Smart Place-Making

A cross-generational approach
-Group 2-
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> *"Home isn't a place, it's a feeling."*
>
> ——————
>
> *Cecelia Ahern*

Source: reddit.com

"Smart Toyohashi"

The Power of Belonging

Place attachment → Bonding people and places (meaning, values, emotions)

Generational approach → long term attractiveness (attract children: playful, memories, etc.)

2

Sense of Place

Values, meanings, consciousness, etc. attached geographically to a **territory** and that have importance for everyday life of individuals. [1]

"*The essence of a place lies in the meanings that individuals associate with their physical, cultural and social environments.*" [1]

Place Attachment Theory - Definition

Multidimensional construct: ***people-place bonding***

- Interplay between involved emotions, knowledge, beliefs and behaviours with regard to a place [2][3][4][5][6][7][8]

- 'Emotional and psychological investment with a place' [9][10]

How does it work?

- **Place dependence** (Functional): emotional connectivity, non-substitutability [11] [12] [13] [34]

- **Place identity** (Cognitive): specific experiences → individual identity [5] [14][15][16] [34]

Place Attachment Theory - Contribution

- Physical and psychological well-being [5][17][18][19][20]

- Civil engagement towards common/higher quality of life [21][22][23]

- Pro-environmental behaviours [3][20][24][25][30]

- Commitment and responsibility to a place [26][27]

- Psychological and emotional restauration [3][5][28][29]

- Youth & self-identity development, family attachment [33]

- Person-centered approaches for workforce retention [35] and youth's 'free will' to stay [36]

Relevance

"The loss or deterioration of the place could be considered as the loss of part of the self-identity" [2][31][32]

"Home is where the heart is" [34]

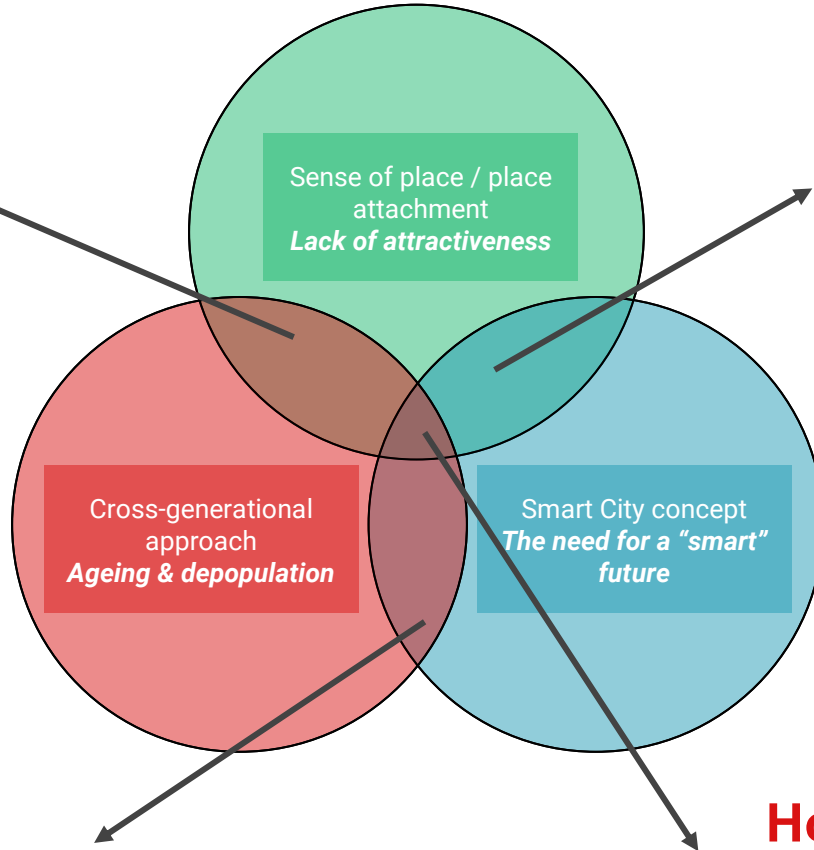**Would it not be 'smart' to attach people to places?**

Research opportunity (Google Scholar cites):

- 'Place-making': 4,49M results
- 'Sense of Place' + 'Smart city': 1520 results
- 'Sense of place" + 'cross-generational': 961 results
- 'Smart Place-Making': 3 results

3.1 Issue and Cause

Inclusive places & Generational Identity

youth participatory action, social media practices, identity building, cross-generational memories, [39][40]

Identity-centered smart cities

Social activity, structured games, storytelling & place narratives, urban planning, co-design & consensus [37][38]

Sense of place / place attachment
Lack of attractiveness

Cross-generational approach
Ageing & depopulation

Smart City concept
The need for a "smart" future

All-age-friendly city

knowledge-making, customer-value perception, collaborative action, inter-generational solidarity [41]

How do we visualize it?
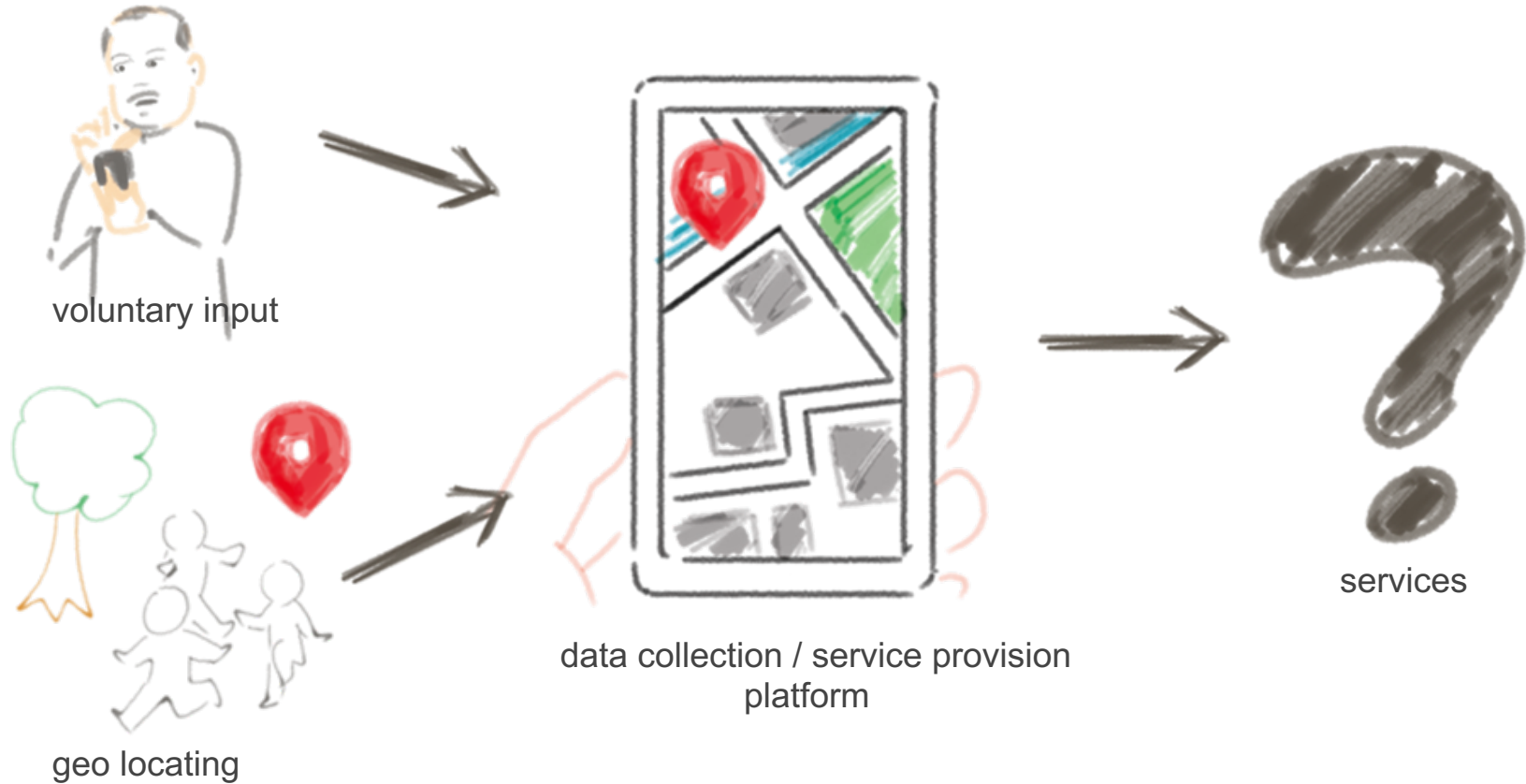
Smart Place-Making for All

3.2 Target group

Cross-generational: children, university students, elderly

Targeting children

・ causes an improvement in Toyohashi's atmosphere

・ brings about long term effects on the young generation

・ appeals to families living outside Toyohashi

・ is a unique concept

・ clarifies the organizations to work with (eg. schools, kindergartens etc)

3.3 How to Implement

voluntary input

geo locating

data collection / service provision
platform

services

3.3 How to Implement

Let's do research first!

3.3 How to Implement

Research Phase

- **Method design:** Youth engagement research methods according theoretical framework (methods: mind-mapping, storytelling recreation, clay modelling, etc.)

- **Place(s) recognition:** what are the children's visionings of places?

- **Symbolic representations:** why are those places important for them?

- **Gathering Expectations:** How do children perceive that some places can be better for them? how do they incorporate 'smart city' concepts in their realities?*

- **Cross-generational comparison**: how do different perspectives of places converge or diverge among children, univ. students, elders, etc.?

Project Phase

We'll find effective smart services after research phase

- find engineers!
- involve students from the university & children of the schools in the city planning / in projects

Possible Effects

A "playable city" is
→ a fun and safe playground for children
→ an attractive and nurturing environment for parents

friend alert

city planning & community improvement

walking course generator

geo-cleaning

child alert

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