



# Learning from Resilience: Cities towards a Self-Organizing System

\* Ph.D. Candidate **CEMALIYE EKEN**

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, Eastern Mediterranean University, Famagusta, Cyprus

E mail: [cemaliyecken@gmail.com](mailto:cemaliyecken@gmail.com)

## ARTICLE INFO:

### Article history:

Received 08 January 2018

Accepted 23 February 2018

Available online 20 June 2018

### Keywords:

Resilience;

Adaptive Cycle;

City;

Living Organism;

Self-Organizing System.

## ABSTRACT

*The study exploits development of a new field of research with the aim of reading uncertainty and transformation at cities by revealing resilience systems thinking theory for urban studies. The paper first generates understanding the resilience framework and its critical identities. Secondly the city is introduced as a complex living organicism. Here the complexity of cities is conducted in the context of a self-organizing organism while conserve their spatial structure, function and identity. At this juncture; cities and their built environment are proposed in the framework of 'being able to absorb uncertain perturbation and adapt itself through an adaptive cycle; of which key attributes of resilience is figured out a novel method for urban studies to be used to detain the taxonomies of uncertainty at identity of built environment. The study is concluded by impelling resilience as novel frontier thinking for postulating the ways of assessing a self-organizing city thinking towards uncertainty of change.*

JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY URBAN AFFAIRS (2019), 3(1), 92-103.

<https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2018.4686>

[www.ijcua.com](http://www.ijcua.com)

Copyright © 2018 Journal Of Contemporary Urban Affairs. All rights reserved.

This work is licensed under a  
Creative Commons Attribution  
- NonCommercial - NoDerivs 4.0.  
"CC-BY-NC-ND"

## 1. Introduction

*"We know that we can't design for every unpredictable event, but we can make sure our buildings and cities are better able to weather these disruptions." (Mehafyy and Salingaros, undated)*

Today, one of the reason why a range of scientific approaches of urban studies fail in pragmatism is because they endorse a rigid conceal for understanding city and its built environment in a stabilized equilibrium, and also a steadiness of relationships. Since, change occurs perpetually in life. The problem of adjusting built environment and cities in equilibrium disregards the monarchy of change, which continuously exits. Therefore,

the complexity of relationships could not be understood, or may be difficult to be rationalized in a model. Therefore, the growing challenges of shocks, depletion and destruction of change must endorse a novel vision for understanding cities as a system in a resilient form, rather than in a stabilized equilibrium. However, the intense here should not admire designing each unpredictable and uncertain event; but allocating built environment and cities in a better capability of adaptation or a self -containing towards

### \*Corresponding Authors:

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, Eastern Mediterranean University, Famagusta, Cyprus

E-mail address: [cemaliyecken@gmail.com](mailto:cemaliyecken@gmail.com)