

THE COSMOPOLITAN CITY AND ITS GESTURE OF REFUGE

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Abstract:

The city can be seen an alternative site to grapple with several global issues – migration and cosmopolitanism are only two of those. It is interesting to see that in the thought and research process of investigating otherness, the city gains precedence over the nation probably because of the way it lends itself to analysis and creative treatment. Surely this is one of its characteristics that has existed and thrived since the modernity of the industrial capitalism and of the flâneur. With a boom in technology of digital practices, a lot of scholars view the contemporary period as Second Modernity or re-modernity and that lens of modernity adds to the wholeness as the fervour of the city. Its uniqueness as an analytic category of re-modern, post-modern, post-postmodern living comes from its status “as a node in a grid of cross-boundary processes. Further, this type of globalized city cannot be located simply in a hierarchical scale that places it beneath the national, regional and global. It is one of the spaces of the global, and it engages the global directly, often by-passing the national” (Sassen 146).

Keywords: Cosmopolitanism, Stranger, City, Modernity, Refuge