The Development of Social Space and its Structures. A New Spatial Paradigm Approach. (On the Material of Ancient Greek History)

Dmitri Mikhalevski, PhD.
Space is becoming a fundamental notion in humanities.

New theories are to be developed new laws are to be discovered.

A new effective tool for studies in sociology is the Paradigm of Spatial Multidimensionality.
Concepts of Social Space

Psychological

Georg Simmel

Mathematical

Pitirim Sorokin
Concepts of Social Space

Psychological

Oswald Spengler

Mathematical

Pierre Bourdieu
Concepts of Social Space

Psychological

Mathematical

Space = f(Soul)

Economical Status

Political Status

Professional Status
Definition of Space

1. a. A continuous area or expanse that is free, available, or unoccupied: ‘he backed out of the parking space’.
   b. The infinite extension of the three-dimensional region in which all matter exists.

2. Position (two or more items) at a distance from one another: ‘the houses are spaced out’.
Any kind of human – anthropic or social – space is primarily of qualitative character.

Psychology: Perception of space depends on the development of the mind.

‘Physical’ space is a derivative from social space.
We don’t have a specific sense responsible for perception of space.

‘Notion of space is secondary to perception of material objects’

Space is a concept without reality.

Karl Jaspers
Concept of space is not a constant
Concept of space is not a constant
Concept of space is not a constant

Prepersonal Level

Personal Level
Concept of space is not a constant

Prepersonal Level

Personal Level
‘Space was first named in the Renaissance’

Martin Heidegger

In the Ancient world and the Middle Ages people did not have an awareness of Space.

Space became an object of mass scientific discourse only in the early years of the twentieth century.
New Definition of Social Space

‘Space is the Appearance of Existence of Things as a Whole’

Dmitri Mikhalevski

Appearance

1. is a newly seen or understood existence of things,
2. is what has been created by man.

Phenomenon of space is a historic category, being the most abstract and, at the same time, the most concrete form of social existence.
Space may be presented as information that man receives from objects around him.

This information is processed by mechanisms of mind.

The more effective these mechanisms, the greater the amount of information that can be processed and therefore the larger the space.
Mind & Elementary Structures of Mind
Perception of space is directly related to the formation and fixation of different levels of abstraction.

Higher levels of abstraction provide a denser packaging of information, and...

‘...human cognition can then deal with larger areas of reality’

Friedhart Klix
But there is also Subconscious
Zero-Dimensional Level

1. subconscious processes information
2. life is concentrated in the ‘near field’ (\(\emptyset = 100\ m\))
3. minimum connectivity
4. domination of perceived objects over the whole
5. myth
6. hunting and gathering
7. reverse perspective:
One-Dimensional Level

1. first level of abstraction of mind
2. psychological separation of man from environment
3. crossing ‘the border’
4. notion of time
5. agriculture
6. epos / lyrics
7. geometric vase painting / black figure vase painting
8. history / genealogy of gods
9. Cronus
Two-Dimensional Level

1. second level of abstraction
2. red figure vase painting
3. ‘scientific’ thinking
4. two-dimensional geometry
5. dialogue, dialectics
6. tragedy
7. Dionysus
8. unification of gods and calendars
9. Athenian union
Three-Dimensional Level

1. third level of abstraction
2. personalization of forms of arts: “end of tragedy” and Middle comedy
3. portrait / landscape
4. Socrates extends the logic method of Parmenides to man
5. ‘Renaissance’ perspective
‘Life consistently and steadily moves in the direction of individuation – a life-long process by which a person becomes a psychological individual..., a total whole.’

Carl Gustav Jung
Paradigm of Spatial Multidimensionality (PSM)

PSM is a measure. It connects the quantitative and the qualitative aspects of being.

The number of dimensions of the PSM determines the quality of the person’s worldview, the quality of products that this person produces and level of personal development.
Zero-level.
All members of the society possess zero-dimensional PSM. Structure of the society reflects the structure of the collective unconscious.
After zero-level every new historic period begins when a stable group of carriers of a higher PSM emerges within society.
This group becomes a stable social structure on reaching critical quantity of 5% of the total number of members of society.
Every time such a new group generates new culture, new morals, values and becomes representative of society as a whole.
As carriers of higher PSM these groups provide a consistent expansion of social space.
Social structuring reproduce structuring of man’s mind. In society higher levels are embodied by social groups formed by carries of a higher PSM. Social space of higher PSM includes social spaces of lower PSMs.
Process of social forms and structures is a self-similar unfolding of human development onto the higher social levels, forming a fractal system.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European History</th>
<th>0•D</th>
<th>1•D</th>
<th>2•D</th>
<th>3•D</th>
<th>Decay of structures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antiquity</td>
<td>Middle Ages</td>
<td>Renaissance</td>
<td>New Era</td>
<td>Modern times</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark Ages</td>
<td>Archaic</td>
<td>Classic period</td>
<td>Hellenism</td>
<td>Roman decline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark Ages</td>
<td>Early Middle Ages</td>
<td>Romanesque</td>
<td>Gothic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Renaissance</td>
<td>Mannerism</td>
<td>Romanticism</td>
<td>Naturalism, Symbolism, Impressionism</td>
<td>Modernism, Postmodernism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>