



# Representing Iranian-Islamic Identity in Iranian Contemporary Cities Structure

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## ABSTRACT

*Urban identity could be considered as the result of interaction between social identity system and urbanism system. The term "Islamic City" is defined only by considering the physics of the city and reducing the concept of city to physical elements. Current researches are carried out without considering the relationships between elements and parts of Islamic city. The main objective in this research, is to focus on the principles governing Islamic city which have their roots in Iranian identity and govern aspects of urban life, such as social, political, economic and physical space of the city.*

*Studying concepts of center, periphery and communications as the main elements of urban identity and matching each of the physical elements in aforementioned arenas could help with understanding the Islamic city structure and its organization and relations governing it. The significance of religious, social, and economic elements in Islamic city match the Contemporary urbanism identity in Iran and the concept of center-periphery theory.*

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## 1. Introduction

Urban identity is one of the complex concepts in urbanism. It is a multidimensional phenomenon which presents various fundamentals and meanings from various aspects. In a general view, urban identity could be considered as a result of organized interaction of social, cultural, economic, religious systems and urbanism system; an approach which has focused on identity along with alterity and as a result, emphasizes the unit of analysis of itself and others in the field of identity. However, when urban identity is mentioned, the relationship between identity and complex concepts such

as culture and nationality, a complex concept is emerged which confronts urban identity with various theoretical approaches. This meaning is of a considerable significance in Iranian urbanism, for any source of Iranian-Islamic urban identity has impacted the urban identity structure in each era and in a certain way and formed the urban cultural identity. The Iranian-

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