

## Measure and Analyze How Continuity in Place Influence Place Attachment Case Study: Abadian Residential Community, Hamedan, Iran

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**Abstract:** This study aim to measure and analyze how continuity in place influence place attachment Forced migrations have been considered among the factors which have changed the special identities and equations for a part of people. These migrations have sometimes caused migrants to forget their identity and traditions of their hometowns and build their destination based on a combination of the past customs and the available materials. The result is attachment to place. This research pays attention refugees' dwelling in Hamden during and after the war of Iran and Iraq. Focusing on the attachment dimension and place. First, the place attachment dimensions were determined in terms of literature and previous researches. Then, the study variables of refugees' presence were determined by field studies and statistical analyses, to get the attachment severity. The results show that the priority of affecting factors refugee's attachment is environmental factors, social factors and personal context (identity and dependence).

**Keywords:** Migration, place attachment, personal context, residential complex

### INTRODUCTION

Place is not only a shelter for human activities but a phenomenon the human being endow meaning to when they interact with it to the extent they know themselves with place. Seen from human needs, emotional interaction with space or attachment to place is the most dimension of relationship of human and place which the architects must pay attention to. On the other hand, with the unbridled growth of cities and the increase of urbanization problems, designer's attention has been paid to civil problems, the continuity of which led to ignore the spatial and identity problems. Therefore, the necessity of attention to the variables forming the space is more concerned. One of the variables affecting the spatial identity is continuity of dwelling (Present time). Belongings to space increases prolongation of dwelling time in a neighborhood, especially when the person lives in a place where he is born (Relph, 1976). In the recent decades, due to instability of economic, cultural and security condition, we witness displacement entitled forced migration which is remarkable in the third world countries. The war between Iran and Iraq (1988-1980) is considered to have been one of the reasons of forced migration. Most of these migrations took place from border cities to inner cities, mostly in groups. One of the physical cases created through these migrations is the residential complex named Abadianians' complex in the central

part of Hamden. This research examines the element of time in the place attachment among the residents of this complex and answers the question which attachment dimension will be influenced more by continuity of dwelling. First, there is presented a literature review on attachment sense and then the effect of the variable of dwelling continuity on the dimension go belonging sense is discussed.

### METHODOLOGY

The research was carried out through the initial question, discovery studies, problem statement, analytic method, information analysis and conclusion (Kiwi and Lokawan, 2007). To compile an analytic model, correlation analysis method was used along with a questionnaire. The main hypothesis in this research is now the continuity of presence in space taken forcedly affects attachment sense of place in personal contexts, social; aspects and natural elements.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Nielsen-Pincus, Hall, Force and Wulfhorst (in press) compared a large group of locals and seasonal home owners in three rural counties in the interior northwestern USA with respect to place attachment, place identity and place dependence. Also collected were socio-demographic measures, including time the

property was owned and time spent in the residence. Contrary to the claim that new settlers tend to be as strongly attached to their new residences as the locals, the findings showed higher place attachment and place identity in locals than seasonal owners and a positive relationship between attachment and time spent in the residence (Nielsen-Pincus *et al.*, 2010). It is also possible that attachment develops faster for the physical than for social dimension of place attachment and thus that new settlers and tourists who visit places mostly because of their environmental qualities develop attachment faster than local's for whom the social dimension is the most important. After all, it takes longer to create a network of stable social relationships than to develop affective bonds with beautiful nature (Lewicka, 2011). Scannell and Gifford (2010b) obtained data which corroborate this hypothesis: of two dimensions of place attachment, civic and natural, only the former was significantly correlated to length of residence in the studied community (Scannell and Gifford, 2010b).

**Migration:** Since the early 1990s there has been a move among population geographers to begin engaging with the cultural circumstances surrounding migration and calling for greater awareness of the rootedness of migration within everyday life experiences rather than simply focusing on statistical assessments of demographic change (Findlay and Li, 1997; Halfacree, 1995; Halfacree and Boyle, 1993; McHugh, 2000; Skeldon, 1995). Prior to this, little work focused on explaining and understanding such links, despite Fielding (1992) noting that migrations are culturally produced and culturally expressed (Van-Blerk and Ansel, 2006). The last decade has, however, witnessed the emergence of a culturally-informed literature with authors heralding the importance of ethnography in migration research (Gutting, 1996; Findlay and Li, 1997; Lawson, 2000; Potts, 1995). Migrants experiences are increasingly understood as socially-constructed and politically, economically and culturally situated (Lawson, 2000). More recently, Englund (2002a) has called for research regarding migrants\_ lived experiences to transcend the usual place boundaries of origin and destination, illustrating the emplacement of migrants\_ other\_ global identities within their migrant locality. This has resulted in some studies more deeply exploring the links between family and migration and the broader societal conditions that influence migration decision-making (Boyle *et al.*, 2003).

**Place attachment and it's dimension:** Researchers interested in the biophysical dimension of place have placed considerable emphasis on a two-dimensional model of place attachment comprising of place identity and place dependence (Williams *et al.*, 1992). Place

identity refers to those dimensions of self, such as the mixture of feelings about specific physical settings and symbolic connections to place that define who we are (Proshansky *et al.*, 1983). Place dependence refers to the functional or goal-directed connections to a setting; for example, it reflects the degree to which the physical setting provides conditions to support an intended use (Schreyer *et al.*, 1981). The validity and reliability of this two-dimensional model is supported by several studies in the United States (Bricker and Kerstetter, 2000; Jorgensen and Stedman, 2006; Kyle *et al.*, 2005; Williams and Vaske, 2003) and Australia (Brown and Raymond, 2007; Pretty *et al.*, 2003). Raymond conceptualized and empirically examined a four dimensional model of place attachment among three samples of rural landholders in regional South Australia for use in natural or rural land-use contexts. The model includes place identity and place dependence (personal connections to place), nature bonding (connections to the natural environment) and social bonding (connections to the community in place). The validity and reliability of the item-scales were examined among rural landholders who live in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region of South Australia using principal component and reliability analyses (Christopher *et al.*, 2010) (Fig. 1 and Table 1).

With regard to the points that have been mentioned, present research aim to investigate intensity of place attachment in three levels of Personal context, community context and natural environmental context and also staying the way of influencing period of migration on each of these levels.

#### **Method:**

**Sampling:** This research was done on Abadian residential complex in the city of Hamedan. This city has been the settlement of different tribes. The city is supposed to have been built by Diuox. The pattern of city texture is composed of radial and ring patterns formed in 1928. This spiral texture is consisted of concentric circles which are connected by six main streets ending up to central square and belt circles which divide the texture in to sectors of a circle (Organization of Housing and Urban Development of Hamadan, 1984). As it is specified in Fig. 2, Abadian residential complex consists of 4 Block of flats that have been located in between Shariati and Imamzadeh Abdollah Square. During Iran and Iraq war, many people of Abadan were migrated to this place. After war and elimination of force migration, only half of the immigrants were came back to their birthplace city. Now it has been almost three decades since the immigrants entered in there and along this time, they have changed face of this place just like their birth place (Abadan). As it was showed in Fig. 2, structure of this are such as shops, type of space, etc is simmlared to Abadan city.

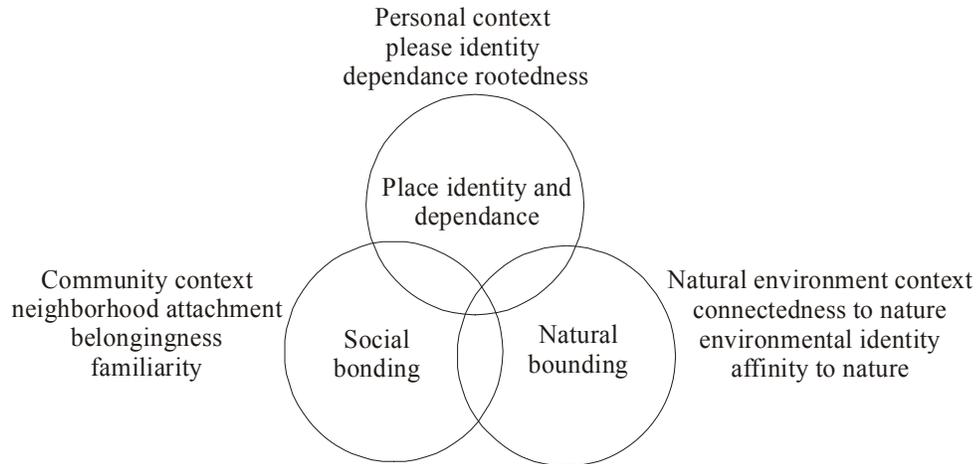


Fig. 1: Three-pole and four-dimensional conceptual model of place attachment which will be subject to empirical examination in this paper; place identity and place dependence are included in the same pole (personal context) because they are related to highly personalized connections to place which are either symbolic (identity) or functional (dependence) in nature. They may form through memories, experiences or events which are unrelated to the wider community or to the natural environment (Christopher *et al.*, 2010)



Fig. 2: Situation of Abadian Residential complex in hamedan City and its Shopping center (Authors)

Table 1: Operational definition of the four proposed dimensions of place attachment

Pole	Construct	Definition	Supporting literature
Personal	Place identity	Those dimensions of self, such as the mixture of feelings about specific physical settings and symbolic and symbolic connections to place, that define who we are.	Proshansky <i>et al.</i> (1983), Williams <i>et al.</i> (1992) and Williams and Vaske (2003)
	Place dependence	Functional connection based specifically on the individual physical connection to a setting for example, it reflects the degree to which the physical setting provides conditions to support an intended use.	Schreyer <i>et al.</i> (1981), William <i>et al.</i> (1992) and William and Vaske (2003)
Community	Social bonding	Feelings of belongingness or membership to a group of people, such as friends and family, as well as the emotional connections based on shared, interests or concern.	Kaasrda and Janowitz (1974), Hay (1998a), Perkins and Long (2002), Hidalgo and Hernandez (2001), Stedman <i>et al.</i> (2004), Kyle <i>et al.</i> (2005), Sampson and Goodrich (2009) and Trentelman (2009)
Environmental	Nature bonding	Implicit or explicit connection to some part of the non-human natural environment, based on history, emotional response or cognitive representation (e.g., knowledge generation).	Kals <i>et al.</i> (1999), Clayton (2003), Schultz(2001) and Schultz <i>et al.</i> (2004)

Table 2: Individual characteristics of respondent

Gender	Component	Frequency	%
	Male	16	51
	Female	14	49
	Total	30	100
Education	Primary school	2	8
	Guidance school	3	10
	Diploma	9	30
	B.A.	11	37
	M.A. and higher education	5	15
Activity	Total	30	100
	Occupied	15	50
	Jobless	3	10
	Student	6	20
	Retired	3	10
	Housewife	3	10
	Total	30	100

Table 3: Result of level test

Criteria	Leven statistic	Sig.
Personal context	12.081	0.000
Community context	2.407	0.096
Environmental context	1.822	0.168

**Questionnaire:** The research method is deductive-inductive and applicable type. From an aim standpoint the method is applied which lead us to knowledge. The information was gathered by standard questionnaire. Reliability and viability was controlled by appropriate test in total 30 people, of whom 51% were males and 49% were females, were questioned the most frequency related to their age were 35 to 50 years which are 40%. Table 2 represents descriptive data and characteristics of responders.

As it's shown in this research, questionnaire is designed based on Likert scales, the results of which are represented in Table 2. 24 questions were selected and designed based on migration to Abadian Residential Complex. Based on theoretical frame work that has been made in this research, respondents have been demanded to answer the questions for measuring each place attachment dimensions along the time. After that, results have been entered in spss for analyzing the dimensions.

**F-Test, Analysis of Variance or ANOVA:** F-test is used for comparison of mean ( $\mu$ ) between 2 or more sample (momeni). ANOVA test is composed of some test as follow:

$$H^1: \mu^1 \neq \mu^2 \text{ or } \mu^1 \neq \mu^3 \text{ or } \mu^2 \neq \mu^3 : \mu^1 = \mu^2 = \mu^3$$

$$H^0$$

- **Test of homogeneity of variances:** Test of Homogeneity of Variances presents results of Lone tests and it indicates weather variances are similar for each three groups or it doesn't. Level of significance (Sig) investigates validity of Lone test. If it's degree is more than 0.05, Tukey Hatkht-test must be used for comaration of three samples and if it is less than 0.05, Games-Howell test must be used for comparison of them (Palant, 2008). As it was showed in Table 3, in first criteria, Sig of lone-test is less than 0.05 and for others Sig is less than 0.05, so we, must use Howell-Games test for first and Turkey HSD test for others.
- **Multiple comparisons table:** Table 4 deals with comparison of different groups that their Sig values is equal or more than 0.05 and argue weather mentioned groups are similar or does not (Habib and Sfari, 2009).

In our research case, Multiple Comparisons Table shows mean difference values between place attachment's dimensions during three period of presence in Abadian residential complex. Regart with Sig values in all groups are equal and less than 0.05 we have:

- **In first test (personal context):** Mean Time period of 20-30 rather than period of 0-10 have 12 in values and rather than 10-20 has 6.93 in values. So, there is desirable situation in period of 20-30 years after migration. In fact, personal context's dimension of place attachment in first 20 years of migration have not grown so much and in next decade it has raised to it' max point.
- **In second test (environmental context):** Mean Time period of 0-10 rather than period of 10-20 have 6.30 in values and rather than 20-30 years have 9.33 in values. These figures have said that community attachment begins to grow just after second decade of migration.
- **In third test (community context):** Mean Time period of 10-20 rather than period of 0-10 have

Table 4: Comparison of different groups

Period (A) year	Period (B) year	Mean difference (A-B) Personal context	Mean difference (A-B) Community context	Mean difference (A-B) Environmental context	Sig.
		Games-Howell	Turkey HSD	Turkey HSD	0.000
0-10	10-20	-5.06667*	-6.40000*	6.30000*	0.000
0-10	20-30	-12.00000*	-1.70000*	9.33333*	0.000
10-20	0-10	5.06667*	6.40000*	-6.30000*	0.000
10-20	20-30	-6.93333*	4.70000*	3.03333*	0.000
20-30	0-10	12.00000*	1.70000*	-9.33333*	0.000
20-30	10-20	6.93333*	-4.70000*	-3.03333*	0.000

\*: The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level

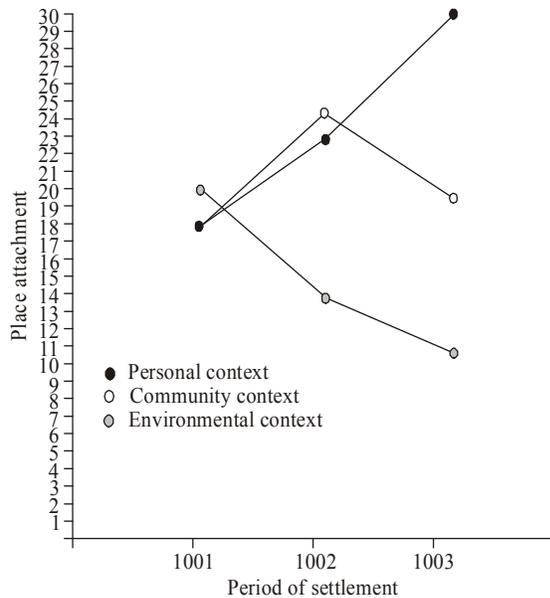


Fig. 3: Impact of migration on 3 different Dimensions of place attachment regard with presence in place

6.40 in values and rather than 20-30 years have 4.70 in values. So it shows that in early of migration criteria that has caused for increasing place attachment had been environmental context

Figure 3 is shown way of that place attachment's dimensions has grown during the time

### CONCLUSION

As it was mentioned, this study studies impacts of time passing on place attachment's dimensions between urban immigrants. Based on literature and studying thoughts of experts in this area, sub-variables of these factors were acquired that consist of three different criteria; Personal Context, Community Context and Environmental Context. Results of the analysis show that environmental dimension has grew just at the beginning of the migration and caused for intensify place attachment. After that, whatever settlement period continues, community context factors more emerge on place attachment intensity. Third dimension of place attachment; Personal Context (Identity and dependence); shows own self in third decades of

migration and caused for strong attachment between immigrant and place that have been entered. In conclusion, in priority of criteria that have formed place attachment first immigrant were involved either environmental context, then community context and finally, personal context was grew as a place attachment dimension So, it should be said that whatever presence in place continues dimensions became more internal and relation to identity.

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