Creating Hackney as Home: Five reflections on a London Borough

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Monét’s film: 
Growing Up and Out of Space

‘My film was inspired by a dream I had early on in the project. I have tried to recreate that images in my film, using camera angles to give the perspective of a child. In my film you will be following me through the ages of six to sixteen and the differences that occur across these ages. My dialogue is partly spoken work and partly my poetry, which gives a sense of my personal feelings over this time.’
Re-imagining ‘home’

- Polysemous accounts of place.
- Imaginations of the city that constitute place, but also generate conflict.
- Entanglements of contradiction, synchronicity, loss and mobility.
Youth & Gentrification

- Evidence of connection between environmental experience and well-being.
- Unequal power relations in the face of urban change (‘who are the changes for?’).
- Spatial dislocation and affective displacement associated with stigmatisation.
- *But* negative perceptions of gentrification at times confounded by lived experience, eg, feelings of greater security.
Youth & Gentrification

A series of tensions:

- Designed space vs reducing public space
- Designed space vs lived use of space
- Youth culture as anomalous vs valorisation

Tensions lead to a more complicated relationship between young people and processes of gentrification.
Conclusion

• Ambivalence about gentrification’s impact: speed of change often more an issue than change itself.

• Complicated relationships with newer residents, ‘hipsters’.

• Gentrification can provide positive conditions of alterity.

• The possibility to re-imagine a reversioning of space and a place for themselves within it.

• But still a dominant set of social/spatial structures which they have to navigate.
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