

Heraklion and Chania:

A study of the evolution of their spatial and functional patterns

19

Irimi Perdikogianni

University College London, UK

Abstract

This paper takes a comparative approach to the evolution of spatial and functional patterns of two Cretan cities: Heraklion and Chania. It originates from a puzzle, related to the function of these two settlements as they are today. The paper aims at exploring the reasons for this difference. In this framework, it reveals a problem as to whether these different contemporary functional patterns are the product of pure chance, historical accident or of spatial factors such as the location of particular facilities or attractions. The study is based on the conjecture that the morphology of their grid differs, and this is reflected in their different functional patterns. This paper therefore explores the interrelation between space and function in the two cases. The spatio-analytical method employed is “space syntax”. The spatial analysis suggested syntactic differences during their evolution process may account for their different functional patterns. In the light of its research question, considering the limited data, the paper shows that syntactic analysis especially the radius-radius analysis related to the land use pattern, is a promising line for further research with more complete data.

The paper begins by establishing the puzzle. Concepts like “centrality” and ultimately “live centrality” are developed, both strongly influenced by movement according to the theories of “natural movement” and “movement economy” (Hillier, 1993, 1996). Next, the paper describes the methodology and the data used. Then the two cases are reviewed and the paper ends with a discussion in the light of research findings related to the initial question and to concepts developed in the theoretical framework.

Keywords

Evolution process,
urban grid, spatial and
functional pattern

19.1

iperdikogianni@hotmail.com