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A MIND MAP OF GREY

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1. Introduction: Grey as a Mind Map

Grey is the overwhelming color in cities. It's everywhere, in all of the four dimensions: vertical, horizontal, diagonal, and in time. Grey asphalt, grey houses, grey walls. But then, on a meta-level, you can think of grey as a feeling, a circumstance, of an impression on a face, of the grey- everyday life, of something between place and space, of a transformation. You can also think of the opposite of grey, colored, represented in the city as well. There are so many options to think of grey. In this presentation, we wanted to design a mind map of it, presenting three different aspects, three different perspectives on grey. We could call it the Grey Street, on which we stroll along, roaming in several side roads to get an impression of the variety and diversity of grey.

Since the seminar was about the feel-good aspect in cities, we want to refer to it in this introduction. Where is the relation to grey? As mentioned before, one could interpret grey as neither place nor space, as the process transforming space to place. One would not associate grey to well-being, more likely to the negotiation of it. To degenerated places, to a comfortless, bleak, dull life. Seeking Grey and taking pictures of it is subjective, its an attribution you give to something, for example as a feeling you have about something. You value different places and spaces, thus it becomes relevant to your well-being,

The first aspect is on the relation of people and their positioning in the city. Imagine the city as a composition of an grey environment in which people living in it represent the colorful side, converting places through their actions, their creations. Without us, the city would be a grey space, with us, its a colored place. Space becomes place through our experience and our actions.

The second is about our senses. How the city affects our well-being through sounds and transformations, for examples in form of construction sites. One could call them grey, not only for their atmosphere and aesthetics , but also for their effect on our well-being.

They are neither positive (white?), nor can they be as negative (black?) as we often refer to them. They stand for a process, which has begun, but is not yet finished. At the end of the day, they transform and modify places. There is always somebody who benefits. The third part will speak about the the social perspective of the deviance as a grey product of the society.

Starting from the main point of social consideration of deviance we can see it as an ignored problem that could be associated with the color grey (that's not good but neither bad). Here an introduction to the consideration of Deviance from the greatest sociologist and anthropologist Erwin Goffman where he sees deviance as an alteration of the identity. There is a change of the individual personality that could be seen as the loss of the audience trust in the individual performance. During the representation of grey the main question that have been analyzed are: What is the most significant element that constructs our identity? The Identity is highly dependent on our self-consideration and surroundings. It's social part is part of our identity construction. The way we identify our Character is giving from a social group we are part of. This gives us the idea of the impression management that may have the most important influence of our construct of an Identity. I will focus my work on the group of people who are not anymore able to act in accordance with the rules of this impression management. The main point is that the social identity is directly related to how other people perceive us. The question is who are the deviants? The people who are going to be labelled deviant in our society can be related with the sexual preference, the people who wear the wrong type of clothes or have disordered behavior that is associated with mental illness. There is a wide range of possible deviant behavior so it's actually easy nowadays to be labelled as deviant. The most significant effect on our identity is the behavior that is considered associated with the mental disorder. Here I will give some examples on how much the social attitudes have changed with some deviant groups and on how this could effect on our social system and identity construction. How can mental disorders be classified: Mostly it's classified as a physical disease defined with the social interaction. The persons behavior is expressed with unusual thoughts or feeling, which are socially defined as deviant. It could be seen as a collection of interrelated behaviors in an individual. The society classified them as the deviant group of our society because of their surroundings; this is an internal source that is manifested as an involuntary act. The most dramatic part of being classified as a deviant is the loss of their validity in the social institutions. The main question in this social Analyse is if the deviance is really an actual disorder or if it's a social construction. The first deviant signs have been showed in the childhood, for example the developmental coordination disorder or other subjective symptoms that are hard to measure and analyze.

2. Features and Aspects of Grey

A. Construction Sites and their Impact on our Life



Picture 1.

Heimeranplatz, Mittlerer Ring, 07.07.2014

Description:

Roadworks on the “Mittlerer Ring”. A loud noise is coming from the construction site and is automatically grabbing my attention. Grey is everywhere in this picture, the atmosphere seems dismal. The influence of the construction site on the environment is immense: Traffic is decelerated, nearby apartments are committed to the noise. When everything is done, the road will be in better condition.



Picture 2.

Landsbergerstraße, 05.07.2014

Description:

I'm standing in front of another construction site on the other side of the street, while taking this picture. People living here are used to noise, the Landsbergerstraße is a main road with tramway rails. The construction sites here aggravate the noise level, having an impact on your well-being in many ways. Its not just the grey color of the canvas cover, but also the gloomy ambiance reigning here. This has not to be a bad thing, though it improves the condition of the concerned houses. When everything is done, the frontage will be furnished.



Picture 3.

Erika-Mann-Straße, 03.07.2014

Description:

The atmosphere in this quarter of Munich is quite unique. One well maintained apartment building follows one another, high rise buildings functioning as places of business with glassed facades, people jogging, wandering around on a grassed area, a bar and shop completes the buildup. Securities are strolling through the streets And then you have these three giant construction sites, which I see everyday from the other side of the train rails, from the other side of the bridge (Donnersbergerbrücke). Their aesthetics disturb the whole straightened image of the neighborhood.

When everything is done, three large new high rise buildings will complement the neighborhood, in which probably companies will find their new home.

B. City and its residents- contrastive view



Picture 4.

Hauptbahnhofviertel, 23.06.2014

Description:

Norm, society, the normal grey and a statement: not being normal is a form of normality.



Picture 5.

Kubu.Glockenbachwerkstatt, 28.06.2014

Description:

Bringing the colors back to the park.



Picture 6.

Glockenbachviertel, 28.06.2014

Description:

Forgotten places are waking up with new emotions.

C. A social perspective of deviance as a grey product of the society



Picture 7.

Odeonsplatz, 17.06.2014

Description:

The picture was taking in the Odeonsplatz Munich. It shows a newspaper Seller that is trying to sell the homeless magazine. The people are mostly considered deviant and not poor. The picture shows an old man who is waiting for a successful business.



Picture 8.

Müller'sches Volksbad, 20.6.2014

Description:

The picture has been taking in the Müller'sches Volksbad in Munich. A young lady was sitting next to a graffiti showing a kind of sadness in her face. It's looks like she is showing an inability to cope with life's ordinary and routines. The expression of her face may be related to excessive stress due to a particular situation or serious of events. The expression is giving by a physical, emotional or psychological common disorder like Depression.



Picture 9.

Marienplatz, 23.06.2014

Description:

The picture have been taking in the metro-station in Marienplatz Munich. The man shows the first signs of unusual Behavior, wearing in the middle of the Summer a winter coat. He was sitting in a corner and was extremely quiet and withdrawn, he may had a great anxiety or outburst of anger. In public this behavior can be disruptive and difficult to accept. The people should listen to them with a open mind and sometimes try to support them (because if not they are going to be ignored or resentful but with our help we could help them to turn their life in productive and fulfilling life).

3. Conclusion

We are aware of the fact that these pictures are very exemplary and should be regarded as an artistic intervention. The images are shaped by our perception. We often see what we want to see and are constantly looking for confirmations in the environment for our perceptions. The color gray is loaded with many symbolic conceptions which exert different effects on different people. Nevertheless only one percent choose it as their favorite color. A virtual absence of color is depressing for most of us and when the world turns grey we are instinctively conditioned to draw in and prepare for hibernation. Grey is non-emotional, neutral and do not attract attention. It symbolizes routine. Grey is the color of compromise - being neither black nor white, it is the transition between two non-colors. One associates the color with the process of transformation, break or the condition between two different worlds. A construction is to be understood as an intermediate state and a in-between phase. It symbolizes a change or a transformation and people are often confused by changes or by the process of changing and thus find them disturbing. Grey is a symbol of boredom, conservativeness or sadness and sorrow. It is the color of objectivity and functionality. On the other side we have the open minded thinking, the colorful thinking trying to fight routine and boredom. Now let's think about how much people have been considering themselves as deviant. The number of people treated in the private or the public mental hospital has over the last decade decreased. The problem is that this people have been institutionalized and classified as deviant. Some socialists see it as well as a result the increase of mental illness, which brings up the hospitalization of a great number of patients lately. There have been proposed a lot of different approaches in the last decade. Each of them will have a different effect on the personal identity. There is the functional approach that looks to the extent human behavior as a dysfunctional continuation of a social system. Talcott Parsons defines the social system as an organic system that has to be kept in balance. The deviants in order to be reconsidered still part of the society have to be brought back into the social field. He speaks about the medicalization and rehabilitation of certain groups. Another main point of the deviance is that in the course of history and religion, the deviant behavior has been treated as a medical disorder not as a social. It has been seen as a form social construction and the product of the social context in which all is generated.