

## 11.329 Social theory and the City

Assignment 1 ..Nomita Sawhney.. September 14, 2005

### **The centre vs. periphery**

The creation of a point which acts as a concentration of purposes and rituals forms a nodal point of interaction and encounter. This point in an abstract space becomes a concentration of many activities which are timed to exist in different times but exist within the same spatial confines. These activities could be located in different locations but for some reason they chose to co-exist at this one point.

The point acts as a magnet to form and shape. And it creates a diversion in other forms to become a point of heightened magnified intensity. Due to its acquired high intensity it becomes a centre. Controlling authority through its aura and not its position in space.

In the nature of its charisma it attracts many formations which become attuned to the new possibility of being a part of a conglomeration of activity and a centre. Perceived from an external point of view the centre becomes a whirlpool of events and a spontaneous projection of uncoordinated rhythms which have an orchestrated harmony. They are all interconnected in a mass of apparent confusion but yet seem to have an intrinsic sense of harmony which may not be apparently visible. This series of interconnections in abstract forms which may be invisible creates a sense of a whirlpool of nothing or the presence of everything. The presence of everything and the interconnectedness of formations in a complex harmony create a power of control and a sense of a centre for the system.

The existence of the edge becomes a point of flight.

The periphery becomes an outward projection of the settled system which has no need to be positioned in a central location. To say that it exists by itself is contradictory as the reason for its nature of existence is a constant connection to the centre which it cannot function without.

The requirement to connect to a centre is imperative for its existence. The periphery cannot exist without the centre.

The peripheral existence of a system of flows also has a need to act as a base of encounter for the outside. It mediates a common ground between the external system and the centre, acting as a bridge or a restricted border.

As the condition applies to a system, the bridge acts as an in-between product of the external and the internal system. Acting as a common ground of activity and embodying the character of both worlds (external and centralized). This also spells a myriad confusion of intensity co-existing with an external system of flows which have reduced intensity. Creating a system of where any system can exist.

Thus the periphery spells a position in space which has the possibilities to reject the centre or accommodate it and have a strong spatial and spiritual connection to its being. The rejection of the centre shall create a possibility where the systems in the periphery become an opposite to the centre. Bearing only physical linkages to the centre but creating a mass of encounters which become an anti space to those established in the centre, creating a restricted set of events of its own.