

Exploring the effects of Urban Events on Quality of Life: A Critical Analysis

Bochra Hadj Kilani *

University of Carthage

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-8648-7670>

Abstract

This article summarizes a literature review focused on urban quality of life and public perceptions. The review evaluates six articles that investigate different aspects related to this important urban planning topic, highlighting varied perspectives. The selected articles are distinguished by their research methods and data analyses. Some researchers rely on quantitative data, while others prefer qualitative data, or a combination of both. These various methodologies enable researchers to approach urban quality of life from diverse perspectives.

Quality of life dimensions also differ, including multidimensional aspects such as physical and mental wellness, social relationships, and the environment, as well as more specific factors such as the socio-cultural impacts of cultural events, as well as residents' subjective well-being. These diverse approaches enhance our comprehension of urban quality of life. The study results emphasize spatial and social discrepancies in quality of life. Certain articles identify considerable differences among cities or regions, while others disclose notable contrasts between social groups. These outcomes stress the significance of considering these disparities when developing more impartial and comprehensive urban policies.

The articles emphasize the beneficial impacts of urban quality of life, including improved well-being. However, challenges arise for cities, especially in employing cultural events as a means to legitimize urban projects. This literature review underscores the necessity of comprehending residents' perceptions and the factors that affect urban quality of life to inform urban planning and development choices.

In brief, these articles illuminate various aspects and complexities of urban quality of life and the associated challenges for urban communities, providing valuable insights and advancing the knowledge base of urban planning. Consequently, they represent a noteworthy contribution to the field.

Key words: Quality of Life, Urban Event, Perceptions, Urban Development, Population Well-being

*Corresponding author.

Email address: hadjki@gmail.com (Bochra Hadj Kilani)

November 3, 2023

Introduction

Quality of life in urban areas is a significant concern in urban planning. Cities, with their high population density and diverse demographics, face complex challenges in ensuring the well-being of their residents. It is therefore essential to understand how city-dwellers perceive and evaluate their quality of life, as well as the factors that affect it, in order to devise appropriate policies and actions.

Modern cities face numerous challenges, including traffic congestion, pollution, lack of green spaces, insecurity, and socio-economic inequalities. These issues can affect the quality of life for city dwellers in various ways, such as physical and mental health, feelings of safety, access to essential services, social participation, and overall satisfaction.

In this context, it is essential to consider the perceptions of residents to understand the quality of urban life holistically. Additionally, it is important to identify the factors that influence the quality of urban life to develop appropriate interventions. Residents' opinions, expectations, and aspirations are pertinent indicators of their well-being and can guide decisions regarding urban development and planning.

The concept of urban quality of life encompasses tangible elements such as access to public services, transportation infrastructure, green spaces, and collective facilities, as well as more subjective elements such as the sense of belonging, social cohesion, citizen participation, or quality of life environment. The objective of this literature review is to explore various approaches to urban quality of life, with a focus on residents' perceptions and the factors that determine them. By analyzing the selected articles, we aim to identify trends, limitations, and research directions in this field while emphasizing the importance of developing policies and actions that respond to the needs and aspirations of urban dwellers.

By deepening our understanding of the perceptions of quality of life in urban environments and identifying the factors that promote citizens' well-being, we can contribute to the planning and design of cities to create urban environments that are healthier, more inclusive, and more sustainable.

1- Literature Review:

Research Method and Article Selection Criteria

These papers collectively suggest that urban events can have an impact on the quality of life in host cities. (Liu ,2016) . To perform this literature review, we utilized a rigorous approach to identify articles related to the quality of life in urban areas. We applied stringent selection criteria to include only the most relevant and high-quality articles. The study's selection criteria consisted of relevant title and abstract, high-quality methods, sound arguments accompanied by specific examples, and publication in recognized academic journals in the areas of urban planning, geography, and sustainable urban development. The research team conducted thorough searches through academic databases like ScienceDirect, Google Scholar, and Arxiv, using appropriate keywords. These databases offer a broad range of scholarly articles spanning various fields relevant to our research.

Our search queries included appropriate keywords, such as "urban well-being", "urban quality of life", "event", and relevant author names and concepts related to our research area.

We conducted a comprehensive analysis of the articles and extracted pertinent information regarding our research topic. We objectively evaluated the arguments, evidence, and conclusions presented by the authors, as well as the data used to support their claims.

We also examined the potential impact of the research on urban living standards and identified similarities, differences, and research gaps in the selected articles. We examined primary findings and key concepts from our literature analysis to assess residents' perspective of urban quality of life and identify factors that influence it.

Through this comprehensive approach, we can objectively evaluate the selected documents and pinpoint potential research avenues and topics that warrant further investigation. Additionally, we will presents information in a clear, concise, and logical manner with proper technical terms and a consistent writing style.

We will maintain an objective and impartial tone while avoiding grammatical and punctuation errors. We will adhere to standard citation and formatting guidelines, including accurate use of headings and sections.

a) Critical review of articles

criteria	Article 1	Article 2	Article 3
Title	Au-delà de la mesure du bien-être en milieu urbain : quelle perception de la qualité de vie dans les villes européennes ?	Event and Quality of Life: A Case Study of Liverpool as the 2008 European Capital of Culture	L'événement, outil de légitimation de projets urbains : l'instrumentalisation des espaces et des temporalités événementiels à Lille et Gênes
Authors	Sébastien Bourdin et Thomas Cornier	Yi-De Liu	Maria Gravari-Barbas et Sébastien Jacquot
references	Revue Géographie, économie, société, 2017	Applied Research Quality Life 2015	Géocarrefour 2007
Objective	Analyze perceptions of quality of life in European cities, based on a survey conducted by the European Commission	The article aims to conceptualize the articulation between the cultural event and its wider effects on quality of life, based on a case study of Liverpool as European Capital of Culture 2008.	The article shows how the event is a tool of territorial governance, which relies on the mastery of event spaces and temporalities to build an urban project and reinforce a vision of the city.

criteria	Article 4	Article 5	Article 6
Title	Diagnostics de qualité de vie	Quality of Life Subjective Expectations and Exchange from Hosting Mega-Events	Impacts of festivals and events on residents' well-being
Authors	Kim Antunez, Louise Haran et Vivien Roussez	Jangwon Kim , Jongnye Han , Eunjeong Kim and Chulwon Kim	Medet Yolal a , Dogan Gursoy b, , Muzaffer Uysal d , Hyelin (Lina) Kim , Sila Karacaoglu
references	Revue de l'OFCE, 2016	Sustainability 2022,	Annals of Tourism Research 2016
Objective	Propose a method for incorporating individuals' preferences into measures of quality of life on a geographical level.	The study analyzed how hosting mega-events impacted residents' quality of life, revealing shifts in social patterns among locals.	This study investigated the correlation between the socio-cultural impacts of a festival and the local residents' subjective well-being.

Tab01.critical review of articles. © Author (2022)

b) The objectives of articles are:

- Article 1: To compare perceptions of quality of life in European cities, using data collected from a European Commission survey.
- Article 2: To create a conceptual framework for the connection between cultural events and their impacts on quality of life, using Liverpool's experience as the European Capital of Culture in 2008 as a case study.
- Article 3: - Demonstrate how events serve as tools for territorial governance by controlling event spaces and timings to construct urban projects and reinforce a city's vision.
- Article 4: - Develop a technique for factoring people's preferences into the assessment of territorial quality of life.
- Article5 : - Examine the quality-of-life conditions of residents related to mega-event hosting, which allows for an understanding of changes in social patterns among the population.
- Article 6: Examining the relationship between socio-cultural impacts of festivals and the subjective well-being of local residents.

The articles cover various aspects of quality of life in urban areas, including residents' perceptions, the influence of cultural events, and the integration of individual preferences into quality of life measures. Each article provides a unique perspective and contributes to a deeper understanding of urban quality of life.

c) Examples and arguments :

Article 1: Beyond measuring well-being in the urban environment: how is quality of life perceived in European cities? ¹

Argumentation: The authors argue that quality of life in cities cannot be reduced to objective indicators, but must also take into account the subjective perceptions of residents. They propose a multidimensional and comparative analysis of quality of life in European cities based on Urban Audit data.

Translated from French : ¹ Bourdin, S., & Cornier, T. (2017). Au-delà de la mesure du bien-être en milieu urbain: quelle perception de la qualité de vie dans les villes européennes?. *Géographie Économie Société*, 19(1), 3-31.

Examples studied: The authors construct a synthetic index of quality of life based on 12 variables taken from the Urban Audit. They establish a typology of European cities according to their level of perceived quality of life. They identify four groups of cities: Nordic cities (very satisfied), Mediterranean cities (satisfied), Continental cities (moderately satisfied) and Eastern cities (not very satisfied).

Article 2: Event and Quality of Life: A Case Study of Liverpool as the 2008 European Capital of Culture

Argumentation: The author argues that there is a link between cultural events and quality of life, but that it is difficult to measure and evaluate. He proposes a conceptual framework for analyzing the effects of cultural events on quality of life based on four dimensions: economic, social, environmental and cultural.

Examples studied: The author uses a case study of Liverpool as European Capital of Culture 2008 to illustrate his conceptual framework. He uses quantitative data (surveys of residents and visitors) and qualitative data (interviews with local stakeholders) to assess the economic, social, environmental and cultural impacts of the event on quality of life. It concludes that the event has had positive effects on quality of life, but that these vary according to the dimensions and social groups considered. (Liu, 2016)

Article 3: The event as a tool for legitimizing urban projects: the instrumentalization of event spaces and temporalities in Lille and Genoa ²

Argumentation: The authors show how cultural events are used as a tool to legitimize urban projects, with the aim of transforming the image and identity of cities. They analyze the spatial and temporal strategies implemented by local players to create an event effect and reinforce a vision of the city.

Examples studied: The authors draw on two case studies: Lille 2004 (European Capital of Culture) and Genoa 2004 (European Capital of Culture). They observe how local players used the event to enhance certain urban spaces (the historic center, industrial wastelands) and to create an event-based temporality (an exceptional year, a cultural program). They emphasize that the event has strengthened the urban project and the city's vision.

Article 4: Quality of life diagnostics³

Argumentation: The authors propose a method for taking people's preferences into account when measuring quality of life on a territorial scale. They use the concept of expected utility to weight objective quality-of-life indicators by people's aspirations. They apply their method to a sample of 94 French territories and analyze spatial disparities in quality of life.

Examples studied: the authors calculate a synthetic quality of life index weighted by people's preferences for each territory. They establish a typology of territories according to their level and profile of quality of life. They identify five groups of territories: territories with a high quality of life (metropolises and coastline), territories with an average quality of life (Paris basin and center-east), territories with a low quality of life (north and east), territories with a contrasting quality of life (south-west) and territories with an atypical quality of life (Corsica).

Translated from French ² Gravari-Barbas, M., & Jacquot, S. (2007). L'événement, outil de légitimation de projets urbains: l'instrumentalisation des espaces et des temporalités événementiels à Lille et Gènes. *Géocarrefour*, 82(3).

Translated from French ³ Antunez, K., Haran, L., & Roussez, V. (2016). Diagnostics de qualité de vie: prendre en compte les préférences des populations. *Revue de l'OFCE*, (1), 49-62.

Article 5: Quality of Life Subjective Expectations and Exchange from Hosting Mega-Events

Argumentation: The authors examine the contexts of residents' quality of life related to hosting mega-events, providing insight into changes in social patterns among residents. They use the social exchange model to analyze residents' subjective expectations of the benefits and costs of mega-events. They conduct a survey of Seoul residents before and after the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Examples studied: The authors measure residents' subjective expectations of the benefits and costs of mega-events before and after the 2018 Winter Olympics. They compare results between residents who attended the Games and those who did not. They find that residents who attended the Games have higher and more positive expectations than those who did not, and that these expectations are influenced by education, income and age.

Article 6: Impacts of festivals and events on residents' well-being

Argumentation: The authors examine the relationship between the socio-cultural impacts of a festival and the subjective well-being of local residents. They use Structural model and testing of the proposed relationships to measure subjective well-being. They conduct a survey of Ankara residents who attended the Ankara International Film Festival.

Examples studied: The authors measure residents' subjective well-being using Structural model and testing of the proposed relationships model. They compare results between residents who attended the Ankara International Film Festival and those who did not. They find that residents who attended the festival have a higher level of subjective well-being than those who did not, and that this level is influenced by the perceived socio-cultural impacts of the festival.

3- Methodology and argumentation:

The articles under review present distinct arguments and examples specific to each study, which we have compared in this article. These articles vary in terms of the methods and data employed to analyze the quality of life in urban settings. Some rely on quantitative data, such as Article 1, which utilizes data from a European Commission survey, Article 2, which involves surveys of Liverpool residents and visitors, Article 5, which utilizes surveys of Seoul residents, or Article 6, which involves surveys of Ankara residents. Others base their analyses on qualitative data, like Article 3, which employs interviews with local stakeholders in Lille and Genoa, or Article 4, which uses interviews with experts and inhabitants from various French territories. Certain articles combine both data types, for example, Article 2, which also includes interviews with local stakeholders in Liverpool.

Furthermore, these articles diverge in the dimensions and scales they consider when measuring urban quality of life. Some articles adopt a multidimensional approach, as seen in Article 1, which examines 12 variables related to physical health, mental health, social relationships, and the environment, or Article 4, which assesses six dimensions: disposable income, housing, living environment, health, political trust, and cultural vitality. Other articles take a more specific approach, such as Article 3, which focuses on the spatial and temporal dimensions of cultural events, or Article 5, which concentrates on the social dimension of interactions between residents and mega-events. Finally, the articles differ in the results and conclusions drawn from their analysis of urban quality of life. Some articles highlight spatial disparities in quality of life between cities or territories, such as Article 1, which identifies four groups of European cities based on their perceived quality of life by residents, or Article 4, which identifies five groups of French territories based on their quality of life level and profile.

Other articles emphasize social disparities in quality of life among different groups of individuals. For instance, Article 2 observes that the effects of cultural events on quality of life vary depending on the dimensions and social groups considered.

Article 5 notes that residents' subjective expectations regarding mega-events are influenced by their education level, income, and age. Some articles highlight the positive effects of urban quality of life, like Article 2, which concludes that the cultural event had a positive impact on the quality of life in Liverpool, or Article 6, which finds that the International Ankara Film Festival increased the subjective well-being of residents. Other articles underscore the limitations or challenges of urban quality of life, such as Article 3, which emphasizes that cultural events can be used as a legitimization tool for contested urban projects, or Article 4, which highlights the importance of considering the preferences of populations in measuring quality of life.

Article	Objectives	Methods and Data	Results and Conclusions	Limitations
1	To compare perceptions of the quality of life in European cities	Quantitative data obtained from a survey conducted by the European Commission	Identification of four distinct groups of cities based on the perceived quality of life	- Dated data - Lack of explanatory factors - Absence of practical implications
2	To develop a conceptual framework for understanding the relationship between cultural events and their impact on quality of life	Quantitative and qualitative data from a case study in Liverpool	Recognition of variable effects of cultural events on quality of life, contingent on dimensions and social groups	- Single case study - Lack of direct measurement - No exploration of long-term or adverse effects
3	To demonstrate how events can serve as a tool for territorial governance	Qualitative data from interviews with local stakeholders in Lille and Genoa	Highlight the role of events in legitimizing contentious urban projects	- Absence of residents' perspectives
4	To incorporate population preferences into the measurement of quality of life at the territorial level	Quantitative and qualitative data from interviews with experts and residents	Identification of five categories of territories based on the level and profile of quality of life	Neglecting political aspects
5	To analyze residents' subjective expectations regarding mega-events	Quantitative data from surveys conducted among Seoul residents	Emphasize heightened and more positive expectations among residents who attended the 2018 Winter Olympics	- Focusing solely on the social dimension - Reliance on proxy indicators - No exploration of differentiated effects
6	To examine the relationship between the International Ankara Film Festival and the subjective well-being of local residents	Quantitative data from surveys conducted among Ankara residents	Highlighting a higher level of subjective well-being among residents who attended the festival	- Embracing a positive approach - Neglecting non-residents' perspectives -

Tabo2.results and limitations of articles.

Presentation of possible Solutions for a Comprehensive Analysis of Events and Quality of Life:

- Use recent and updated data on the quality of life and cultural events in cities.
- Examine explanatory factors for variations in the perception of quality of life among cities, such as sociodemographic attributes of residents, cultural or political context, and implemented public policies.
- This study utilizes mixed methods, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative approaches to measure quality of life and its dimensions. The measurement includes direct indicators as well as subjective data collected from individuals' perceptions. Furthermore, it involves a comparison of various cases where cultural events were held in different cities. The analysis takes into account the event type, the local context, and the residents' profiles.
- The study will evaluate the short- and long-term impact of cultural events on quality of life, as well as potential negative consequences such as gentrification, congestion, or pollution.

Both residents and non-residents' perspectives on cultural events, including their participation and appropriation, will be considered.

- Taking a critical and nuanced approach to cultural events, examining their positive and negative impacts on local development, social cohesion, and territorial identity.
- Providing recommendations for improving territorial governance and quality of life related to cultural events.

4-Discussion and future reflection:

Urban events can enhance the quality of urban life by providing spaces for socializing, leisure, relaxation, culture, and entertainment for residents. (Bourdin,2017) Furthermore, they can increase public recognition of sustainable development problems by organizing workshops, debates, or other activities related to topics such as mobility, social and solidarity economy, and the environment.

The outbreak of the health crisis has significantly disrupted the organization and attendance of urban events. Some events have been canceled, postponed, or adapted due to health constraints. Others are being held in a digital or hybrid format, combining online and in-person activities. Thus, discovering inventive and adaptable solutions to sustain connections with the public, while at the same time respecting preventative measures, is crucial.

Engaging the local residents in the planning and execution of city events is an effective way to fulfill their wishes and encourage their participation in the community. (Hadj Kilani,2021) Different strategies for civic engagement, including surveys, polls, workshops, and budgeting activities, are viable resources. The objective is to develop events that are comprehensive, engaging, and inclusive.

Urban events may encourage conversations and collaborations among diverse stakeholders and community groups by providing opportunities for gatherings, interaction, and information exchange. Urban events can showcase the diversity of local initiatives led by various actors, including associations, collectives, businesses, and institutions. Thus, establishing partnerships and synergies among them is vital to enhance dynamism and social cohesion in the territory.

Additionally, such events can bolster cities' identity and attractiveness by highlighting the richness of local heritage, be it material or immaterial, and displaying their cultural diversity. They can promote global cultures through the provision of diverse artist, creators, and associations. This approach celebrates diversity as a means of fostering openness, enrichment, and innovation.

Conclusion:

This study presents a critical review of literature on urban events and their effects on quality of life in urban areas. Six different articles addressing the topic from various angles are analyzed, identifying contradictions and gaps in each. The study proposes solutions to address the theme more accurately, highlighting the importance of urban events in enhancing residents' quality of life.

Urban events can positively impact a community's economic, social, environmental, and cultural aspects of quality of life. Furthermore, such events can aid in local development, bolster social cohesion, and enhance territorial identity. However, it is important to note that urban events do have their limitations and challenges, as highlighted in this review. For instance, they can cause negative effects on the community, including gentrification, congestion, and pollution. Urban events and projects have the potential to legitimize contested developments.

They can also create spatial or social disparities in quality of life between cities or groups. To address such challenges, a holistic and multifaceted approach to urban planning, centered on well-being, is necessary. In this pursuit, it is crucial to take into account the perceptions and preferences of residents when measuring and improving their quality of life. It involves comparing and evaluating the short-term and long-term impact of urban events on quality of life. Additionally, it entails proposing recommendations to improve territorial governance and enhance quality of life related to urban events.

References:

- Antunez, K., Haran, L., & Roussez, V. (2016). Diagnostics de qualité de vie: prendre en compte les préférences des populations. *Revue de l'OFCE*, (1), 49-62.
- Bourdin*, S., & Cornier, T. (2017). Au-delà de la mesure du bien-être en milieu urbain: quelle perception de la qualité de vie dans les villes européennes?. *Géographie Économie Société*, 19(1), 3-31.
- Dajian, Z., & Rogers, P. P. (2006). 2010 world expo and urban life quality in shanghai in terms of sustainable development. *Chinese Journal of Population Resources and Environment*, 4(1), 15-22.
- Gravari-Barbas, M., & Jacquot, S. (2007). L'événement, outil de légitimation de projets urbains: l'instrumentalisation des espaces et des temporalités événementiels à Lille et Gênes. *Géocarrefour*, 82(3).
- Heo, W., Tang, Y., Liu, F., Hanks, L., & Xu, X. (2022). The impact of 'seasonal urban event' to the hosting city's urban vitality: case study of Summer beach and Winter Wonderland in Nottingham, UK. *Acta Scientiarum. Technology*, 44.

Hadj Kilani B.,(2021). Planification urbaine et participation citoyenne : Organisations de la société civile, approches participatives et planification urbaine et territoriale. Colloque international et pluridisciplinaire Société civile et observation urbaine production de la connaissance et gouvernance territoriale, lab GADEV - Université de Carthage, Nov 2021, la marsa (sidi Dhrif), Tunisie. fffhal-04263921f

Kim, J., Han, J., Kim, E., & Kim, C. (2022). Quality of Life Subjective Expectations and Exchange from Hosting Mega-Events. *Sustainability*, 14(17), 11079.

Liu, Y. D. (2016). Event and quality of life: A case study of Liverpool as the 2008 European Capital of Culture. *Applied Research in Quality of Life*, 11, 707-721.

Lloyd, K., & Auld, C. (2003). Leisure, public space and quality of life in the urban environment. *Urban policy and research*, 21(4), 339-356.

Osorio, A. E. (2018). The urban quality of life and entrepreneurship: Past, present, and future. *Foundational Research in Entrepreneurship Studies: Insightful Contributions and Future Pathways*, 33-51.

Pacione, M. (2003). Urban environmental quality and human wellbeing—a social geographical perspective. *Landscape and urban planning*, 65(1-2), 19-30.

Yolal, M., Gursoy, D., Uysal, M., Kim, H. L., & Karacaoğlu, S. (2016). Impacts of festivals and events on residents' well-being. *Annals of tourism research*, 61, 1-18.