meet with other mothers while realizing their traditional daily routine of childcare.

“The playground in Duru Park is very important for my daughter to get rid of her energy and more importantly to socialize with other children. As we come here very often, she had many new friends and I also met with their mothers. So her socialization helped me to socialize as well” (Woman, 26, married with one child)

3.2.2 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PARKS AND SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENTS INCREASING FEELING OF FAMILIARITY

Surrounding uses and users affect feeling of safety and comfort based on their socio-demographic characteristics. Overall user survey results indicate that 44% of the respondents feel positive (comfortable and safe) when parks are surrounded by residential facilities. A larger group, almost %50 of respondents, state that they feel negative (overwhelmed and insecure) when parks are surrounded by commercial facilities. While most of the respondents in Süleyman Ersever Parkı which is surrounded mostly by residential facilities feel positive (34%) about having residential facilities and negative (30%) about having commercial facilities around the parks; in Duru Park which is surrounded mostly by commercial facilities mostly feel negative (36%) about having residential facilities and positive (50%) about having residential facilities (Figure 7 & 8).

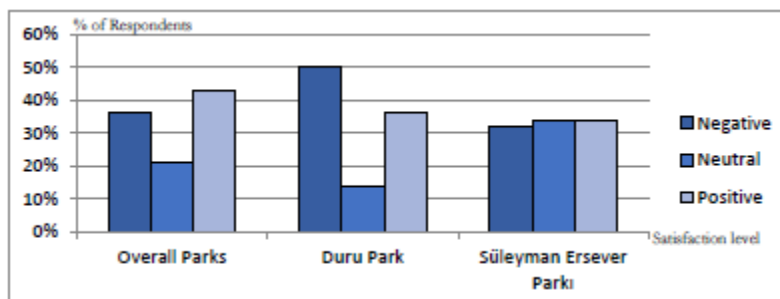


Figure 7 Perceptions of having residential facilities around parks

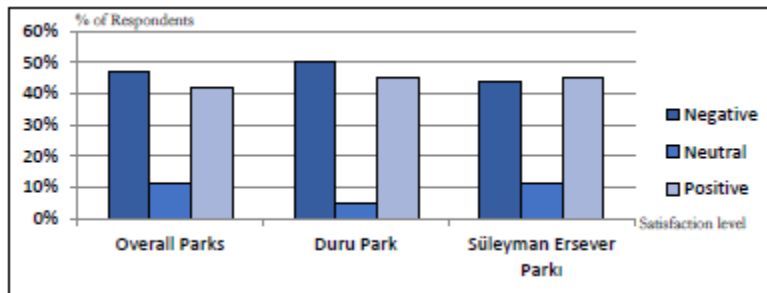


Figure 8 Perceptions of having commercial facilities around parks

Yet depending on gender of the respondents, satisfaction about the kinds of land use at park surrounding show differences. When there is the dominance of a single user group whether men, elderly, or children, the other users may start to feel uncomfortable and they do not feel welcomed in those areas. While men do not have any complaints regarding the surrounding stores or tea houses, women mostly comment negatively having tea houses or other activities that have dominant male population around the park.

“Existence of too many men in Duru Park is very disturbing. I cannot spend time there comfortably. Tea houses are too much integrated with the park. For instance in Süleyman Ersever Parkı, men and women can sit together, it is not disturbing. Because all men are from this neighborhood and they are parents of kids from the school. So no one disturbs each other” (Woman, 40, married with two children).

In addition to the characteristics of the park surrounding, parks’ design such as the availability of amenities like seating units, tables, pergolas, lighting elements, different play and sports equipments, cafes, and programming such as periodical activities like courses, concerts and celebrations at the park play a crucial role on the feeling of safety and comfort of the users.

LACK OF SITABLE SPACE AFFECTING THE USE OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Duru Park can be divided into two main areas, pool side and playground side. On each longitudinal sides of the pool there are 6 fixed benches with a shading element on top. However, on the playground side there are only 2 benches with no climate protection. In Süleyman Ersever Parkı, there are three main areas, cafeteria, playground and pool side. Cafeteria has its own movable chairs and tables, and only a portion of it protected from rain and sun. The playground side has no seating elements. In the pool side there are few fixed stone benches with no climate protection other than a couple of shade trees next to benches. Results indicate that lack of sufficient number of seating units in the close vicinities of playgrounds where mothers can have eye contact with their children is a major problem in both parks and either force people to use the utilities cafes and spend money or wait for their children standing. In addition to insufficient number, lack of protection from weather conditions is another problem.

“I wish there was more shade in here. Especially, we, mothers, need to sit by the playground but it is impossible in summer. There should be something to block the sun” (Süleyman Ersever Parkı, woman, 38, married with two children).

According to user survey results, mostly complained problem in neighborhood parks in Balçova is the lack of climate control (28%) in relation with seating areas (Figure 9). 43% of the whole respondents state that they want solutions for climate control problems (54% of this group is women).

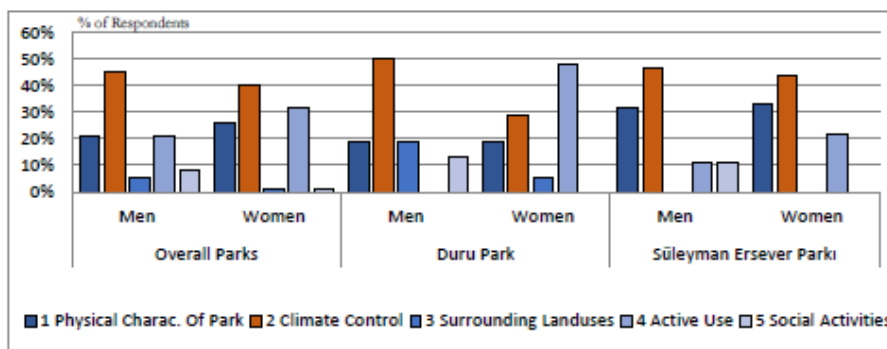


Figure 9 Climate control as the mostly complained issue in parks

According to detailed observations in Duru Park at the same times of the days during spring and summer, user number significantly decreases during summer time observation and respondents complain from lack of shade elements, planting and water elements that can cool down the air. During summer there are almost no children and women around the playground and almost all users are elderly (Figure 10 & 11).



Figure 10 Duru Park on a mild temperature spring day



Figure 11 Duru Park on a hot summer day

Flexibility of the seating units and existence of tables is also important especially for young park users so that they can change the layout according to activities and use together with friends to chat, study, do handcrafts, rehearse music rehearsal, picnic or celebrations instead of just sitting and watching the passer bys.

“They put benches in military order. They are close to each other and fixed. Two rows of benches are looking face to face. Everytime I walk in between these benches, this layout gives me the feeling that all eyes are on me. They do not give the chance of moving according to what I like. So if I come here in a group of 3 or 4 we cannot chat properly” (Duru Park, woman, 26, single).

Existence of Food Related Amenities and their Effects on Perception of Familiarity

Considering the importance of eating activities in Turkish culture like in most Mediterranean societies, the provision of suitable physical conditions in parks for such activities is crucial. According to interview results, along with the importance of the type of the food, the location of it, quality and price the most important factor that affects the feeling of safety and comfort is the familiarity of the staff that run the place and the users of those food activities.

While existing döner or kokoreç kiosks are being complained constantly due to their concerns about hygiene, smell, prices and dominant male users in Duru Park mostly by women, the café in Süleyman Ersever Parkı is being appreciated and used often especially by the mothers who are waiting for their children getting out of the school. Those women express that they feel comfortable and safe as they know the owners who is a family from the same neighborhood and thrust them for years whereas in Duru Park the staff of the döner kiosk is all temporary and changing often.

"I come here everyday to be together with my friends, drink tea and chat. This café is a resting place for me. I like it so much. We know the owner Murat Ağabey. If we need something he helps. We can live our bags and he keeps an eye on it." (Süleyman Ersever Parkı, woman, 53, married with one child).

Park Use after Sunset and Feeling of Safety

As Madge (1996) also state feeling of fear is directly transferred to the public space use behaviors and creates a hesitancy for using certain spaces at certain times of the day (Madge, 1996). In neighborhood parks of Balçova, the level of night use is very low when compared to other time frames during the day. Almost all respondents highlighted the importance of lighting in the night on the feeling of safety.

"I can use parks anytime I want in Balçova. Of course if the lighting wouldn't have been enough or it was isolated I could not be able to use the park, then I would be afraid. Lighting is very important for safety." (Woman, 35, married with one child)

According to user survey results, majority of the respondents prefer to use the park before sunset (91%). Mostly mentioned reasons for such use are the lack of suitable lighting and lack of activities. Especially existence of an activity which creates human crowd and well lit environment affects safety perception.

Although Duru Park also has a special lighting design (different than all other parks in Balçova), since it is surrounded mostly by commercial facilities, after a certain time those stores close off and the surrounding of the park becomes very dark and isolated so the night use is very low. However, when we look at Süleyman Ersever Parkı, even if it is not much, there are few users in the evening as well. Especially during Ramadan, municipality organizes activities and such activities attract people in the evening to the park.

3.2.3 ACCESSIBILITY OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS INCREASING THE CHANCES OF BEING A PART OF PAROCHIAL REALM

Study results indicate that especially women with children and elderly people see parks that are on the route of daily routines and accessible by walking as extensions of the private space that they are assumed to belong, an area where they can create opportunities to get together with their friends and carry certain household habits to which starts to convert these public spaces into areas of parochial spaces.

"I have two daughters and we like to have our breakfast here. We leave across the street. So for breakfast, I prepare everything and come here to the park. We sit on the picnic tables and have our breakfast. It creates a change. When we are here, I also see my friends and they join us. We sit for very long hours. It is so nice to have these opportunities near home" (Women, 45 married with two children)

Accessibility of the park is a very important issue especially for elderly people. Since a large group of park users are elderly people with limited mobility in Duru Park, busy traffic around the park, taxi stop with several taxis parked in front, food vendors and their customers at the edges of the park create accessibility problems in Duru Park. For instance during the observations, there was a case when a women with her old mom wanted to get into the park and sit on the benches, the elderly mother had difficulties in crossing the

street and between the parked taxis at the edge of the park. So couple of taxi drivers had to help them and carried women to the benches. When we talked to these women, we found out that the mother likes this park a lot and wants to benefit from the sun but day by day it gets harder for her to come because of the increased traffic and the “wall” (she defines the cars, food vendors and trash bins) around the park.

Accessibility of neighborhood parks can also be defined as connecting routes of daily routines to users’ homes or to workplaces, childcare facilities to shopping activities or providing amenities that can also help women to turn their traditional daily responsibilities into an opportunity to be a part of parochial realm. Although literature defend that due to traditional daily responsibilities such as taking child to the school or going to grocery shopping roles, women end up giving up with using public spaces for leisure or socialization purposes (Kaplan, 1997), accessible parks can enhance women’s chance of participating to social life. Existence of different landuses and resources around attributes different uses to parks (Dines et. al, 2006) and improve parks’ accessibility.

Neighborhood parks not only create opportunities for children’s recreation needs but also create an opportunity as a meeting place for women from the surrounding neighbourhood to get together to talk with friends and relatives (Hutchinson, 2009). In neighbourhood parks women justify their park use through their children. Since children wants to be in the park they state that (to their husbands, family members or curious neighbour sitting on the window) they have to come to park. These strategies give them the courage to negotiate on uses of public realm of neighborhood parks and turn them into a form of parochial realm.

“Usually women work and after they go home and continue working. I got off from work. I should have stayed at home and cook but I needed to do shopping. As we got outside my daughter started crying to go to park. After the park I will continue shopping and go home” (Duru Park, woman, 26, married with one child).

Süleyman Ersever Parkı’s location next to the school is one of the great opportunities for women to turn their duty of taking child to school and picking up from school into a socialization opportunity to sit together, drink tea and chat with friends while waiting for their children. It is a good example how women use their daily responsibilities as an opportunity to socialize and be a part of parochial realm. The most dominant user group in Süleyman Ersever Parkı is mothers of the children who are in school.

“Most important thing is comfort of my child. I wait in the park in case she may need something. We are lucky to have a park next to school to sit and wait our children. I also have the chance to see my friends. In case I run late, I ask my friend to take care of my daughter” (Woman, 40, married with two children).

When school is closed park use level significantly drops. Neither the mothers with children nor the people working in the school come to this park during summer. This indicates that parks are not sufficient to attract users without a well considered surrounding environment. (Figure 12 & 13).



Figure 12 Limited use of Süleyman Ersever Parkı when the school is closed



Figure 13 Increased use of Süleyman Ersever Parki when the school is open

4 CONCLUSION: PERCEPTIONS OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AS PAROCHIAL REALM CHANGING THE PARK USE EXPERIENCES OF USERS WITH DIFFERENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Neighborhood parks are used and perceived as parochial realms especially by mothers with children and by old women and men, especially retired ones. While Lofland (1998) defines parochial realm as the world of the neighborhood, workplace, or acquaintance network, in this study, neighborhood parks appear with the extensions of activities that are assigned to private realm and opportunities for frequent users' (especially mothers' and seniors') socializing around these activities. Next to users' gendered roles and responsibilities shaped by their aging, these socializing opportunities are also highly influenced by design and planning of neighborhood parks and their surrounding areas.

Land uses in parks' immediate environment (e.g., schools, tea houses, commercial or residential uses), design of parks' layout and provided amenities in parks (e.g., cafes, vendors or taxi stops) carry a great importance for perceiving neighborhood parks as "safe" and welcoming parochial realms. For instance, while a nearby school attracts more mothers with children to parks and creates a meeting point for middle-aged women, tea houses around another park attracts mostly elderly men and serves as a socialization opportunity.

Types of the provided amenities in relation the needs of potential users (e.g., playgrounds, seating units or shading elements), the ways these amenities designed (e.g., flexibility and size of seating units and tables or lighting design of the whole park), and the location selection of amenities are also other factors that affect the perceptions regarding neighborhood parks and enable people to negotiate on the existing uses according to their needs. While design and location of existing shading elements and seating units in relation with the design of playgrounds are quite important for mothers who wants to sit, chat and eat together with their friends or do hand-crafts while keeping an eye on their children; location of seating elements and their relationship with each other and distance to other park amenities like playgrounds is critical for comfortable park use of elderly women and men who wants to have some level of privacy and quite time.

On the contrary to common suggestions for crime prevention by lighting design (Atkins et. al, 1991; Lab, 1997), this study suggests that lighting design cannot fully create safety perception and highlights the importance of familiarity on the safety perceptions. For comfortable park use not only lighting but also working hours of the surrounding landuses and familiarity of the other users is crucial.

Familiarity of the users of the park and the surrounding facilities, and also the familiar staff of the café or vendors in the park affect perceptions of safety of women and men differently. For instance while owner of the café whom women can depend on for the maintenance of the park or familiar people in the park whom mothers can thrust for the safety of their children or men sitting at the café who creates a safety feeling in the case of any negative event are important factors for women, such factors do not have any effect on the safety perceptions of men.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

- Bedimo-Rung, A. L., Mowen, A. J. and Cohen, D. A. (2005). The significance of parks to physical activity and public health: A Conceptual Model. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 28(2) , 159-168.
- Bose, M. (2005). Shifting boundaries: Women's settings in the slums of Calcutta, India. *EDRA* 36 (s. 68 - 75). EDRA.
- Booth, M.L., Owen, N., Bauman, A., Clavisi, O., and Leslie, E. (2000). Social-cognitive and perceived environment influences associated with physical activity in older Australians. *Preventive Medicine*, 31(1) , 15-22.
- Byrne, J. And Wolch, J. (2009). Nature, race, and parks: past research and future directions for geographic research. *Progress in Human Geography*, 33(6) , 743-765.
- Carr, S., Francis, M., Rivlin, L. G. and Stone, A. M. (1992). *Public Space*. Cambridge: Cambridge Uni. Press.
- Chaudhury, H., Campo, M., Michael, Y. and Mahmood, A. (2016). Neighbourhood environment and physical activity in older adults. *Social Science & Medicine*, 149 , 104-113.
- Cosaner, M., Kiper, T. and Korkut, A. (2014). Mahalle parklarının peyzaj tasarim ve kullanım kriterleri açısından irdelenmesi: İstanbul- Şişli örneği. *Journal of Tekirdag Agricultural Faculty*, 3 , 1-19.
- Dines, N., Cattell, V., Gesler, W. and Curtis, S. (2006). *Public spaces, social relations and well-being in East London*. Bristol: The Policy Press.
- Donder, L., Buffel, T., Dury, S., Witte N., Verté, D. (2013). Perceptual quality of neighbourhood design and feelings of unsafety. *Ageing and Society*, 33, pp 917-937
- Fokkema, T., Gierveld, J. and Nijkamp, P. (1996). Big cities, big problems: reasons for the elderly to move? *Urban Studies*, 33(2) , 353-377.
- Gehl, J. (2011). *Life between buildings: Using public space*. Washington: Island Press.
- Greed, C. (2007). *A Place for Everyone? Gender equality and urban planning*. A ReGender Briefing Paper. Oxford: Oxfom.
- Hunter, A. (1985). Private, parochial and public social orders: The problem of crime and incivility in urban communities. In: Suttles GD and Zald MN (eds) *The Challenge of Social Control: Citizenship and Institution Building in Modern Society*. Norwood, NJ: Ablex, pp.230–242.
- Hutchison, R. (2009). *Constructions of urban space*. Bingley: Emerald Group Publishers.
- Kaplan, T. (1997). *Crazy for democracy: Women in grassroots movements*. New York: Routledge
- Kemperman, M., and Timmermans, H.J.P. (2008). Influence of socio-demographics and residential environment on leisure activity participation. *Leisure Sciences*, 30(4) , 306-324.
- Kusenbach, M. (2006). Practicing community in the parochial realm. *Symbolic Interaction*, 29(3), 279-306.
- Lofland LH (1989) Social life in the public realm. A review. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 17: 453–482.
- Low, S., Taplin, D. and Scheld, S. (2005). *Rethinking Urban Parks: Public Space and Cultural Diversity*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- Mackenzie, S. (1989). *“Women in the City”*. London: Unwin Hyman.
- Madge, C. (1996). Public Parks and the Geography of Fear. *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie*, 88(3) , 237-250.
- McKenzi, P. J., Prigoda, E. M., Moffatt, K., McKechnie, L. (2006). Behind the program-room door: the creation of parochial and private women’s realms in a canadian public library. In: J. E. Buschman and G. J. Leckie (Eds), *The Library as a place: History, community, and culture* (pp. 117-134). Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.
- Michael, Y., Green, M., and Farquhar, S. (2006). Neighborhood design and active aging. *Health and Place*, 12(4), 734-740.
- Parra, C. D., Gomez, L. F., Fleischer, N. L. and Pinzon, J. D. (2010). Built environment characteristics and perceived active park use among older adults: Results from a multi level study in Bogota. *Health and Place*, 16(6) , 1174–1181.
- Scharf, T., Phillipson, C., Smith, A., and Kingston, P. (2002). *Growing Older in Socially Deprived Areas. Help the Aged*. London.

Wessendorf, S. (2014). 'Being open, but sometimes closed'. Conviviality in a super-diverse London neighbourhood. *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, Vol. 17(4) 392–405

World Health Organization (WHO) (2007). *Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide*. WHO, Geneva.

Van Herzele, A. and Wiedemann, T. (2002). A monitoring tool for the provision of accessible and attractive urban green spaces. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 63(2) , 109–126.

ID 1366 | URBAN NIGHTSCAPES: SPATIOTEMPORAL NARRATIVES AND LIVED PERCEPTIONS, THE CASE OF NIGHTTIME LISBON

Vasiliki, Fragkaki¹

¹University of Thessaly Argonafton & Filellinon
vassia_fr@hotmail.com

1 INTRODUCTION

The basis in writing this article is the dialectical relationship between urban space and human, focusing on the interaction that these two factors demonstrate during the night. In this context, the research interest is directed on the way the urban nightscape experienced from users on the possibilities of (public) space at night and how they affect human behavior and management of leisure, and conversely, on how the nightscape is affected and reshaped by the behavior and social practices of the users, especially young people.

2 AIM AND GOALS

It has to be noted that selecting the investigation of the urban nightscape as culture forming space, it was assumed that research will be primarily based on the behavioral approach of night life in the city. Moreover, the urban experience is examined in the aspect of the night as a leisure or recreation time, therefore, it does not concern those who consider night time as working hours. Additionally, in this case, the time limits of night are specified approximately, in order to meet research needs. If we consider that at midnight according to the etymology of the word has been signified as "the middle of the night", night lasts from the time the sun goes down (between 19: 00-20: 00) to 21: 00- 22:00, followed by initiation of the night, lasting until dawn (5:00 to 6:00). Therefore, to overcome this ambiguity, it has been chosen to be noted as the beginning of the night, the time period of 22:00, which coincides the time out for many people and especially for youths.

3 THEORETICAL TOOLS AND BACKGROUND

The dialectic relation of absolute, relative and relational space in correspondence with the spatial triad (Figure 1) according to the dialectics of space theory (Lefebvre, 1974), drives Harvey in an expanded frame interpretation of socio-spatial relations, the "grid of spatial practices".