

Can the Neighbourhood be an Inclusive Home?

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The Significance of the Neighbourhood

(Lee and Newby: 1983: page 55*)

The Neighbourhood, representing a spatial community is capable of

1. Introducing **local, face-to-face, personal forms** of interaction and thereby invest the anonymous and isolated urban world with a renewed sense of community.
2. Encouraging the formation of local loyalties and attachments among an residentially mobile (**including recently arrived**) urban population.
3. Creating **feelings of identity, security, stability** and continuity in an environment which appeared to threaten such feeling and promote alienation, conflict and disorder.
4. Providing a **local training ground** for the development of **larger loyalties to city and nation**.

*The problem of sociology, 1983, Unwin and Hyman.

Processes operate to increase belonging at the neighbourhood scale:

- 1. Governmental belonging:** a type of nationalism which stems from a belief that citizenship is tied to the right to govern the city and country (Hage, 1996).
What opportunities and initiatives are there to initiate and contribute at the grassroots and how do these work to create local solidarities and a stronger sense of citizenship?
- 2. Everyday Nationhood** (Skey, 2013): the idea that the national (the feeling of identity and belonging) is established in local, domestic settings. “how nation has become embedded in everyday social routines”
What are the shared everyday routines and practices (eating, play, ceremonial occasions) that connect residents at the neighbourhood level?
- 3. The Neighbourhood and the Senses:** Lefebvre (1968/71:24) the aesthetics of humble settings, Bachelard (1958/69: 4) “the humblest dwelling has beauty (in the eyes of the beholder).
Our neighbourhood routines have the capacity to build place identity independent of social interactions.

What about Challenges...

Moving Forward...

Thank you

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