



Honors Thesis

Master of Science in Architecture Construction City

Abstract

**New Emerging Peripheries
In central districts of Iran
Case: Saryazd Village**

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This dissertation is mainly drew on the new discourse of “Suburbanization” recently narrated by some of the urban political ecology (UPE) scholars as an inevitable phenomenon in the future of urban landscape to be better studied, defined, and addressed for further pursuance of the mentioned by more socially and ecologically sustainable policies and approaches.

However, getting more in-depth into the Urban/Suburban and Urban/Rural notions in the context of Iran brings out some currently novel dynamics and phenomena such as rural/urban immigration, informal foreign immigration, urbanization in Iran and other similar matters. These are investigated in order to be better defined in terms of their incentives and backgrounds. Thus, within every chapter, there would be a brief chronicle and an explanation regarding the recent dynamics of the studied subject.

Yet deriving from the exigency of the immigration phenomena within the more peripheral parts of central districts in Iran, this thesis proposal focuses on the recent flows of informal immigration within the eastern borders (Mainly from Afghanistan after the Taliban invasion 2021) and follows this phenomena outside of the borders of the country as well. This creates a more accurate image of the main impetuses behind these onerous exoduses and helps realize some possible alternative solutions for the immigrants.

Subsequently, the thesis looks toward the notion of suburbanization as an inevitable worlding process that might offer new pathways toward more sustainable extension and development of the bigger cities in Iran (if correctly addressed). Big cities might not offer a very convenient urban lifestyle due to their internal problems and overpopulation, and forming a middle ground for the upcoming local and foreign immigrants, can help them obtain plausibly better living conditions and further develop these areas which bear great potential to grow. In other words, this proposal is redefining two of the commonly perceived threatening notions (suburbanization and foreign immigration) into opportunities both for the native and for the immigrant populations.

Ultimately for a more practical case study, a village named “Saryazd” in the central district of Iran is chosen to further investigate the possibilities and impossibilities of this proposal. Also examined is whether a more contemporary sort of territorial projection that meets the more recent necessities based on the studied dynamics can be of use.

This dissertation bears both a top-down (Urbanisation I) and bottom-up (Urbanisation II) approach. This means that the main narrative starts from the larger scale, partially studying the history of urbanization in Iran and addressing subrubing and decentralization as a possible proposal toward an urban development in Iran that is more ecologically and socially sustainable. However, when it comes to decision-making and projection, it follows a more objective prospect by basing the design and planning on the very needs and necessities of the actual communities living in these zones. The latter is realized by personal presence and field research in the mentioned areas.

Keywords: Suburbanization, Ethnoburbs, Informal Immigration, Global South, Sustainable Development

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