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Reflection on The Public Realm by Richard Sennett

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Reflection on The Public Realm by Richard Sennett

This week, after reading “The Public Realm” by Richard Sennett, Chapter 28 in The Blackwell City Reader, I considered that Richard Sennett took a more philosophical approach to put across his arguments on living in the city. From Sennett’s discussion point of view, I was thrilled to learn is about Simmel’s Mask of Rationality. I was glad to learn this aspect besides equally finding it exciting in the chapter. According to the author, Simmel’s Mask of Rationality depicts the concept of how we tend to interact with others in neutral exchanges with unfamiliar persons (Sennett, 2010). One instance that portrays this idea is the concept underpinning the logic of why we utilize money. As Simmel indicated, we would prefer not to build our passionate relations with individuals during an exchange. Cash is snappy and conventional and does not need an additional exchange with outsiders.

Based on the above understanding, I came to realize that by living in a metropolis, the concept of psychic overstimulation is often at work. This is normally not the case for many people as one can hardly follow his/her senses since merely too much is present to absorb in. Thus, this elicited my reaction to the readings by approving that the latter idea was accurate in a city such as New York, where I have been and worked as an intern. This is because scarcely can one get a sense of anything taking place in New York as there are just so many folks and things happening. Therefore, to comprehend anything in a city, it necessitates an individual to shut down some of his/her senses and only pay attention to a few things.

Nonetheless, not everything the readings depict is valid in all cities. For instance, in contrast to New York City, San Francisco is not as populated and bustling as the former. Hence, rarely can one find it hard to navigate by the sense in San Francisco. In this case, rarely can one see how precise the concept of psychic overstimulation is in a general city. However, it requires

critical thinking when going through the aforementioned readings to note the difference based on the concept of psychic overstimulation.

Reference

Sennett, R. (2010). The public realm. *The Blackwell city reader*, 261-272.

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