Landscapes of belonging

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Nobody belongs simply to a nation; we belong "here" in our beloved places and relationships, or be-long "there", in the nostalgic places of our memories. The concept of belonging emphasizes the shifting nature of attachments. Belonging as an inherently dynamic process refers here to the acts, arts and representations through which people attach to places and people.

Attachment to a place and belonging to it, is a functional process that is affected by common cultural and individual mental images of the environment. Landscapes of urban living environment include various private and public views and places which have become familiar and significant to citizens. Photographs offer us a tool to explore what are the places different-aged people from different gender, ethnic, cultural and educational background attach to in urban environment. This kind of approach, that is combination of conceptual and methodological elements, lead us to contemplate cultural aspects of shifting landscapes that are experienced by heterogeneous society. From this point of view approach opens up possibilities to observe questions of cultural sustainability as well.

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