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Towards a Fluid Planning Approach in Germany: An Option for Social Fragmentation?

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Abstract: Contemporary societies are increasingly embossed with migration. Multi-cultural and multi-ethnic communities often live side by side with host communities in cities all over the world. Significant efforts have been made to embrace the different challenges occurring at different levels, among which are the social structure and layout of such cities; however, challenges still prevail, and continue to showcase socially fragmented patches with significant relevance to everyday life. In this research, a qualitative approach will be adopted to investigate the qualities of life that hinder sound integration, and, therewith, call for new types of planning to overcome such challenges, such as fluid planning. Celebrating identities through integrating new ethnic economies in different settings has resulted in a stepping stone towards integrated solutions, leading to a more coherent and integrated community.

Keywords: fluidity; urban fragmentation; fluid communities; segregation; Köln



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1. Introduction

Cities are immense, unpredictable, and ever-changing organisms [1]. They are organized complexities, and the challenges emerging from them involve dealing simultaneously with a sizable number of factors that are interrelated into an organic whole [1]. Cities, as such, can neither be comprehensively understood nor planned for, because of their chaotic nature. Therefore, new approaches to tackle these complexities need to be defined. In accordance with Healey, the engagement of all affected actors should be incorporated to enable the articulation of the sustainability indicators in settings [2]. This complexity of cities cannot be strictly defined; it will work in an interrelated manner between order and disorder, as these two factors do not clash, but rather affect and produce each other in circular processes [3]. Therefore, it is essential that we investigate the different approaches to planning that tackle uncertainties and complexities in cities. The study will attempt to allocate potential variables and indicators through the case study investigated in this research, upon which sustainable scenarios for development can be described.

Understanding the dynamics of cities and neighborhoods with significant migrant populations is crucial for developing more effective approaches to urban development. Often, these areas exhibit polarization within their urban structures, leading to urban fragmentation in metropolitan regions such as in Wuhan [4]. This paper will specifically explore the phenomenon of social fragmentation in the contexts of metropolitan cities and

regions. However, determining whether these are fragmented societies is not the sole purpose of this research. It will further the discussion and examine the causes of such fragmentation, in order to better envision how fluid approaches can cater to this challenge.

Emerging challenges and political transitions cause constant changes in planning processes and add another layer of complexity to the existing fabric of cities [5,6]. In this research paper, the authors will try to shed light on existing situations within the city of Köln in Germany, which experiences direct and indirect social exclusion in some of its neighborhoods, where heterogeneous communities mostly reside. Communities incorporating a high percentage of migrants tend to create enclaves [7] with less integration and flow between the adjacent neighborhoods. Of note, it has been found that most of the residents in ethnic enclaves are low-skilled migrants, whereas immigrants with higher skills tend to find their place outside these enclaves [7].

The research will investigate the case of Keupstrasse in the city of Köln in Germany (Figure 1). It will investigate the topic of whether this district is socially fragmented and, accordingly, debate the approaches of fluid planning to consider options for sustainable development. The research questions will address how space and momentum in fluid planning can play a role in spatial and urban transformation to evolve inclusivity. The study will attempt to discover to what extent ethnic communities can have added value in the development of cities and if they are perceived as energies within diversity.



Figure 1. Keupstrasse, Köln, Germany. Source: Google Earth Maps.

The urban settings of the street will be further investigated, to enable the flow of strategies that serve for more inclusive development, because communities of heterogeneous character have mostly shaped their environments in a special manner [8].

2. Literature Review

2.1. Fragmentation as Urban Challenge in Cities

A city is a superimposition of many layers within the social, physical, and virtual dimensions [9]. The interactivity and complexity between these layers make cities active, energized, thriving centers of human interaction [10]. However, cities reveal not only the best but also the worst aspects of humanity—in the form of rapidly degrading urban environments and rampant urban sprawl, inequity, discrimination, violence, etc. [11]. From the planning perspective, cities can be seen as complex organisms with numerous interconnected parts and processes on spatial, social, and economic levels that interact in

unpredictable ways. This complexity can be further compounded by various factors, such as rapid urbanization, technological advancements, social changes, and environmental issues, which lead cities to transformation and fragmentation within the urban fabric [12].

Rapid urbanization, which is a common feature of many modern cities, has various types of impact on cities shaping their urban transformation. In some geographies, it often leads to the creation of informal settlements and slums, which usually lacks basic infrastructure, services, and amenities [13]. In other geographic locations, it results in the spatial segregation and marginalization of certain population groups, leading to social exclusion and inequality. Such discrepancies cause an imbalance in the social systems of cities and regions; and encourages social isolation, leading to an identity crisis, among other impacts of segregation. By acknowledging this complex intersection of fragmentations in the settings, the urgency of articulating a way for identifying the problems and solutions to the uncertainty and instability in contemporary societies gains weight and importance [14]. Different typologies of urban transformation may occur in urbanized areas like in technological advancements such as the rise of digital technologies and the Internet that creates new forms of connectivity and communication. Yet, it can also lead to the formation of virtual communities and social networks that are disconnected from physical spaces and urban environments [15]. Moreover, environmental issues such as climate change and natural disasters can worsen existing urban challenges such as congestion, pollution, and vulnerability, further complicating the urban system and contributing to fragmentation [16].

Fragmentation of cities and their communities, because of urban transformation due to differentiated reasons as sketched above, can also appear through the enclave of migrant communities, which can affect the urban fabric and bring in patches of urban impacts placed together, however, not well-integrated [17]. On a further note, social fragmentation is related to the functioning of large-scale societies. A fragmented society derives its importance from the existence and co-existence of many groups that are locally cohesive and collaborative. However, they are often enclosed from other groups [18]. The case discussed in this research will highlight the types of segregation and fragmentation to be further investigated towards corresponding approaches of development. Further impacts of social fragmentation have been highlighted as a risk on population health and well-being [19]. On the other hand, fragmented enclaves, once provided the potential of integration, do often have the risk of losing their traditional economic and social identities when blending in, and, therewith, getting confronted with other types of challenges like gentrification [20].

2.2. Levels and Forms of Fragmentation, and Rethinking Fragmentation

“If a social hierarchy exists, i.e., a ranking of social values, then social differences can turn into inequality. On the other hand, if certain groups or individuals are kept apart from the rest of the society, i.e., through the existence of fault lines, then social differences appear as social fragmentation” [21].

Fragmented cities are named after an urban setting that experiences certain segregation and discrepancy on a multitude of levels, whether social-, spatial-, or governance-based. The most important levels can be seen outlined in the following.

Spatial fragmentation may be witnessed in the form of spatial discontinuity. Typically, large-scale mobility projects, like elevated highways, multi-level vehicular intersections, rail corridors, post-industrial complexes, etc. create ‘wounds’ in the urban tissue [16]. De La Llata also uses this analogy of the city as a human body to rethink fragmentation. This type of fragmentation can be treated with Nyseth’s fluid solutions of (i) form—creating fluid spaces that offer a liquid-like continuity, (ii) norm—allowing new opportunities

through the flexibility of planning schemes, and (iii) momentum—replacing the fixity of formal planning with a fresh chance [22]. Further research will be dedicated to these on a social level.

Social fragmentation is intangible, and can be observed through community segregation, problems of social integration, and the struggle to belong in society. Gentrification, migration, religious differences, and political affiliation are all examples that help better understand the effects of social fragmentation. Since people are the true essence of any city and cities are planned for humans who are social beings, fluidity in all forms helps to bond the fragments of social segregation [23]. All Nyseth's solutions mentioned before apply to the social fragments of a city—the design and occupation of fluid spaces, planning for uncertain futures, norms that introduce new ideas of integration, and a chance for rewriting a non-segregated future [22].

Fragmentation in governance defines whether the city chooses a rigid or a flexible plan for its future development. Although the fragmentation of governance and revenue on the local (neighborhood or city), state (region or territory), and central (country) level are essential for the effective functioning of any region, the fragmentation of knowledge and responsibility often lead to communication gaps between different governmental authorities. This kind of fragmentation can be countered with Nyseth's fluid solutions such as (i) condition [22]—accepting the fact that cities will experience governmental and political fragmentation that is beyond our control, thus encouraging fluid planning, and (ii) norms that help raise the collective awareness of a region [24], as shown in Figure 3.

The most dynamic element which causes fragmentation in a city is the constant immigration of people [25] of varying ethnicities into a community of people with similar cultural values, which keeps cities in a constant state of flux [23]. Cities, in many cases, have yet to provide migrants with regulatory systems that support and help them in finding their way within societies. Such are exemplified through different projects and programs to secure integration spaces for migrants, approaches of innovation, and further programs towards more inclusive communities. In Vienna, for instance, diversity and integration are seen to be an opportunity rather than a challenge [26]. In many European cities, this approach has been taken to the next level, where strategies towards integration were articulated with responsibility, standing for the better role of cities in the integration of migrants and refugees [27]. However, the main issue of this research is to tackle the open debate towards embracing migrants as added value to the cities and showcasing how, through urban planning and fluid planning, cities can benefit from urban integration in its various layers.

Cities are not static, but fluid and in constant motion [28], and such a dynamic might create fragments within the community in the form of differences of opinions, lack of trust, and conflicts as shown in Figure 2. However, just like people find a way to live together in harmony through common goals or the basics of humanity, cities find a way to work together with these dynamic urban elements through the common goals of growth, sustenance, and prosperity. Cities, like humans, have the innate ability to adapt [29]. And, in this process of adaptation, fluidity is the acceptance of the fragments and the motivation to blend them. On the other hand, this correlates with the sustainable development goal 10 and 11, through which governments gain win–win situations by making use of the diversity and the mixed energies of the communities [30]

Diagram: Complexity creating fragmentation

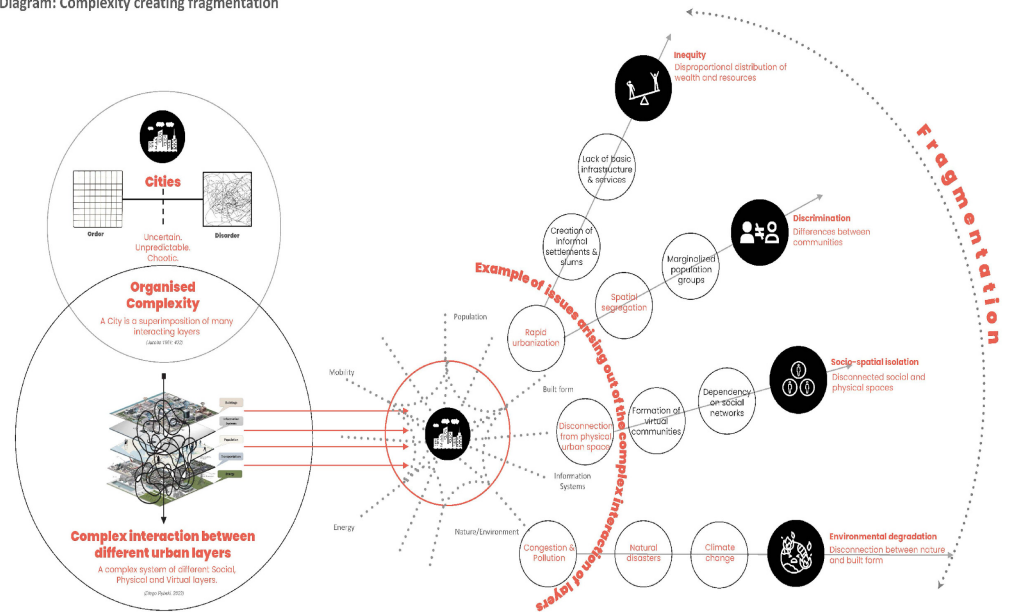


Figure 2. Rethinking fragmentation through fluid planning. Source: Developed by authors based on [1,9].

Considering the ongoing uncertainties in today's world, a complex system is typically modeled as a collection of interacting agents, representing components as diverse as people [31]. In this regard, planning frameworks that deal with such uncertainties need to be investigated and taken into consideration to enable the best approaches to existing challenges within fragmented societies. To this end, fluid planning, adaptation planning, incremental, and advocacy planning, among other planning approaches, have tackled the issue at some angle. Pluralism and advocacy are means for stimulating thought and attention towards future conditions by all groups in society [32]. Fluid planning can easily adapt to changing contexts and use existing relational powers and energies to set forth development in an incremental manner. Fluid planning as a concept offers flexible solutions with its practice of transparency and openness which can adapt to changing circumstances and accommodate participatory development [33]. Thus, within the field of urban theory, this article explores how fluidity can be utilized as planning approaches to facilitate the transformation of fragmented cities and foster urban resilience while also promoting sustainability and livability. By conducting quantitative and qualitative research on selected urban settings and city dynamics, the study aims to provide a recommendation for further development.

2.3. Fluidity and Social Fragmentation

As outlined before, cities experience dynamic urban fragmentation in three major forms: spatial, social, and governmental [34]. Fluidity is the glue that holds a fragmented city together. In the context of planning, Torill Nyseth categorizes fluidity in four forms: space, a planning condition of radical uncertainty, norm, and momentum or potentiality [22], as shown in Figure 3. Each type of fragmentation has several fluid 'glues' that make the city work as a comprehensive system.

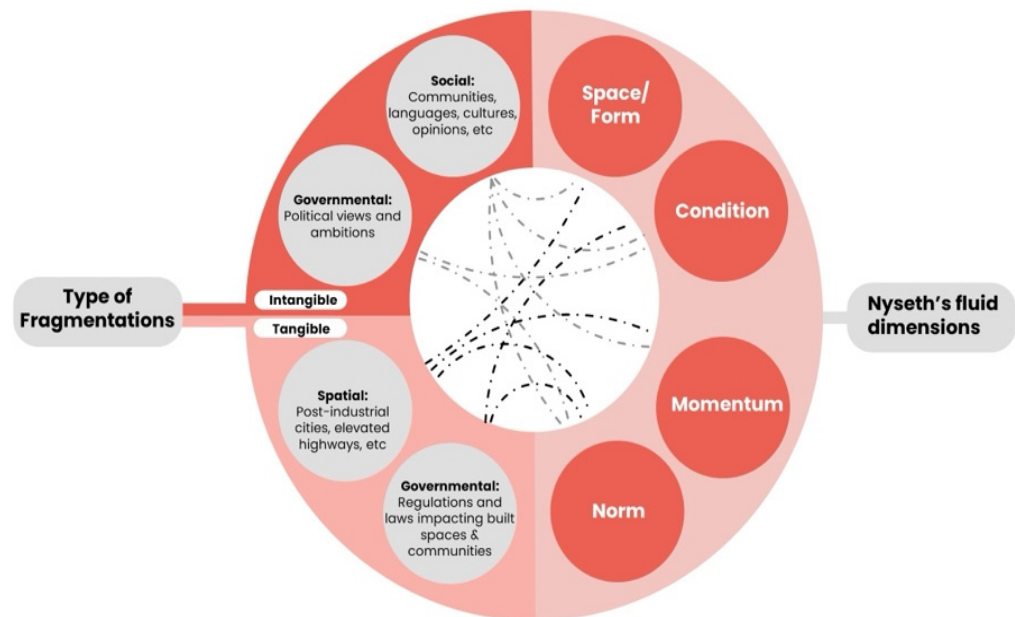


Figure 3. Tangible and intangible forms of fragmentation and fluid areas of integration. Source: Developed by authors, 2023, based on [16,22–24,31].

Fluidity is indirectly evident in Jean Hillier’s post-structural, multi-planar theory of planning. Hillier suggests that spatial planning requires constant redefinition if it must be relevant to the dynamics of complex cities [35]. This ‘constant redefinition’ is the fluidity that is key in strategic spatial planning. Recognizing and valuing the role of networks and networking as a key factor in shaping and utilizing space has increasingly gained significance over recent years [36]. The term “networking”, according to Simonsen, is a driving force within the theories of political organization, economic geography, and business economy. It ensures and envisions efficiency, adaptability, and flexibility in producing collaborative forms of action, which call and cater for the better production of inclusive and, therewith, better environments. However, these conceptions and new perspectives have resulted from many former socialists and urban thinkers, such as Edward Said, Stuart Hall, Williams, and many others, stressing the importance of space as a framing device in the framing of cultural imaginaries [37]. They further argued that social and economic notions and phenomena are the product of spatial temporal locality, and the articulation of interrelations brings space into being [37]. Fluid approaches resume upon such thinking and stress the option of independence from rigid boundaries of space production into flow and movement of energies. In such, migrant communities within introverted spaces need this flow to level up the development of cities as a whole.

Fluid planning as a concept faces several challenges on different levels. First, it is relatively hard to realize because it requires consecutive work and change. It is less dependent on plans and fixed assumptions, and, rather, targets innovative solutions, basing its thinking upon current environments and challenges. However, according to Figure 4 [38], borrowing from management disciplines, both fixed and fluid structures are needed in order to fulfill an innovative approach: building a case from business environments, relating to fluidity in thinking development processes, leading the space from homogeneity to diversity rather than to ethnic enclaves. Heterogeneous environments are challenging to maintain in this sense and have relatively lower communication bases. However, they can be the driver to more innovative solutions, responsive to the surrounding environment.

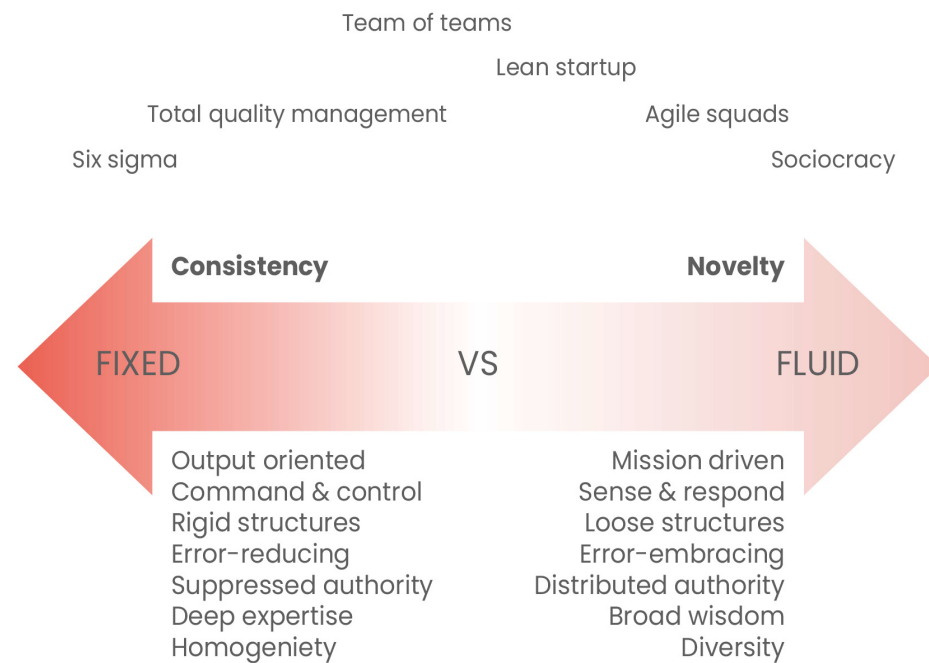


Figure 4. Parameters of multiple organizational futures. Source: [15] <https://academy.nobl.io/the-futures-of-work-fixed-vs-fluid/> cited on 31 January 2024.

Positioning migration studies in this perspective, they have gradually shifted weight from rigid migration policies towards flexible strategies that suggest plural democracies especially in countries with vast migration rates, such as in Germany [38]. He further describes the following: “social change is inextricably linked with cultural change that involves the re-imagining of communities in new narratives moving beyond the idea of homogeneous national identities invented in the nineteenth century” [37] (p. 13), which corresponds to the sustainable development goal 11, sustainable cities and communities that call for social inclusion in diverse heterogeneous communities [38]. Moreover, linking the concept of flow towards more inclusion of different cultures within urban settings will have an effective contribution to reimagining and reconstructing the society perceptions through the urban layout, through their everyday life.

Subsequently, there is a need to create plans, with which those fixities will be compared and upon which further innovative strategies can be formulated responsively to the given environments. To this end, adaptation planning calls for such an evidence-based approach in planning that also deals with uncertainties but rather develops mitigation strategies in relation to a more solid base and for a more proactive resilient response. It mainly deals with impacts of climate change, for instance, and adaptation strategies that correspond to certain risks in the environment [39]. However, fluid planning deals with these uncertainties to find immediate and strategic interventions that cater to resolving these uncertainties and responds to the changing situations in a continuous way, believing in responsive change in accordance with the changing flows of societal norms. More fluid approaches can cater to challenges that are brought by fragmented societies and can tackle the need to glue the two in a smooth manner. As experienced in some approaches, art and culture are tools to bring societies together once they are represented in different terms and locations, where, slowly, a better understanding of the other culture can take its role into bringing them together. Other tools can be revisited depending on the type of given cultural assets, such as in economic and business typologies, as well as new typologies of public arenas the migrant groups and migrant cultures bring along. These can cater to new narratives of the society and be more dynamic [40].

3. Methods, Research Setting, and Design

3.1. Methodology and Research Design

The research will adopt mainly a qualitative approach to capturing perceptions of the local community on Keupstrasse, as well as the communities around the street. Since statements of migrants' community enclaves have taken part in the theoretical discussion, a bottom-up approach is highlighted to research these realms found in the urban context of the City of Köln. It is, therefore, necessary to identify locations at different urban scales such as city, neighborhood, and streets, where such incidents and relevant anecdotes are visible.

The selection of these locations for the study area will be based on 'indicators of fragmentation' that will be developed in the following sections of this paper. Observing the setting from the perspective of a bigger scale allows us to identify if there are physical/noticeable patterns of fragmentation and our focus on the smaller scale will allow us to identify the intricate social patterns.

The route to this methodology to address fragmentation starts with the scales: a macro-scale view of a city or region, and a zoomed-in, micro-scale view of a neighborhood. This will provide us with an opportunity to explore, gain, and share personal experiences of fragmentation and, therewith, potential of fluid strategies. Indicators of fragmentation correlated to the features of fluidity (space, norm, condition, and momentum) will be considered through the qualitative bottom-up approach. This will help confirm the presence and reasons for fragmentation and the possibility of using fluid concepts that make cities more functional.

The study will investigate the complexity of various layers contributing to fragmentation, examining whether such fragmentation poses a challenge to the area in question. The research will base its findings on the case study analysis that will give insight to such phenomena with this evidence-based survey on Keupstrasse in Köln. Our analysis will transition from abstract to tangible realities, focusing on layers with significant social impacts on Keupstrasse within the city of Köln. Considering that cities are designed for humans and possess the adaptability to evolve like human beings, social fragmentation emerges as a particularly fluid dimension. According to Lähdesmäki et al., this adaptability positions social layers as the most crucial elements. These have been investigated in depth to enable more tangible responsive frameworks. By emphasizing the importance of these social layers, we aim to uncover how they contribute to the overall dynamics of urban fragmentation. To situate the case study within the general discussion, theoretical paradigms were put in reference to link fragmentation to responsive planning approaches.

Desk research has been conducted first to shed light over the area and the population trends affecting the neighborhood and street as such. Throughout the research, and in an iterative manner, 57 interviews have been conducted with the community as the main stakeholder crystalizing and shaping the forces leading to the current situation. In addition, observations and behavioral aspects were detected and mapped towards highlighting and portraying the existing gaps and potential of such in the scene of urban development.

A small front on quantitative survey was conducted in the shape of open-ended questionnaires raising some aspects of acceptance and indicators of fragmentation perceived by the local community. This was seen as a validation pillar to assess the layers and key issues on what the research will be based. The survey aimed to gather information about the level of perceived social fragmentation by tenants and a sense of belonging among the local communities in Keupstrasse/Mülheim district of Köln. The survey consisted of 6 questions, each of which focused on one or more of Nyseth's [22] fluid dimensions to gather insights about the respondents' perception of the district (Space), the groups and communities they feel they belong to (Condition), the identity of the district and how it has been adapted/transformed (Space and Condition), and their opinions about the changes

they would like to see in the neighborhood (Momentum). The questions given to the local community include the following: a—Do you feel a social and physical connection to the city and its people?; b—Do you feel a sense of belonging to any group or community?; c—What is this district known for?; d—How was the district transformed into something of your own and/or how was this street created?; e—What would you like to change in the neighborhood?; and f—Do you have any final thoughts?

However, the qualitative approach will be employed to explore the problem of fragmentation, focusing on changes in social dynamics within certain areas of a city. For example, in the city of Köln, the city faces spatial fragmentation via the river that separates urban life. We could then identify smaller neighborhoods to analyze the layer of social dynamics. This approach helps us identify the obvious fragmentation but then requires us to delve deeper into understanding the community. Our qualitative research methodology will be used to achieve the following objectives as shown in Figure 5:

- To determine if people observe fragmentation in cities in their day-to-day lives;
- To analyze how people identify and perceive social fragmentation in their neighborhoods;
- To understand the fluid methods or techniques people use to overcome the effects of social fragmentation;
- To understand how people and communities collaborate, and whether there are features of fluidity present in doing so.

Qualitative Research Objectives	Quantitative Research Objectives
To determine if people observe fragmentation in cities in their day-to-day lives.	Find out how often people experience social fragmentation.
To analyze how people identify and perceive social fragmentation in their neighborhoods.	Understand whether people think of this as a problem and if so, analyse the ratio of the different degrees to which it affects their daily lives.
To understand the fluid methods or techniques people use to overcome the effects of social fragmentation.	Investigate if the answers vary based on the background of the participant and the community they belong to or identify with.
To understand how people and communities collaborate , and whether there are features of fluidity present in doing so.	

Figure 5. Research method and intended outcome and objectives. Source: Authors, 2023.

On the other hand, the quantitative approach “is best addressed by understanding what factors or variables influence an outcome” [41]. In other words, the factors that explain the outcomes need to be understood to support the researchers to recognize the problem; this practice helps to develop a test bench. We will use the quantitative research methodology to carry out the following:

- Find out how often people experience social fragmentation;
- Understand whether people think of this as a problem and, if so, analyze the ratio of the different degrees to which it affects their daily lives;
- Investigate if the answers vary based on the background of the participant and the community they belong to or are identified with.

3.2. Research Setting

After definition of methodology, we will delve deeper into our research topic through case study and field surveys. We will focus on how community members identify social fragmentation in cities and how they fluidly adapt, organize, and thrive in such complex systems. The starting point was to identify cities and possible sites of major immigrant population as shown in Figure 6. Köln Mülheim, as a city and neighborhood of higher grades of immigrant but also segregated neighborhoods, was to stand for this research. Köln is the largest city in the state of North-Rhine Westphalia in Germany. Over 36% of the population in Köln is made up of migrants and most of this immigrant population comes from Turkey [42]. Therefore, we decided to look at Turkish neighborhoods in Köln that

fulfil the selection criteria that we have listed above. Mülheim is the densest district in Köln and has the highest number of Turkish population, reaching 12,480 inhabitants, 8.6% of the whole population of Mülheim [43].

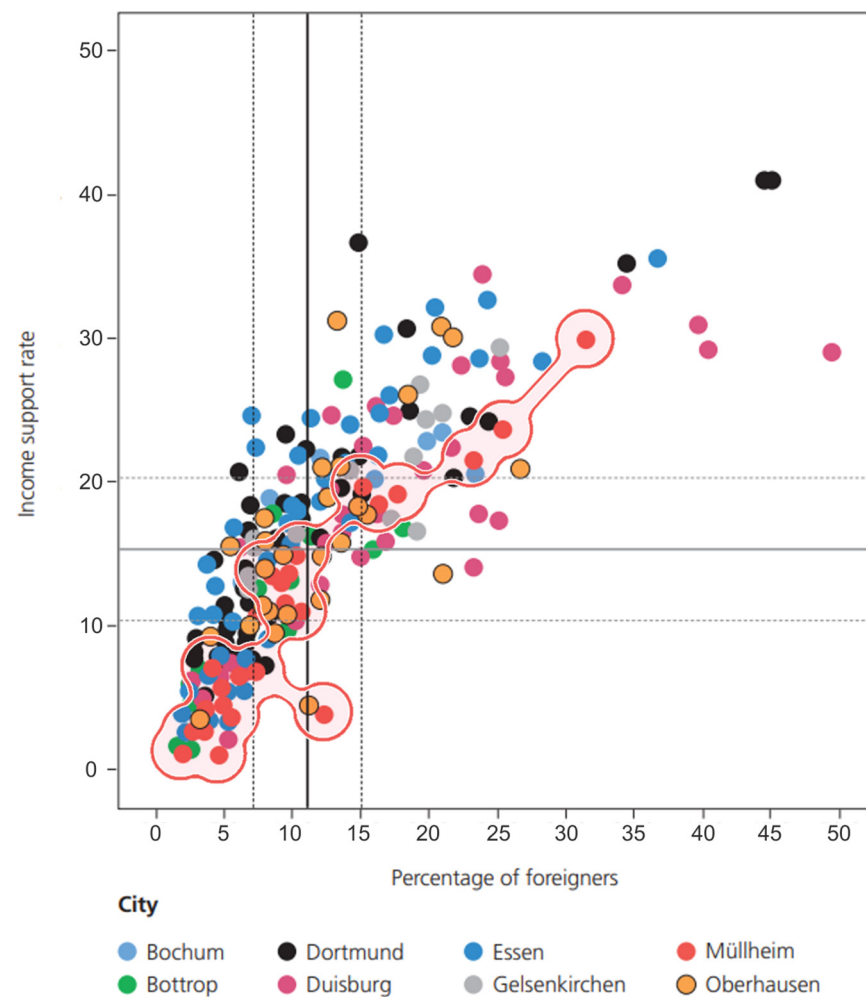


Figure 6. The correlation between social and ethnic segregation in selected Ruhr cities. Scheme 2016. in [44], accessed on the 25 July 2024.

Selection criteria to further allocate the potential site adhering to the criteria and indicators of fragmentation have been determined as follows:

1. Alienated neighborhood by separated transport and green–blue infrastructure: The site needs to indicate physical fragmentation on a macro scale; this can be because of mobility networks or due to ecological aspects like the Rhine River. This will help us investigate how spatial fragmentation impacts social life at the neighborhood scale as shown in Figure 7.
2. Marginalized communities clustered in a specific part of the city: To address the fluid communities in cities, we need to identify areas within Köln that have a higher concentration of immigrant population and where social fragmentation is most likely to occur.
3. Low-quality public space in the neighborhood alongside the waterbody: The quality of the public space will help us understand whether the chosen neighborhood is neglected and, if so, whether that is because of the presence of a non-indigenous community.
4. Contrast of quality of life and effect on mobility infrastructure and urban furniture: It will also be crucial to check whether the quality of life in the chosen site within

Köln differs from the quality of life in other parts of the city. For example, observing the mobility infrastructure or the characteristics and usage of urban furniture in the selected neighborhood will help understand how people use the spaces and whether there is a correlation with the migrant community.

5. Preserved socio-cultural identity: Areas with a strong cultural identity in cities are usually more energized and vibrant [45]. We can then test whether this happens because of the diversity that fluid communities bring in.

Through research, identification of potential study areas to study within Mülheim were navigated and Keuptstrasse was selected as the study area. Keupstrasse is one of the country's famous Turkish shopping streets and is known for its authentic Turkish restaurants. It is also referred to as "Little Istanbul" [46]. "All the small shops packed so closely together and a strong sense of community where everyone knows each other reminds them of home" [47].

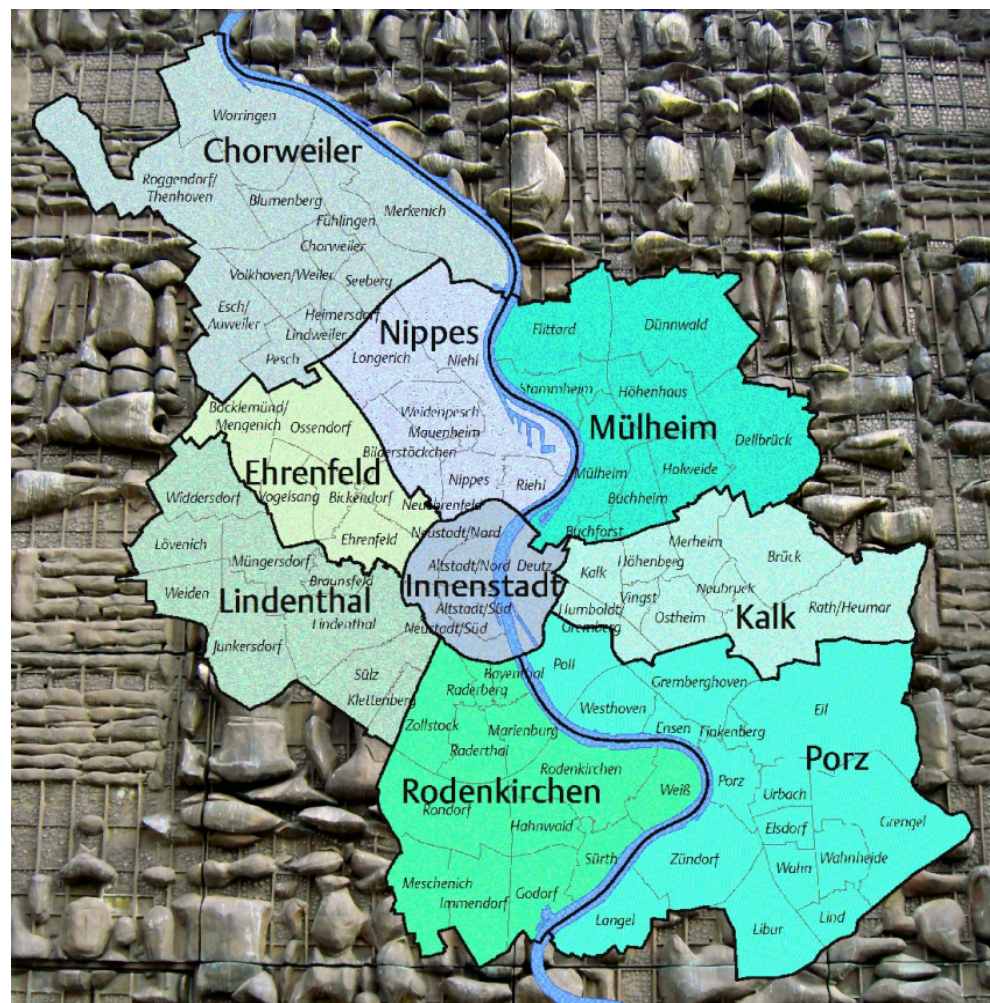


Figure 7. Mülheim neighborhood within its context. Source: https://www.stadt-koeln.de/mediaasset/content/pdf13/stadtteilinformationen_2017.pdf, accessed on 20 September 2023.

The selection criteria for the study area of Keuptstrasse are as follows, as shown in Figure 8:

1. The street is not centrally located in Köln and is on the eastern side of the Rhine, away from the Köln central station and city center;
2. It has a cluster of mainly Turkish inhabitants and a strong sense of community, as migrant communities share close values and culture;

3. The quality of infrastructure is moderate, with poor quality of public space, as shown in Figure 9;
4. It has a strong cultural identity and is a well-known area, not just amongst the Turkish community but in the entire city, for its diverse multicultural functions and shopping trends.



Figure 8. Criteria for the selection of the study area. Source: Authors, 2023. <https://demo.f4map.com/#lat=50.9638800&lon=7.0097338&zoom=18&camera.phi=5.021>, accessed on 20 September 2023.

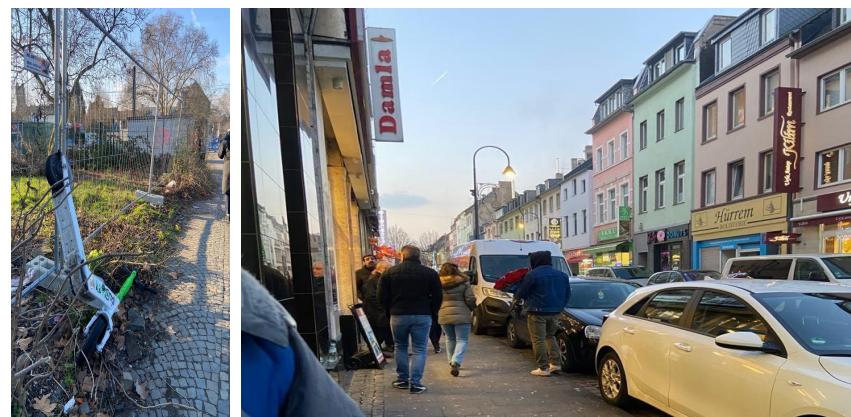


Figure 9. Images of the public space and infrastructure in Keuptstrasse. Source: Authors, 2023.

4. Discussion and Analysis

Researchers have observed various tangible and intangible forms of complexities with the help of the indicators of fragmentation. It was evident throughout the research that migrant communities adapt by adjusting their social networks and physical spaces to create neighborhoods that they can call their own and have a sense of belonging in a foreign country. However, problems of social integration and discrimination persist. One of the reasons for immigrants sticking together is that they find themselves accepted into society easily amongst their peers. Such neighborhoods then become culturally energized, largely emergent, self-regulating, and self-sustaining [45].

Our research will rely predominantly on the primary data we have collected on investigating Keuptstrasse in Köln Mülheim, along with our analysis of the secondary data. During the fieldwork, the 57 interview partners had different professional backgrounds, lifestyles, and experiences in the district. Their ages range from 18 to 76 years old and participants were chosen based on their diverse characteristics such as length of residency, gender, business of interest, etc. as shown in Figure 10. The selection process

aimed to capture a wide range of perspectives and personal views of connection towards the environment.

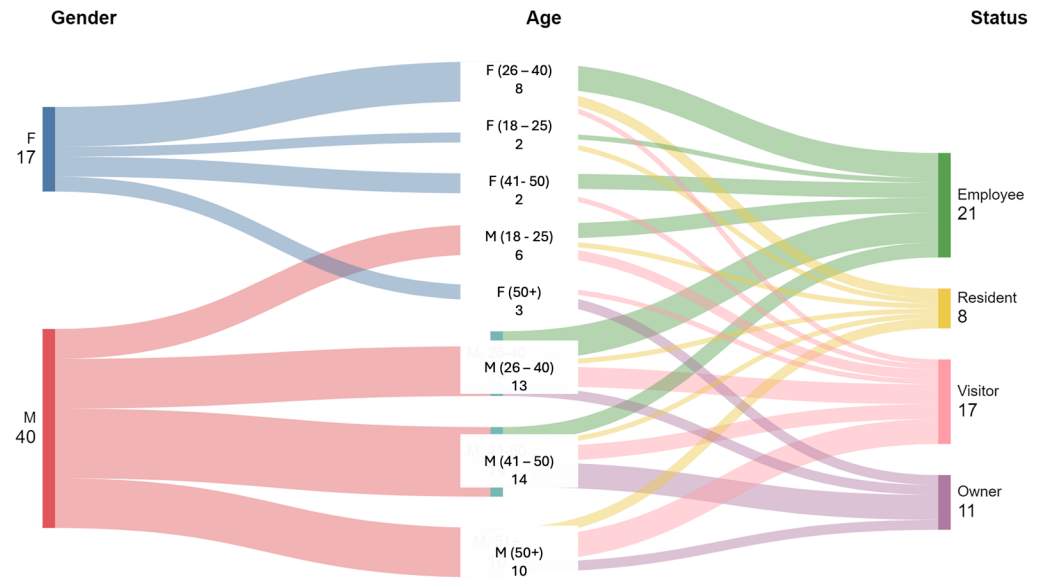


Figure 10. Sample sizes and diversity in age and status. Source: Authors, 2023.

4.1. Fragmented Segregated Community

The investigated dimensions of fragmentation were conducted to tailor the differences in terms of a—spatial discontinuity, where the physical indicators in a city reflects the idea of wounds in the urban tissue [16]; b—community segregation through the presence of migrant communities (students, refugees, employment-based immigrants, etc.) and the challenges faced by new members in integrating into the existing social system [23]; c—rigid planning strategies represented in urban planning strategies that restrict the cohesive growth of a neighborhood, city, or region; and d—the knowledge gap/lack of awareness through the absence of social interaction, and ignorance of laws that impact the development of a neighborhood, city, and region [22].

As a first insight into the discussion and investigation, with regard to the general question of pinpointing the perception of the community of whether they are integrated or segregated, 26% raised the “not integrated” perception as shown in Figure 11 in the distributed survey.

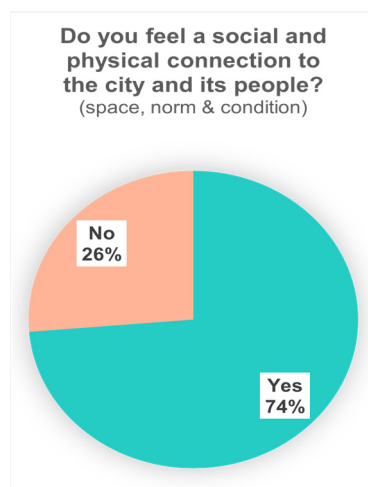


Figure 11. General assessment of being socially and physically connected to the city and its people. Source: Authors, 2023.

A majority of the participants reported feeling either isolated or only physically connected to the city and its people. The survey further highlighted a sense of discrimination felt by some respondents in their daily lives, notably, through residents highlighting the issue of being isolated and differently treated as a neighborhood, “There shouldn’t be any difference between the sides of the Rhine River,” said a 54-year-old Turkish visitor to the street, as also shown in Figure 12.

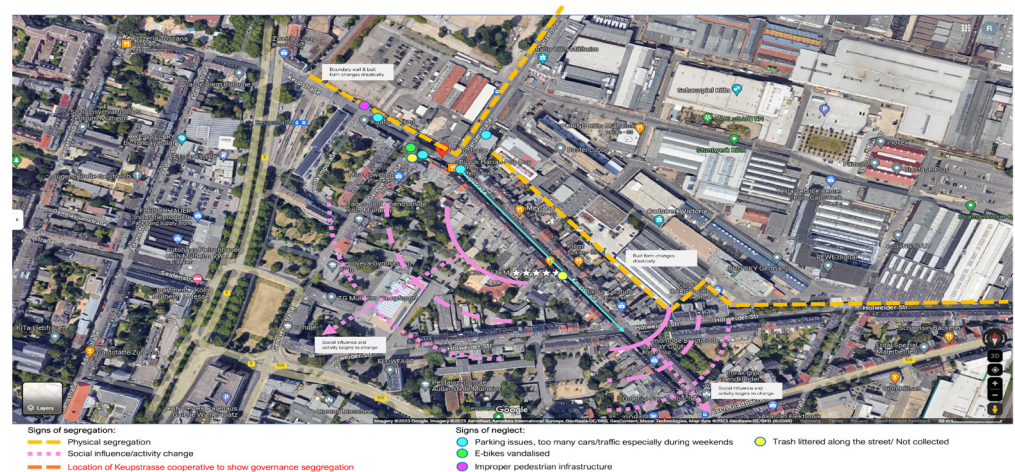


Figure 12. Mapping signs of segregation and neglect in the Keupstrasse, Köln. Source: Authors, 2023.

This segregation is also shown through the perception of safety. It became apparent throughout the survey that the residents, in accordance with their status, do not feel safe all the time as quoted by the interview: “There are always police officers around, but it doesn’t help”, said a 26-years-old Turkish woman who lives in the area. Regarding neglect and deteriorated conditions and a bad image, many residents have suffered this, declaring it was better before, but more and more migrants are sweeping into the area, which increased this image and this neglect (see Figure 12): “There is not a person which they can transparently discuss their problems,” quoted from a 41-year-old Turkish man residing in the area, and “Communication with authorities should be improved, feels like our voices are not heard,” quoted from a 52-year-old German woman living in the area. Further, they highlighted the bad conditions of the street by the increase in different migrants. Public and community services were also a signpost of the survey and infrastructure that the area suffered from: “Public transport, health care facilities are missing in addition to the banking operations compared to the other side of the Rhine River”. A feeling of neglect by the government was visible through the survey, as many believe that the city has “given up” on the neighborhood and that it has been forgotten. One of the participants referred to the two-meter-high parking lot wall as resembling the Berlin Wall and provided insights about the segregation in Third Places on the other side of the area (see Figure 13). As a result, many respondents emphasized the need for urgent action to integrate, invest in, and maintain the neighborhood, as well as to find solutions for the infrastructure and security problems.



Figure 13. A two-meter-high wall bordering/segregating the neighborhood. Source: Authors, 2023.

4.2. Ambivalent Sense of Belonging

On another note, the survey has portrayed various views and perceptions on whether the community of the Keuptstrasse has a sense of belonging to the greater community of Köln or not. It was shown that the community had different views. Some have represented the status of possessing this feeling and others not. The relational power to such a representation varied, whether upon place of birth, profession and role in the community, or origin, as shown in Figures 14–17. To this end, the research focused on all city dwellers because fragmentation affects everyone in the city. The survey did not specify certain demographics to observe and survey; however, it chose participants and gathered data that have a broad spectrum of diversity, participants living in the city for various reasons like jobs, education, and family, and participants living in the city for a varying number of years or amount of time. The broad spectrum will help us understand how a different qualitative context affects the perceivability of the sense of belonging within fragmentation.

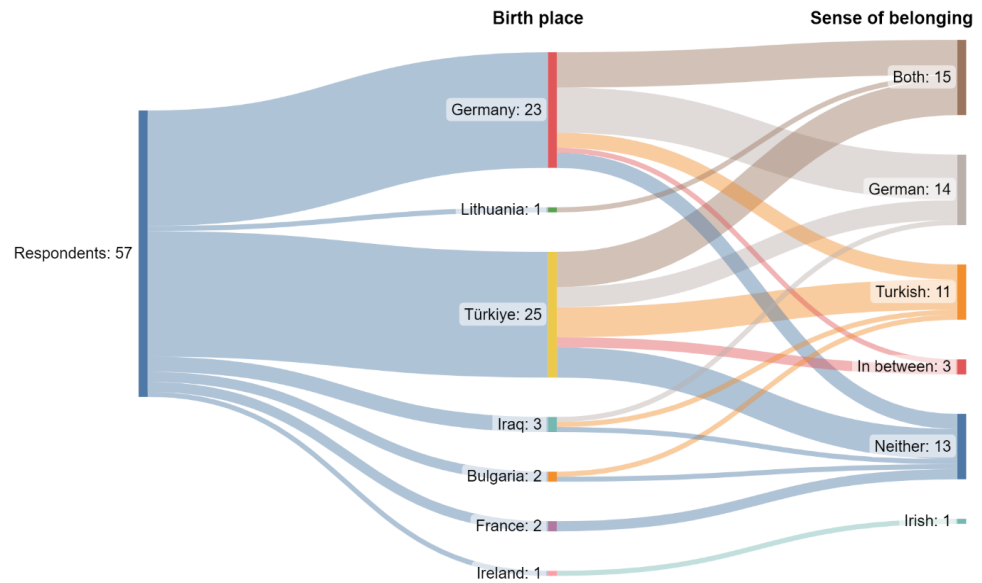


Figure 14. Sense of belonging according to place of birth. Source: Authors, 2023.

This lack of social and emotional connection is reflected in their sense of belonging to a particular group or community. Some respondents indicated a lack of a strong sense of belonging or feeling as they are in between. Another key finding from the survey is that many respondents experience a cultural dilemma in terms of adaptation. Some wanted more diversity and mixed communities, while others were happy with the status quo. Such ambivalences are shown in the quoted interviews: “Everything is great, feels like home”, according to an interview with a 50-year-old Turkish man visiting and shopping in the area. Others have reflected opposite dimensions, when indicating the sense of belonging as shown in Figure 15.

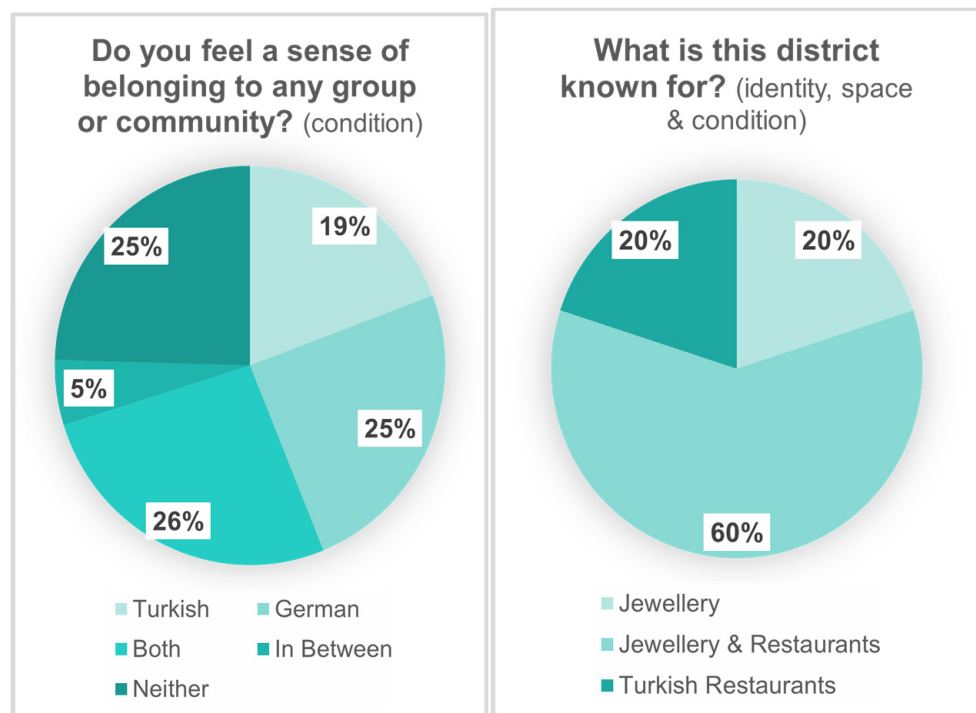


Figure 15. Ambivalent sense of belonging. Source: Authors, 2023.

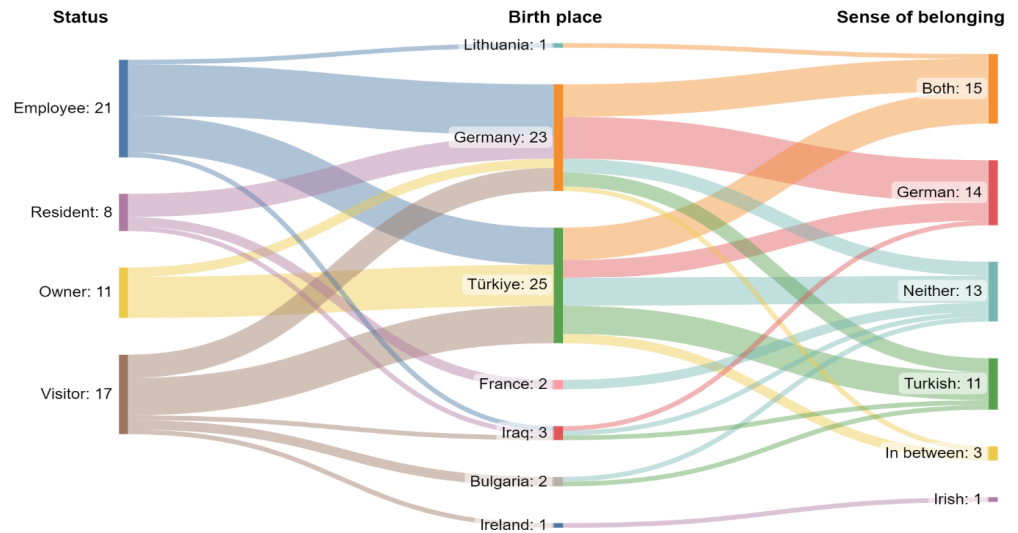


Figure 16. Sense of belonging according to profession and status within community. Source: Authors, 2023.

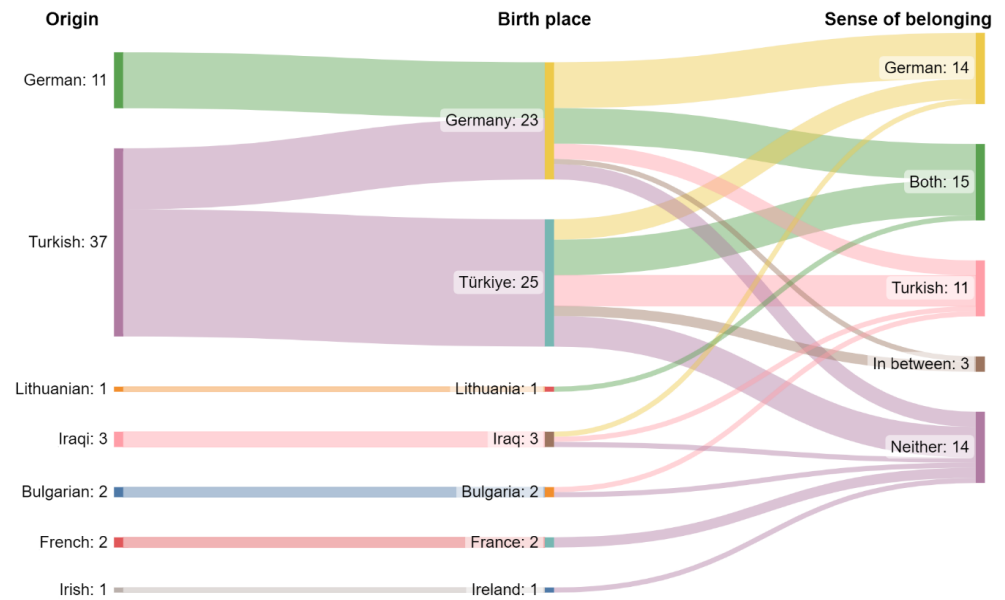


Figure 17. Sense of belonging according to origin. Source: Authors, 2023.

Sense of belonging has varied also in terms of profession as shown in Figure 16. As revealed from the conducted survey, employed community members have more integration reasons and shape their lives towards more stability. In that sense, they tend to have more belonging to the host community and can be seen in many cases as belonging to both. Ownership of real estate as well as having one’s birthplace be Germany has given the sense of belonging to Germany more weight within the different spectrums of analysis.

Moreover, it is noticed through Figure 17 that origin has an impact on the sense of belonging; however, even if the origin was Turkey, as in most cases, yet, if they have been residents and working in Germany for quite some time, the sense of belonging would vary and move to either both places or to Germany as the host country, as in Figure 16. This notion of becoming more attached to a place if economic and social stability prevail is important, in thinking forward to how to utilize the space with more diversity and more integration of new economic typologies to different settings. It is thought to be of added value to raise such a sense of belonging on the verge of migrant community settings, and, hence, the expansion of such an impact in other spots in the city.

4.3. Mapping the Behavioral Settings and New Typologies Arising in the Area

The district is seen as a destination for certain shopping trends. Although it is encapsulated within many other activities and nodes as shown in Figure 18, yet, it is not accessed by many social groups within the city. This centrality in location could not solve the isolation problem and left the street with few active nodes, where the most shops are located; however, many areas along it were deserted, with low infrastructure and little reason to experience the street.

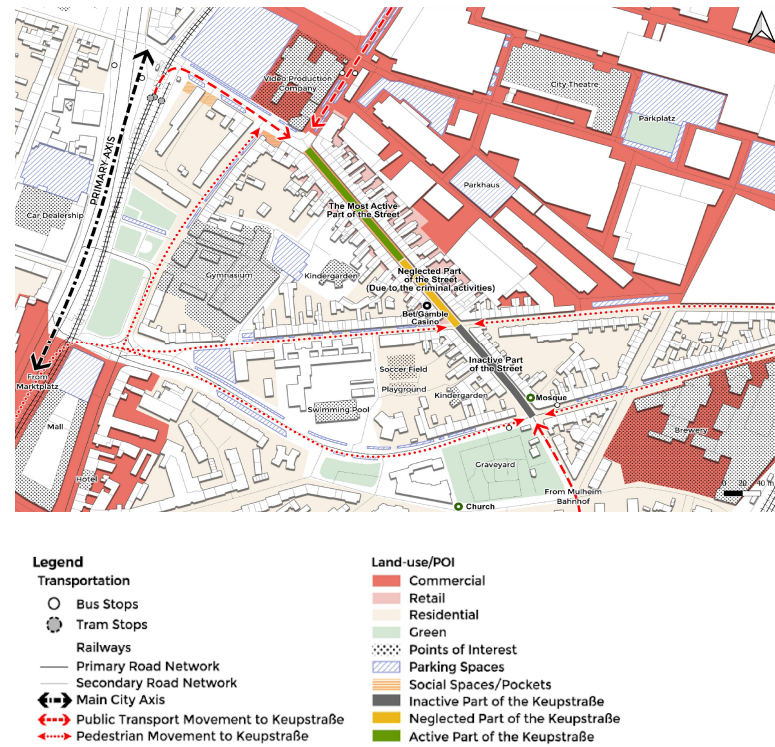


Figure 18. Behavioral settings in Keupstrasse and its surrounding neighborhood. Source: Authors, 2023, based on OSM Open Source, 2023.

Jewelry and restaurants have shaped the economic typology of the street. Such trends emerged from the migration patterns and cultural backgrounds of its residents. However, the developing businesses, especially the jewelry industry, are seen as one of the main reasons for security problems in the area as they attract criminals for theft as quoted by residents: “The street’s economy is dominated by the jewelry shops, the businesses should be more diverse”, according to an interview with a 22-year-old Turkish man visiting the area, and “After the number of jewelry shops grew, theft and security problems increased,” as quoted by a 40-year-old Turkish man working in the area. The participants also discussed the history of the district and how migrants were forced to settle in the same area because of a government policy, leading to a sense of cultural and social cohesion among the migrants themselves. This has led to ethnic enclaves that are necessary to be widened up and integrated with other areas to validate inclusive environments and multicultural access.

As shown in Figure 19, other barriers rather than policies for ethnic clustering have urged this enclave and segregation, which, in turn, affect the fragmented situation in the street and neighborhood. Physical barriers have been noticed all around the street, starting with the wall as also mentioned above, and ending with a strong change in land use within the proximity of the site. The lack of green and public spaces within the setting also highlights the kind of isolation of the setting and correlates with the noticed type of movement and behavior of nonresidents to be around and not through the setting.

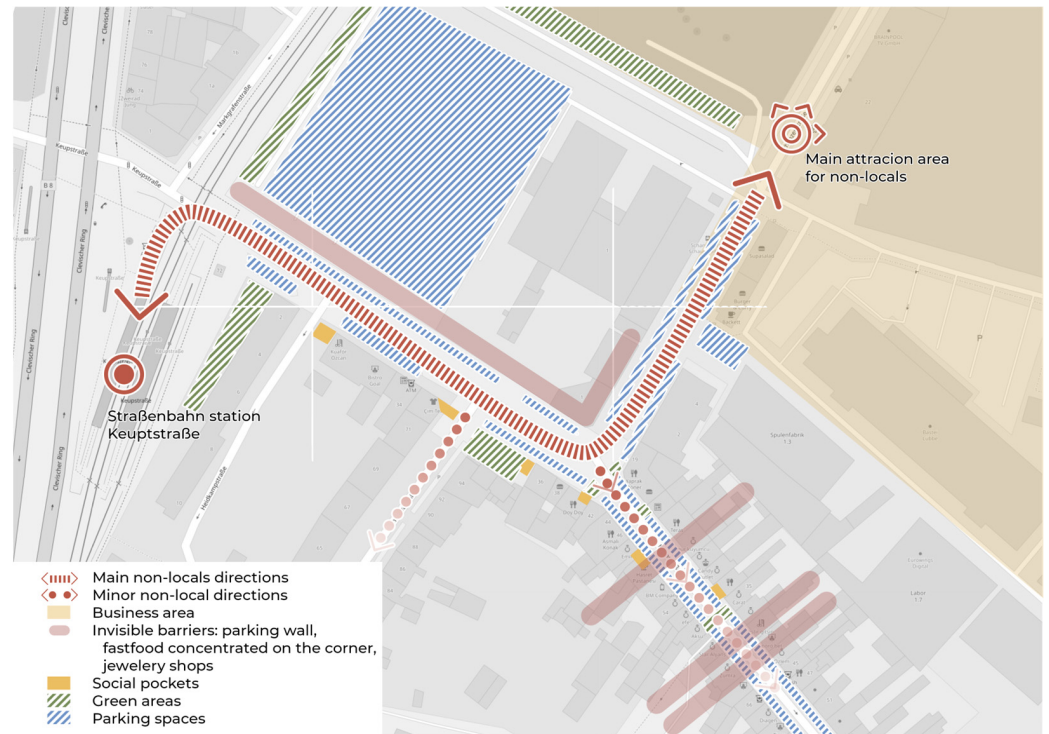


Figure 19. Behavioral settings in Keupstrasse and its surrounding. Source: Authors, 2023, based on OSM Open Source, 2023.

5. Conclusions and Outcomes

5.1. Strategic Dimensions Through Fluid Approaches

The dimensions of flow and fluidity—space, condition (the acceptance and planning for uncertainty, norm (flexible strategies), and momentum in the possible new opportunities [22]—as in Figure 20, correlate properly with the situation happening in ethnic enclaves such as the case of Keupstrasse in Köln. The surveyed situation calls for flexible approaches where new typologies of cultural, social, and economic manifestations can be included and linked to existing urban nodes within the city.

Diagram: Indicators of fragmentation & features of fluidity

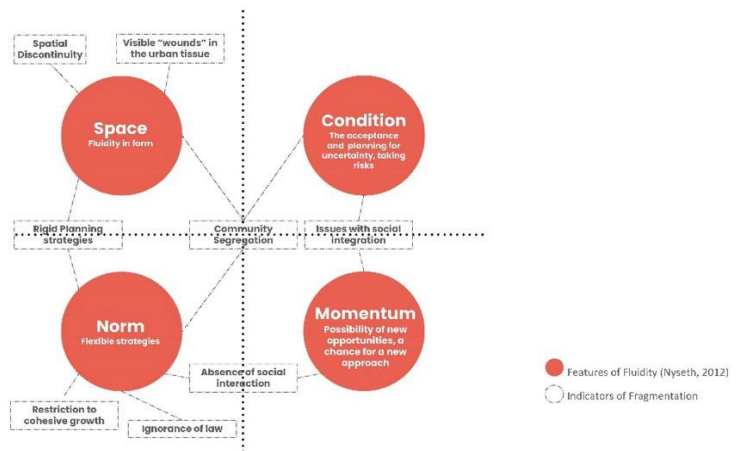


Figure 20. Indicators of fragmentation and features of fluidity. Source: Authors, 2023, based on [16,22,24,34].

Acting upon such a development of the conception of fluid planning, more action-oriented strategic interventions can be tailored and introduced to the setting, enabling more

linkage to policy development. Such interventions are derived from case-oriented research, however, and will have a spillover effect on further and similar developments.

Aiming at more inclusion in the different land uses and functions within the setting and around, the research has resulted in two main strategies that can steer the situation into more acceptance and integration of the different social groups and, therewith, more sense of belonging and, hence, productive and dynamic areas in balance.

5.1.1. Diversifying Development of Nodes in Connection to the City

Nourishing cities with new narratives and traditions and complementing the urban everyday life with diverse typologies of such is a main recommendation of this research. The strategic standpoint that cities should embrace and reflect differentiated needs is essential in this direction in order to have an inclusive community with a strong sense of belonging. As such, the challenge of social fragmentation can be dissolved gradually when anchors and representations of other cultures nourish the existing scope of nodes happening in the city.

Based on the flow and fluidity principles discussing the norm, space, momentum, and condition, aligned with the analysis of the survey, diversifying urban nodes in the city motivates the acquaintance and common use of the different social groups on one level, and gives more weight and consideration to the ethnic economies and the new typologies of public space on to the other. The flow and fluidity in injecting narratives of migrant communities within urban functions are characterized as homogeneous; on one hand, it gives a link to other cultures; on the other hand, it introduces the host community to these flavors within their spaces and not solely in the ethnic enclaves as shown in Figure 21.

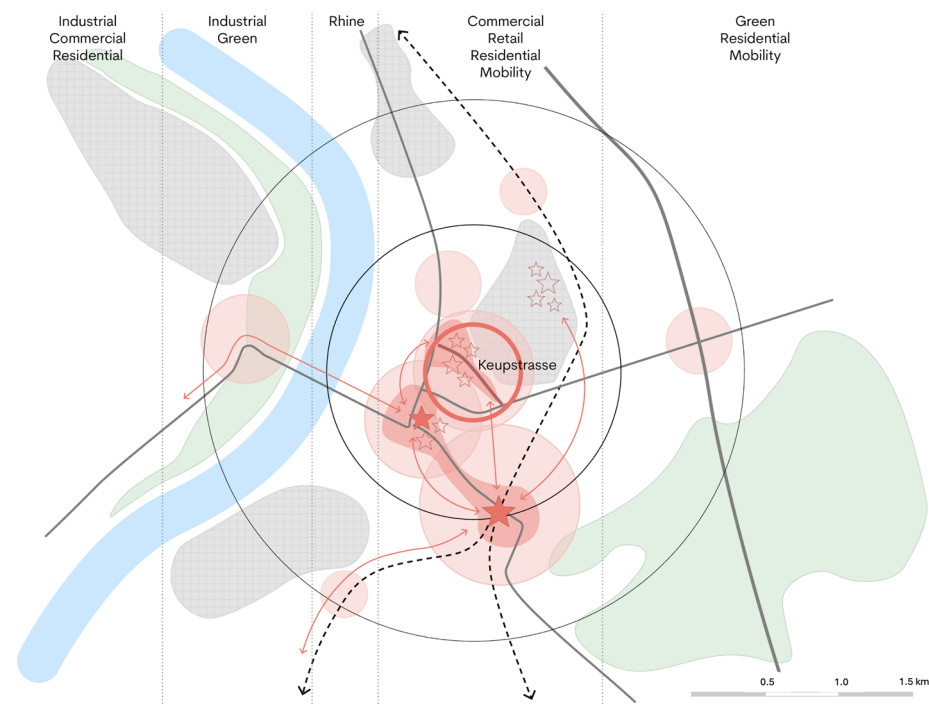


Figure 21. Strategic vision for integrated urban nodes in Köln. Source: Authors, 2024.

5.1.2. Celebrating Identities Through Integration and Expanding on New Ethnic Typologies

The identification of the new and old typologies of migration waves that form the ethnic enclaves is seen as a prerequisite to this strategy that is thought to be catering to social inclusion. The Bulgarian and Iraqi population, and others aside from the Turkish majority, were interviewed in a way that certain identities of theirs were reflected in economic,

behavioral, or other everyday life level. These norms and familiar narratives are seen to coexist partially within other neighborhoods and nodes. They would form and embody the existing base upon which the associated typologies of daily life can exist and contribute to the dynamics of that space.

Celebrating and embracing differences can also cater to innovation, where new perceptions and new solutions and standpoints to differentiated settings can occur. This can also be managed and undergone through the introduction of such diversity in homogeneous settings, be it neighborhoods, or public spaces, or any other urban setting. In such spaces, an inviting sphere to multiethnic groups can be freely created without setting further fixated guidelines. In accordance with fluid approaches, the multi-dimensional energy in these spaces and allocated uses can flow and allow gradual unified development.

5.2. Conclusions

Nowadays, cities are often planned without regard to the surrounding environment, which leads to fragmentation: spatial, social, and governmental. Jean Hillier's post-structural, multi-planar theory of planning is a way to "stitch" cities and adapt them to changes gradually. Different solutions are required for different types of fragmentations, but it is manageable with the help of fluid planning trajectories and by including residents of the area in the planning process. That said, both sustainable development goals 10 and 11, whether to reduce inequality, or to foster sustainable cities and communities, can be achieved more in a pilot manner. Fluid and multi-planar planning help specialists have a comprehensive overview of the area and define it from different points of view simultaneously.

One of the main challenges here is that it requires the ability to create a flexible plan. Some governmental structures need to be changed and adapted to the trajectory of planning, instead of mapped fixities. Trajectories cannot be numbered and counted as plans, and it requires additional knowledge and adaptation, detailed interventions, and the proper performance of spatial-temporal innovations [15]. Such innovative interventions can relate to the importance of having multi-ethnic-oriented economic structures within the city. The embedment of diverse ethnic economies in the more homogeneous societies and urban settings can increase the introduction to other social groups and, therewith, can increase the alignment towards multicultural environments. On the other hand, city centers that act as a core for different neighborhoods around them can also cater to such an embracement of diverse cultural themes within its economic and social fabrics.

The fragmentation of the urban landscape is an inherent feature of contemporary cities that must be considered [48]. It is essential for planners to make room to accommodate this expected fragmentation. By post-structural planning with the integration of locals and the use of democratic planning, fragmented parts of districts and areas might be reunited [49].

Fluid planning is also a very fluid tool: it appears in different ways in different cities, adapting to the existing structure and combining several urbanistic paradigms in one. As a unifying tool, fluid planning must be strategically implemented by specialists at the beginning of the process: planners need to create both trajectories and short-term decisions that will help the local communities [35]. The key idea is not to "solve", but to create opportunities, to find and come up with new ones [35] liquidly and fluidly.

The history of the district and its transformation into a hub for the Turkish community can be seen as a source of both cultural richness and challenges. The results of the survey indicate a need for more integration and a stronger sense of community in the Mülheim district of Köln. The respondents' wish for a better quality of life in the neighborhood calls attention to their desire for a more organized environment, improved living conditions, and a sense of belonging. It also highlights the importance of addressing social, cultural, and

environmental issues in the neighborhood to create a more inclusive and fluid community. In this regard, fluid dimensions and their implementations can provide necessary steps towards making Keupstrasse and the district an important and more inviting part of the city. To achieve this result, there is need for a change not only in the environment and infrastructure, but also in the mindset of its residents, as well as broader systemic improvements at the city level and beyond.

The space and conditions can be transformed through collaboration between the government and community representatives. This collaborative effort should focus on a fluid and open-minded approach among all residents to work towards a common goal, regardless of their cultural background. Only then will the momentum follow and new norms for the district emerge, opposing fragmentation and segregation.

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