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Temporality in the Nostalgic City

Temporality as a dimension of the city is under-researched. The nostalgic city provides an opportunity for exploring temporality in the urban setting, by examining residents' perceptions of time there. Different individuals and groups residing in cities with 'glorious pasts' may experience this dimension of the city in different ways. Moreover, residents may emphasise aspects of time differently according to their interests. This paper uses examples from research carried out in the changing 'cultural city' of Xalapa, based on representations of two social groups there. Exploring perceptions of time reveals the diversity of narratives and experiences in the nostalgic city: for example, newcomers emphasise their future contribution to the city, situating themselves in a present which is the product of past struggles; while longer-term residents locate themselves with reference to a glorious past, which contrasts sharply with present conditions, and an uncertain future.