

## **Gender & Diversity – Issues and Challenges for the “just city”**

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The paper elaborates which issues and challenges come up when gender relations and diversity are discussed in the context of “just” urban and neighbourhood development. Gender relations, ethnicity and other categories of social differentiation have an important impact on the appropriation, use and shape of urban spaces. The ways cities and neighbourhoods are built and organized can turn urban spaces into resources for certain groups and lifestyles, but they can also set limits for others. As a consequence, the transformation of gender and other social relations over the last decades has led to new spatial demands which are already influencing housing and mobility patterns, the use of public spaces and economic settings. Understanding these transformations is therefore an important prerequisite for sustainable urban development and its adaptability to new challenges.

After a discussion of these issues in its first part, the paper asks what “justice” may mean when it comes to the acknowledgement of these differences by urban planning and development. Over the last years, advocates of the “just city” (Fainstein 2010) have pled for a specific kind of equity planning which not only decreases the potential influence of unequal power relations, but strives to balance them by deliberate action. Approaches of gender and diversity planning may inspire this discussion (see e.g. SenStadt 2011).

Justice, however, is a normative concept and its definition not uncontested. The paper finishes with open questions for further research and debate.

### **Literature**

Fainstein, Susan (2010): *The Just City*. Ithaca

SenStadt (2011): *Gender Mainstreaming in Urban Development – A handbook*. Berlin