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The multi-perspective study deals with the ambivalent role played by social space-related politics, programs and practices in the social transformation process that is currently characterized by a fundamental redefinition of the social. The starting points for the research are the current

economic focus on the “social space” and on local communities in politics, science, urban restructuring and social work. The research is based on a combination of instruments of spatial, scale and regulation theory, as well as a diagnosis of the present that analyses governmentality. With recourse to explanations of the regulation approach (A. Liepietz, M. Aglietta, B. Jesoop, J. Hirsch), “social space politics” can be described as elements of down-scaled patterns of regulation for processing locally manifested, social upheavals and conflicts that arise from the contradictions of politico-economic, socio-political and spatial or urbanistic design processes in advanced liberal societies. Referring to the concept of Governmentality (M. Foucault), a reconstruction of the prevailing governmental-rationalities and their connected offers of subjectivation is taking place in the fields of “social space politics”. This is done exemplarily on the basis of the central specialist- and program materials of community work (social work, local social policy) and the community management (social city policy). As a result of the research currently dominant “social space politics” must be considered as constitutive of post-welfare state government and subjectivation (workfare state, “entrepreneurial self-care”). With the strategies of “Responsibilization”, “Recommunification”, “Entrepreneursation” and “Spatialisation” that are realized in the field of social space policy, a “new grammar of governing” the social is established. This is visible in changing socio-political concepts, ideas of justice and integration patterns. Based on this result, the study concludes with reflections on a “reflexive social space policy” that allows players from social work, urban planning or (urban) social movements to evade political and programmatic exploitation.

Keywords:

Community, Discourse analysis, Discourse theory, Empowerment, Enterprising self, Governance, Governmentality, Post-Fordism, Technologies of self, Regulation approach, Social capital, Social Inklusion, Social integration, Social space work, Social work, Productions of space, Spatial turn, Spatiality, Urban social movements, Workfare