Cultural diversity and citizenship in the global 'smart city'

Sara Ashencaen Crabtree

In this paper the contemporary nature of late modern societies will be explored, as being those characterised by cultural, social and ethno-religious diversities in multicultural communities. Visions of technological mastery as a new civic ideal will be examined in relation to cultural diversity and multiculturalism, and in relation to migration as an increasingly politicised manifestation of globalisation. Multiculturalism is further examined in relation to 'smart' phenomena within a montage of diverse cultural lifestyles, norms and interactions taking place in dominant culture societies. The 'short-cuts' to equal status or influence by less privileged or less powerful communities competing for attention in the global 'smart city' are also considered. Additionally mass technological developments in relation to the 'smart city' vision will be discussed in conjunction to power, where the choices and capacity of 'consumers' will be explored in consideration of homogenisation as well as that of technological social exclusion of certain groups.