Values in place; A value-oriented approach toward sustainable places

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Place based approaches to sustainable development are increasingly favoured, assuming that place specificities really matter in the form of social, cultural and institutional characteristics. People attach cultural meanings to places, which are rooted in human values. The development and engagement of participant's values can build co-creative capacity in place-shaping processes. The central question in this paper is how values play a role in place-shaping processes aimed at sustainable development, and how to analyze and map values. Values are not self-standing concepts which can be analysed as atomized issues, but intertwined, context determined, culturally varied and linked to how we see our self and how we perceive our environment. A value-oriented perspective on sustainable place-shaping benefits dialogues based on people's values and beliefs, and provide a more in-depth insight in what people consider as worthwhile, feel responsible for and are willing to commit to in the context of their own place. We analyse in this paper how values have been interpreted in different ways in various bodies of literature and how they are are expressed in places, distinguishing between an economic,intentional, symbolic, and integral approach. Also varied methods are described to analyze and map values.

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