

Migration as a Factor of Urban Space Transformation

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Abstract

The growth of cities and urban population, the development of urban space as a result of improving the socio-economic standard of living of urban residents, stimulate the attractiveness of cities among migrants. This article presents the results of a study of the impact of different groups of migrants on the urban space of Kharkiv as one of the largest cities in Ukraine. Kharkiv is migratorily attractive not only for domestic but also for international migrants. It is an indisputable fact that immigrants influence the urban space, bring elements of their own culture and traditions. This study identified the main groups of migrants arriving in Kharkiv and their general characteristics. According to the purpose of migration and the term, the impact on the urban space of the city differs. It was found that short-term migrations of internal migrants do not have a significant impact on the urban space, the reason for which is primarily the affinity of socio-cultural traditions in most regions of Ukraine. Instead, long-term international migration, especially forced migration, encourages immigrants to adapt to new conditions and, in turn, to adapt urban space to their own needs, changing it.

Keywords: migration, urban space, migration processes, segregation, transformations, Kharkiv, Ukraine.

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Introduction

Rapid urban development and urban population growth have become one of the most important factors in the transformation of world society at the beginning of the XXI century. Economic, social and cultural activity of the population became closely connected with the development of the city and urban space. Structural demographic changes directly affect the transformation of urban space. The principles of the "new urbanism" and the global tendencies of anthropocentrism contribute to the creation of a city for people, that is, the maximum consideration of the needs of urban residents in the planning and development of the city and urban space.

The processes of globalization, openness and accessibility of most countries of the world and a number of other factors, including economic, cultural, social, stimulate the intensification of migration flows. Migrants act both as a promising resource and a threat to development for host communities and territories. Therefore, there is a need to assess the impact of migrants on the development of territories and identify threats and prospects that may arise in the process of adaptation of migrants.

The migration movement of the population and the migrants themselves have a significant impact on the development of certain territories, both in Ukraine and for most countries around the world. This applies mainly to the development of large cities. The situation in eastern Ukraine has stimulated an increase in the flow of internal migrants and changes in the direction of international migration (*Ukrainske suspilstvo...*, 2018). Such changes affected primarily the cities closest to the conflict zone, such as Kharkiv, which has traditionally been attractive to certain groups of migrants.

Relevance of Research

In 2019, the total migration increase in Kharkiv amounted to 6609 people, including the migration increase of international migration - 2612 people. In 2019, the city received 58.3% of all migrants in the region, including 90.6% - international migrants (*Mihratsiynyy rukh...*). This indicates the migratory attractiveness of Kharkiv among both domestic and international migrants.

Kharkiv is being transformed on the basis of "new urbanism" and anthropocentrism, being at the stage of transition from the industrial to the post-industrial stage of development, declaring development intentions as a Smart city. At the same time, considerable attention is paid to the needs of the population and mutual influence on the transformation of urban space, taking into account the needs of the city and its inhabitants (*Mezencev, Olijnik, Mezenceva, 2017*).

Although, during the study period, the percentage of migrants in Kharkiv does not exceed 3% of the total population of the city, migrants have a significant impact on its development and transformation of the urban space. This is manifested both in the emergence of new public spaces and in the adaptation of existing ones. After all, a significant proportion of migrants, adapting, move to the category of residents (*Niemets, Suptelo, Lohvynova, Kliuchko, Tebienieva, 2020*).

The purpose of this study is to identify and analyze the impact of migrants on the transformation of public spaces in the city of Kharkiv as one of the largest cities in Ukraine. **The main objectives** of the study are: 1) to identify the main groups of migrants who influence the transformation of the urban space of Kharkiv; 2) characteristics of urban spaces created or adapted for the needs of migrants; 3) identification of threats and prospects for the development of the urban space of Kharkiv in the context of the impact of migrant activities on it.

Research Methodology

This article is based on a set of philosophical, general scientific and specific scientific research methods. Main methods: analytical, synthetic, inductive-deductive, problem search (detection of the influence of migrants on the transformation of urban space), retrospective (analysis of migration

flows in different periods due to historical circumstances) statistical (operation of statistical data), graphical (to visualize research results in the form of graphs, charts, cartographic charts). The use of the method of morphological analysis occupies a significant place in the study. It is morphological analysis, which aims to study the objective world of urban space through field examination and photofixation and its systematization, allows to identify functional qualitative and quantitative changes in the urban environment and draw conclusions about the quality of space organization. As M.V. Ragulina notes, the method of morphological analysis allows to create a spatial "portrait" of the city and to reproduce its essential features as much as possible (*Ragulina, 2012*). According to A. Lefebvre, urban space is a set of representative tangible and intangible images and "texts", the analysis of which gives an idea of the city itself, its spaces and inhabitants (*Lefebvre, 1991*).

Analysis of Previous Research

The city, its inhabitants and their interaction are in the field of research of many sciences. Moreover, special and different approaches have been formed both to the interpretation of the phenomenon of the city and urban space, and to the mechanism of its analysis. The main aspect of this study is to establish the characteristics of the interaction of non-native residents of the city (migrants) with the urban space. The growing role of the city in the life of society in the middle of the twentieth century stimulated the development of the concept of "right to the city". Its founders Andri Lefebvre and David Harvey declared that all city dwellers, without exception, regardless of social status, have the right to participate in decisions about the transformation of urban space, as it belongs primarily to urban dwellers. This concept was formed on the basis of studies of a number of groups of the population not included in the urban society, in particular, the homeless and migrants (*Harvey, 2006; Lefebvre, 1991*).

At the 51st session of the Committee on Population and Development, Gora Mboup in report "Urbanization and Migration – Two Global Mega Trends: Diversity, Opportunities, and Challenges" states the relationship between urbanization and migration on the development of both society and territory (*Mboup, 2018*). After all, the steady growth in the number of cities and urban residents is largely due to increased mobility of the population in the context of globalization. At the same time, the influence of migrants does not always have a positive vector, often it is the significant number of people in the city that leads to the deterioration of living conditions of its population (favelas in Rio de Janeiro).

That is why a number of scientists consider one of the most important tasks - the adaptation of migrants in the socio-cultural, economic and political space of the city. Marlucci Menezes, Judith Allen, Lia Vasconcelos in the study of the impact of immigrants on public spaces, the main emphasis is on the development and transformation of the cultural landscape of cities (*Menezes, Allen, Vasconcelos, 2009*).

Instead, Valeria Monno and Silvia Serreli state the fact that very often migrants are not included in the urban space and city life. As a result, socio-economic inequality of the population is formed and segregation processes are intensified. As an alternative to this, the authors consider the development of inclusive policies in cities towards vulnerable groups, including migrants (*Monno, Serreli, 2020*).

For Ukraine, migration processes have a significant impact on the development of both the country and individual cities. That is why a number of Ukrainian scientists study the interaction of migrants and migration processes and their characteristics with the city, urban space and local residents. In particular, O. V Senyura names the social aspects of migration among the factors of urban space transformations (*Senyura, 2015*). A.A. Mozhovyy, notes that urban space is the center of conflict formation (*Mozhovyy, 2014*). Agents of the conflict can be both city residents and the urban environment. For cities that are transforming, urban conflicts are very common (*Morar, Dulca, Nagy, 2016; Morar, Nagy, Dulca, Boros, Sehida, 2019*). One of the preconditions for increasing the conflict-generating nature of urban space is significant flows of migrants, which can lead to negative forms of urbanization such as pseudo-urbanization and covert urbanization.

In the context of the socio-political situation in eastern Ukraine, a significant part of research related to migration processes and urban space is aimed at studying the peculiarities of adaptation of internally displaced persons (as one of the groups of migrants) to new urban spaces. Yu. R. Khachatryan reveals the theoretical context of the adaptation of migrants to urban space on the example of a cohort of children from the group of forced migrants (*Khachatryan, 2017*). Given this, it is extremely important to study the transformations of the urban space of large cities in the context of interaction with migrants, in particular one of the Ukrainian cities with a population of millions in Kharkiv.

Presentation of the Main Material

Migration is a continuous process that is the subject of political, social and economic discussions. Managing human flows is one of the most significant challenges for both developed and developing countries. Different reasons and directions of migration create additional problems for governments and local governments, as it is necessary to take into account the motives that motivated people to move. This is especially important for Ukraine, given the rapid decline of rural areas and rural settlements, especially sparsely populated. The problem of migration is becoming even more significant in cities, because it is there that migrants are looking for a better life. At the same time, living in cities allows for greater integration into society. Cities, in addition, provide a decent level of housing, education, medicine, transport, etc. This article is devoted to the peculiarities of the influence of different groups of migrants on the urban space of the post-socialist city at the stage of transformations – Kharkiv (*Niemets, Husieva, Suptelo, Sehida, Kobylin, Kliuchko, 2018*).

One of the largest cities in Ukraine, both in terms of economic development and population, Kharkiv is attractive to both domestic and international migrants due to its border position and high socio-economic development. During the period of independence, Ukraine has been an active participant in international and domestic migration processes and has suffered relevant socio-economic and political consequences:

- Changing the structure of the population: diversification of the ethnic composition of the population;
- Decrease in the working population: labor migration abroad;
- Uneven settlement of the population within the country: the predominance of migration flows in the direction of "periphery - center";
- Intensification of urban processes and socio-economic decline of the village.

In the context of the interaction of urban space and migration processes, the most relevant is the presentation of the impact of immigrants. Moreover, there is no doubt that the representatives of internal migrants easily adapt to urban space and urban lifestyle and subsequently assimilate without having a significant impact on the transformation of urban space. Instead, international migrants, according to differences in culture and traditions, are much more difficult to adapt, less likely to assimilate, but are included in urban society by making changes to the urban space.

The inclusion of individuals in the new conditions of existence in the country has two manifestations: adaptation or isolation with exclusion from society. The analysis of urban space makes it possible to assess the level of adaptability of immigrants. Examples of immigrants' adaptation to new conditions in the urban space are: the emergence of social, cultural and spiritual spaces (educational institutions, cultural centers, religious institutions); economic activity based on authentic traditions of immigrants (traditional productions and outlets); visual transformations of urban spaces (ergonomics traditional for immigrants, architecture, street culture, etc.).

The population migrates due to a number of reasons, which are determined mainly by the duration of this process. In Kharkiv, as an active participant in the migration process, the following main groups of immigrants were formed:

- internal labor migrants, including pendulum migrants from the suburbs;
- internally displaced persons from the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine;
- educational international and domestic migrants;
- refugees and workers from other countries.

Each of the representatives of these groups of migrants, one way or another, has an impact on the transformation of urban space, along with residents of the city, regardless of the duration of mobility. Next, consider the existing changes in urban space that are caused by the activities of each of these groups of migrants.

1. Labor internal migrants, including pendulum migrants from the suburbs: mainly the intensification of pendulum migrations contributes to the development of the transport network in the suburban direction, as well as the "convergence" of the suburbs with the city. As labor migration is generally temporary, such immigrants do not have a significant impact on the transformation of urban space.

2. Internally displaced persons from the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine: as of 2019, about 1.4 million IDPs are registered in the country, of which about 130,000 are located in the Kharkiv region, most of whom (66.7%) live in *Kharkiv (Niemets, Husieva, Lohvynova, Kandyba, Kliuchko, 2018)*. The main manifestation of the change in the urban space of IDPs was the construction of modular towns for their residence (Fig. 1).

On the one hand, the construction of modular towns has attracted to social functioning mostly abandoned and unpromising areas of urban space, and on the other hand, this kind of neighborhood usually has a negative social effect.

3. Educational international and internal migrants: Kharkiv is called the city of students, because a large number of diverse higher education institutions attract a significant number of students, including from abroad. To meet the needs of students, the following transformations were carried out in the urban space: combining the space of study and living of students in a number of universities in the city; emergence of research and educational spaces; formation of auxiliary institutions and institutions of trade and public catering, entertainment around educational institutions.



Fig. 1. Modular town of IDPs in Kharkiv



Fig. 2. «Karazin Student Hall»

Students often continue living in Kharkiv after graduation. At the same time, local students easily adapt and eventually change the urban space alongside the city's residents. Most international students return home, but those who stay, due to their excellent culture and traditions, can significantly influence the transformation of urban space, up to the formation of a kind of urban segregation. Thus, traditionally, in Kharkiv, in the area between the metro stations Botanichny Sad and Oleksiivska, a kind of campus has been formed, which has a fragmentation of accommodation of Ukrainian and foreign students. Foreign students often stay in the same areas for permanent residence after graduation. Eventually, commercial, entertainment, or social facilities began to appear for some nationalities.

4. **Refugees and labor migrants from other countries.** The vast majority of members of this group purposefully migrated to Ukraine during the period of unstable socio-political and economic situation in their countries. Labor migrants mainly come to Ukraine from less developed countries and more of them settle in the capital, large cities and engage in heavy low-paid work (Niemets, Lohvynova, Sehida, Husieva, Kravchenko, 2019). Usually, migrant workers are a temporary phenomenon, so they do not have a significant impact on the transformation of urban space. Instead, a group of forced migrants who choose Ukraine as their permanent residence and have a significant impact on both the city's and the city's socio-cultural space are refugees. The largest groups of national minorities in Kharkiv, with the exception of Russians, Belarusians and Jews, who traditionally live here, are Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Tatars, Georgians, Vietnamese, Poles and Koreans. Recalling the history of military and political conflicts in migrant donor countries for Ukraine, it is obvious that the majority of these national minorities are refugees. Having lost their physical connection with their homeland, the refugees are actively influencing the urban space of Kharkiv. They adapt it to their own needs. Thus, a significant number of catering establishments with traditional cuisines for these immigrants arise. (fig. 3)



Restaurant «Georgia»



Cafe "Armenia"



Restaurant «"Rising Dragon"»



Restaurant "First Chaikhana"

Fig. 3: Restaurants of Kharkiv, which were established by national minorities

Over time, representatives of labor migrants, students, refugees from different countries form diasporas, which as a full-fledged community have a social impact on the city and urban space. Religious institutions (Fig. 4), schools, educational and cultural centers are being built.



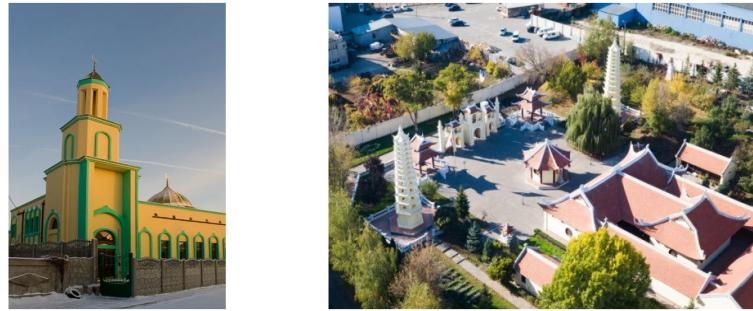


Fig. 4: Religious buildings of Kharkiv of representatives of national minorities

In general, Kharkiv is migratorily attractive for both domestic and international migrants, as evidenced by migration flows (Fig. 5).

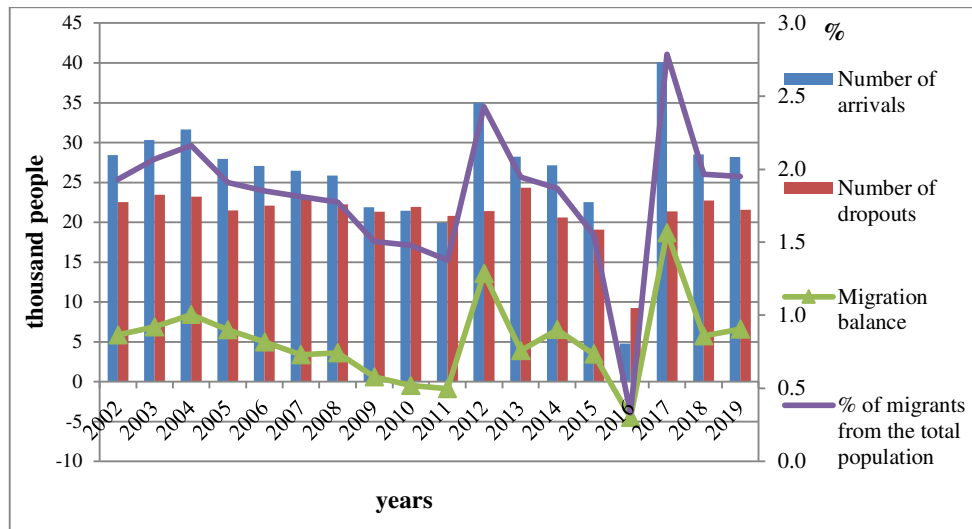


Fig. 5: General migration flows in Kharkiv for the period 2002-2019 (created by the authors according to (Mihratsynny rukh...))

Analyzing the urban space, we can conclude that significant transformations for the needs of migrants, which would be disharmonious or would interfere with the daily practices of residents, especially the emergence of urban segregation, were not detected. This can be explained by the loyalty and adaptation of the local population to migrants. This was facilitated by the history of the formation and development of the city and its diverse ethno-national composition, as well as active processes of adaptation of immigrants.

Considering immigrants in terms of prospects for the development of Kharkiv, the following main points should be noted:

- creation of a more diverse socio-cultural segment of the urban space of Kharkiv;
- attracting tourists, including those associated with local diasporas.

The threats to the development of urban space under the influence of migrants include the following:

- the threat of losing the authenticity of the city of its space under the pressure of culture and traditions of migrants;
- the emergence of competition between residents and migrants in various spheres of city life.

The study of the impact of migrants on urban space is a complex multidisciplinary problem. After all, undoubtedly, the influence is mutual. And the main task is to strike a balance between adapting and imposing one's own traditions and culture.

Conclusions

The processes of transformation of urban space are a complex object of study, because the number of agents who influence the urban space is unlimited. One of the most important factors in the transformation of urban space is migration and the migrants themselves.

As an migration-attractive city, Kharkiv needs to control and resolve issues related to migration and migrants at the city policy level. Traditionally, taking into account the history of development and the current state of functioning of Kharkiv, four large groups of migrants have been formed: labor internal migrants; students; IDPs, refugees and international migrant workers. According to the authors, the latter group has the greatest impact on the urban space of Kharkiv, because it is in the city the longest of all and has a significant need to restore the usual living environment. Mainly, the influence of migrants on the urban space of Kharkiv is manifested in the opening of traditional representatives for this group of food and trade, religious and educational institutions.

Migrants can have both positive and negative impacts on the urban environment. By diversifying the urban space and thus attracting tourists and other migrants, they threaten the uniqueness of the urban space. Further research plans a more detailed analysis of the social impact of certain groups of students on the socio-cultural landscape of the city of Kharkiv and their interaction with city residents. The world is changing rapidly, there are many tensions and conflicts in local and global society. But the sustainability of the latter lies in the great diversity of cultures, relationships, different supranational groups, and so on. These issues require comprehensive interdisciplinary research, and therefore will continue to be in the field of view of the authors' research.

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