

Cultural and creative district, quarter and cluster: conceptual evolution and overview. –

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Cultural quarters or districts, Creative clusters, these words are become very familiar in the academic literature in economic, geographic or urban planning fields. However, definitions and theoretical corpus used on the published papers are very heterogeneous. The aim of this communication is to offer to fill a gap by presenting a systematic overview and analysis of the evolution of the terminology associated with what can be called today ‘cultural and/or creative clusters’ as well as examining the way they have been theorised, studied and researched in the literature. This paper addresses these issues by using an in-depth bibliometric analysis of the academic literature using the concepts of creative or cultural clusters, districts or quarters (the most popular combination of terms found in the literature) to answer the following questions: What are cultural/creative district, cluster and quarter? When did these concepts appear? Are these concepts overlapping? Who has been writing about these? In which disciplines and in which countries? What has been the evolution in terms of conceptual understanding? What are the topics and dimensions associated with these concepts? How have they been studied and researched (methodologies)? Etc.

This methodology built on similar bibliometric studies in the field such as the one from Lazzeretti, Sedita and Caloffi (2014) on the generic cluster terminology. Using the Scopus database, we built a bibliographic sample of more than 200 documents including keywords employed to designate ‘cultural and creative clusters’ such as district, cluster and quarter. Based on this database, the paper presents two types of analysis:

- *An overall statistical analysis of the 200+ references*

- *A more in-depth analysis of the most cited papers among these references (50+ papers) structured in two parts :* a network analysis of these papers using backward and forward citations to identify different clusters of papers among the literature ; an in-depth classification and analysis of these papers according to the concepts and definitions they use, the theoretical framework they are built on, the methodology they adopt and the cases they study to examine in details the evolution of the field over time.

Ultimately, this paper allows a better understanding of the territorial dimension of cultural economics.

References

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