What kind of nature does foster social ties?

Learning from Singapore and Tokyo.

Rosita SAMSUDIN

URBAN, NATURE, SOCIAL TIES/ SOCIAL CAPITAL, PERCEPTIONS





BACKGROUND

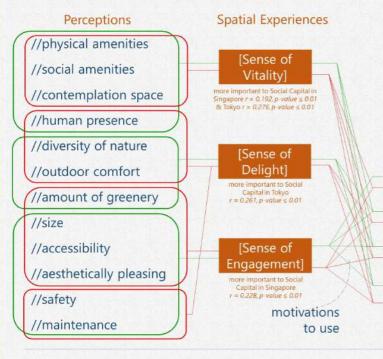
- Social ties is a key of health and well-being.
- Paradox of densification: social ties VS social withdrawal
- Nature in cities [in various forms] can help to shape urban social life and fosters social ties.
- Policies and studies largely focus on physical attributes of nature. But people's perceptions can drive motivations to visit and use nature.

RESEARCH GAPS

- The interactions between physical and perceived attributes of nature have yet been fully understood.
- The relationship mechanisms between attributes and perceptions nature and social ties remain fuzzy.

FINDINGS

Perceptions of nature are associated with social ties stronger than physical attributes. Perceptions shape Spatial Experiences.



OBJECTIVES

- · To identify which attributes of nature in cities, physical or perceived, are important in fostering social ties.
- To investigate the relationship mechanisms between nature and social ties in cities.
- To understand the relationship patterns across cities.

METHODS

 Localised-scale nature provides the spatial context for everyday-life social interactions and social ties formation.

9 SINGAPORE precinct green spaces

Spatial study

physical attributes: //size //green cover

6 токуо

neighbourhood green spaces

810 respondents **Perception Study: Household Survey** //SES profiles //16 items on perceptions of

green space //4 Social Capital measures (Networks, Trust, Solidarity,

Collective Action) & Social Cohesion



260 respondents

Social Capital

NETWORKS

TRUST

SOLIDARITY

COLLECTIVE **ACTION**





Vitality Delight Social Capital



Vitality Delight Social Capital

CONCLUSIONS

- The role of nature in fostering social ties is mediated by perceptions, which shape different spatial experiences.
- Spatial experiences suggest motivations to visit and use green space, which are linked to the strength of social ties.
- No association between physical attributes and social ties but, physical attributes inform perceptions of space.
- Understanding preferences/ needs and contexts is a key in planning and designing nature for social ties.

Future studies

- Need to include more case studies to understand better the mechanisms of the relationship between nature and social ties across different contexts.
- Translational study: How do the findings inform policies and design interventions?
- Transformative: How do we assess the change in social ties, mediated by nature, over time?
- Systemic planning: How are the findings integrated with and/or influence other urban systems and apparatus?

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