

The Right to the City

Sociology

Lefebvre: urban space is produced, and can therefore be claimed.

Lefebvre's argument that space is socially produced rather than a container, and that inhabitants have a claim to shape and use the city they make.

PROPOSED

Lefebvre, 1968

CORE CLAIM

space is produced

- Space is produced, not simply occupied.
- Perceived, conceived and lived space differ.
- Planners' conceived space can override lived use.
- Use value against exchange value of land.
- Harvey: reinvesting surplus reshapes the city.
- Taken up by housing and public-space movements.

LOOK FOR IT

A square designed for circulation, used for assembly, then redesigned to prevent it.

Educational reference. Criticised as abstract: the right is invoked widely without agreement on who holds it or how it is enforced.