

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title:

'I'm sorry for the direction my hot-air balloon is taking': In Search of Evidence for and Impacts of Territorial Stigmatization.

2. Format:

Written Paper – Verbal Presentation

3. Author(s) Name:

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4. University or Company Affiliation:

Oxford Brookes University

5. Abstract (300 words):

This paper critically examines the concept of territorial stigmatization. This concept has enjoyed considerable academic attention in recent years through the work of Loic Wacquant (1993, 1996, 2007, 2008, 2016) which forms the theoretical framework for this paper. However, the paper also reflects on what can be seen as earlier version of this type of theoretical approach (for example, Wirth, 1938, Foucault, 1970, Damer, 1974, 1989, Kruse, 1997) as well as other contemporary applications (for example, Bond, 2011, Gray and Mooney 2011, Jensen and Christensen, 2012, Hancock and Mooney, 2013). Having critically examined the theoretical basis and reach of this concept the paper proceeds to report on data generated from a series of in-depth, qualitative interviews conducted with residents of a large, peripheral predominantly social housing estate in the Thames Valley. The paper demonstrates that residents can provide detailed and long-term understandings of how and why the area they live in (and they themselves)

has been territorially stigmatized and provide numerous examples of how this impacts on their lives. However, the paper also presents data that demonstrate that residents' readings of their own lives, where they live, their neighbours and communities are frequently more nuanced, multi-layered and complex than other research sometimes suggests. Participants do discuss the issues that they feel directly affect them and their families, friends and communities but this data does not suggest that residents accept the ways in which the area and they themselves are portrayed and, indeed, they present multiple counter-narratives that dispute the validity of the territorial stigmatization of the area. The paper concludes by offering a critical evaluation of the concept of territorial stigmatization.

6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Richard Huggins is a Principal Lecturer in Politics and Sociology, Department of Social Sciences, Oxford Brookes University. He has extensive research and practice experience in working with statutory agencies and vulnerable and seldom heard individuals in a range of contexts. He has secured extensive external funding to support research into substance use and misuse (young people, adults and children of substance misusing parents), crime, homelessness, prisons and offender behaviour, fear and perceptions of crime and patterns and impacts of deprivation and social exclusion. He is a highly experienced qualitative methods researcher especially in relation to vulnerable and marginalised individuals. Richard Huggins has written extensively on a range of subjects in politics and sociology and has presented papers at over 40 national conferences and 35 international conferences. He is also a member of the Offender Health Research Network and is currently contributing to a Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl, Porton Down) on Understanding the Broader Social-Cultural Contexts within Modelling.