

Housing, compact city and sustainable development: some insights from recent urban trends in Switzerland

Patrick Rérat

Institute of Geography & Research Group in Territorial Economy, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Patrick.rerat@unine.ch

Abstract:

One of the debates on the sustainability of housing is the spatial dimension of human settlements and the importance of location in influencing the level of resource and energy consumption. Urban sprawl has often been criticized given its environmental, social and economic impacts. In reaction to sprawl city, the model of the compact city has been promoted in many countries. Based on empirical data and information on urban trends in Switzerland, this paper discusses three critiques that are usually addressed to the model of the compact city. These critiques are related to its feasibility and desirability, its social consequences and its environmental implications.

Keywords:

Housing; Compact City, Sustainable Development; Urbanization; Residential Mobility; Urban Regeneration; Switzerland.