

Urban Nomads: How to Remix the Demography of the City

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1 ABSTRACT

Cities, nowadays, are scene of a fierce competition among citizens for resources. And as usual the rich and powerful have better access to jobs, amenities and facilities, even to natural features like climate zones. This sort of inequality has been accompanied with urbanism for such a long time that even it has been manifested in settlement patterns of the city. Rich are usually living in the north, while south us home to poor and center is occupied with business and industry and agriculture roam the perimeter.

It seems that we are bounded to these fixed patterns, and so does the efficiency of our cities. But for thousand years, human race had a more flexible way of living: Nomadism. The nomads travelled in order to have better access to resources, be it jobs, food or better climate. They invented kinds of mobile shelter and adapted a very flexible life style. They also developed a system of prediction and planning, upon the result of which they each time chose the destination, the trail and the how-to of their seasonal immigrations.

Nowadays, metropolitan areas has become so vast that they contain several distinctive zones of settlement, work and even various micro-climates. This variety offers a lot of dynamics yet we are stuck to our fixed homes, workplaces and lifestyles. And in this manner we impose a lot of costs to our cities and to ourselves. What if we could live like an urban nomad, a wanderer inside the city walls?

In this paper I propose inner city migration and Nomadism as way to cope with serious lack of resources in our urban areas. I'll try to study both Bedouins and modern urban nomads, and assessing the advantages and obstacles of moving toward nomadic lifestyle, whether remixing the demography of our cities, and not their physical features, could improve our living conditions? And also I'll try to propose an experimental framework for accommodating this lifestyle in Tehran, a megalopolis with around 9 millions population.