LSE Cities conference

10 October 2013, 9.30am to 5pm

Conference room 32L.B.07, 32 Lincoln's Inn Fields, LSE

Word on the Street: City vocabularies of migration and diversity

The 'Word on the Street' conference explores everyday cultures and economies of cities in urban contexts of increasing migration and super-diversity. We focus on cities in the global north, using the commonplace urban currency of the street. Changes propelled by global urbanisation have particular expressions in the street space, including re-orientations in public and social life, retail economies and regulatory regimes.

Conference programme:

9.30	Tea and Coffee
10.00	**Introduction & welcome** Suzanne Hall
10.15 – 11.45	**1. REGULATING DIVERSITY ON THE CITY STREET** Chair: John Solomos
	1.1 Differentiating diversities: A study of everyday law in the city of Toronto *Mariana Valverde* **1.2 A mix of what?** **Shopping street management and the ambiguity of diversity in Amsterdam** *Jan Rath & Iris Hagemans* **1.3 Imprints of the law: On gambling and city making in Berlin-Neukölln** *Christine Hentschel*
12.00 – 1.30pm	**2. COMMONPLACE DIVERSITY AND THE MIGRANT STREETSCAPE** Chair: Claire Alexander
	2.1 Commonplace diversity and corner-shop cosmopolitanism: **Daily encounters with difference on Hackney's streets** *Susanne Wessendorf* **2.2 Ambivalent affect: The role of 'streetscape' in collating cosmopolitanisms** *Sophie Watson* **2.3 Locating migration: street space and economy in Rye Lane** *Suzanne Hall*
1.30pm – 2.15pm	Lunch
2.15pm – 3pm	**3. SOCIAL ORDER OF THE STREET** Chair: Fran Tonkiss
	3.1 The social order of the street: Three New York stories *Sharon Zukin and Philip Kasinitz*
3pm – 3.30pm	Tea
4pm – 5pm	**5. Overviews and directions** *Ash Amin: Overview and reflections* Discussion

Abstracts:

1. REGULATING DIVERSITY ON THE CITY STREET

1.1 Differentiating diversities: A study of everyday law in the city of Toronto
Mariana Valverde

In seeking to understand what 'the street' is and how "it" is governed, urban studies scholars have paid much attention to architecture and design, on the one hand, and to social and economic relations, on the other. Legal powers and knowledges, by contrast (especially those that go beyond planning law, such as business licensing), have only been examined in relation to egregious one-off events - police harassment of homeless people, for example, or questionable one-off developments. My book "Everyday law on the street: city governance in an age of diversity" is unusual in that it did not focus on any one event or even any one area of law, but rather studied, over a number of years, the routine, largely invisible legal and regulatory processes that make 'the street' what it is. Given that the city of Toronto has an official commitment to promoting, not just tolerating, multiculturalism, my conclusions about the way in which some types of 'diversity' end up being valued and legally protected more than others should be of interest to people in other cities with diverse populations.

1.2 A mix of what?
Shopping street management and the ambiguity of diversity in Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Jan Rath & Iris Hagemans

As a malleable concept with a positive resonance, 'diversity' proves to be a useful tool to legitimize a range of policy strategies, goals and outcomes. In the Netherlands, the concept has gained a central role in the implementation of social mixing policies targeting so-called problematic neighbourhoods by introducing a better 'mixed' or 'balanced' population. The discursive celebration of such a mixed neighbourhood, however, often carefully evades the question: "A mix of what?" A closer inspection of interventions reveal that the different meanings of diversity are employed to claim urban space for some groups, while excluding others. This is illustrated by a range of micromanagement strategies in a shopping street in Amsterdam, Javastraat. Framed as promoting diversity, they form a symbolically loaded strategy to covertly manage ethnic and class transition by targeting the retail landscape. This presentation explores the consequences of this (discursive) remaking of the shopping street for shopkeepers and local residents.

1.3 Imprints of the law: On gambling and city making in Berlin-Neukölln
Christine Hentschel

Gambling parlors are mushrooming all over the streets of Berlin. In Neukölln, a multicultural district long branded as failing and currently experiencing a phase of nervous transformation, city makers regard gambling parlours as counteracting the turn to a better urban future. While casino laws are strict in Berlin, the inspectors have to put up with hundreds of quasi-casinos that elude the grasp of the law. In my presentation, I trace the local inspectors' creative solutions to the conundrum of casino-like places, which they cannot, legally, regulate as casinos. In the absence of a suitable law they focus on getting a feel for the "imprint" (*das Gepräge*) of the place. The regulators' "street wisdom" tells a different story of the governance of multiculture than usually told by critics of gentrification.

2. COMMONPLACE DIVERSITY AND THE MIGRANT STREETSCAPE

2.1 Commonplace diversity and corner-shop cosmopolitanism:
Daily encounters with difference on Hackney's streets
Susanne Wessendorf

The London Borough of Hackney is one of the most diverse places in Europe. It is not only characterised by a multiplicity of ethnic minorities, but also differentiations in terms of variables such as migration histories, religions, educational, and economic backgrounds both among long-term residents and newcomers. This paper describes how people negotiate social interactions in public space in such a 'super-diverse' context. It develops the notion of 'commonplace diversity', referring to ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity being experienced as a normal part of social life by local residents, and not as something particularly special. The paper uses the concept of 'civility' to describe social interactions in this context of commonplace diversity. It shows how, because of the multiplicity of backgrounds, people act with pragmatic civility towards diversity by treating others universally the same. The paper juxtaposes these encounters with those in shops and at markets, where traders make specific efforts to adapt to their costumers' backgrounds in order to make good business. The paper conceptualises this as 'corner-shop cosmopolitanism'. It concludes by questioning demands for 'deep engagement' between people of different backgrounds, and highlights the need to acknowledge the myriad of positive everyday encounters in super-diverse contexts.

2.2 Ambivalent affect: The role of 'streetscape' in collating cosmopolitanisms
Sophie Watson

In urban research to date there has been a particular focus on attachments and detachments to place, on the part of migrants, and on the emotional responses of 'indigenous' communities or residents to the 'strangers' in their midst. But very little research has considered the reaction of migrants to other migrants - even those belonging to the same ethnic group. How to interpret and explain those difficult and troubling moments of daily feeling that migrants sometimes express towards what they themselves see as the less palatable residues of contemporary multiculture? What power relations do these negative emotional responses of migrant groups to the material practices of other (or indeed, the same) migrant groups reflect, reinforce or undermine? This presentation explores these questions through the streetscapes evoked by young Asian British residents of Redbridge.

2.3 Locating migration: street space and economy in Rye Lane, south London
Suzanne Hall

This presentation emerges from an ethnography of the economic and cultural life of Rye Lane, an intensely multi-ethnic street in Peckham, south London. The effects of accelerated migration into London are explored through the reshaping and diversification of its shop, street and city spaces. The ethnographic stretch across intimate, collective and symbolic city spaces serves to connect how the restrictions and circuits of urban migration have different impacts and expressions in these distinctive but interrelated city spaces. The presentation engages within and across a compendium of urban localities, to understand how accelerated migration and urban 'super-diversity' transform the contemporary global street.

3.   THE SOCIAL ORDER OF THE STREET

3.1 The social order of the street: three New York stories
Sharon Zukin and Philip Kasinitz

The social life of a local shopping street emerges from interactions between, as well as individualistic decisions made by, three groups of social actors: store owners, building owners, and shoppers. It is also shaped by such external institutions as supply chains, local laws and other practices of the local state, the context-setting demographics of local residents, and media images. More complex than is indicated by the concept of "belonging," the social life of the street reflects a sense of "moral ownership" on the part of one or more social and ethnic groups.

Though it often coincides with exclusion from the dominant society and conflicts with legal ownership of property, moral ownership reinforces a distinctive synergy between urban space and cultural identity. Thus local shopping streets in New York become "Jewish," "black," "Latino," and "hipster" spaces. Unlike in some European cities, local government officials do not try to prevent the formation of shopping streets with a specific social or ethnic character. Indeed, such streets are often celebrated because they offer opportunities for exotic or low-cost consumption and small-scale business ownership. They are, in the New York context, models of social diversity.

During the past thirty years, this social diversity has been both shaped and threatened by globalization and gentrification. Changing flows of capital investment put established patterns of moral ownership at risk and bring more efforts by the local state, both directly and indirectly, to regulate the social life of the shopping street. Formerly marginal shopping streets are subjected to "market" controls.

We explore these changes by examining discourses of danger, racial and ethnic identity, and redevelopment on three different local shopping streets in three different areas of New York City. A formerly "Jewish" shopping street on the Lower East Side of Manhattan morphs into a "gentrified" shopping street for hipsters. A "black" shopping street in Central Brooklyn develops a more complex identity with the migration of Muslims from different regions of the world and gentrification by both blacks and whites. And a "Latino" shopping street in Jackson Heights, Queens, coexists with South Asian and gay business establishments. We examine the changing social life of these streets by looking at their visible aesthetics, their spatial and temporal uses, and conflicts over which groups will survive in place.

Speaker and chair profiles

Claire Alexander
Claire is Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester and Editor of the journal *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*. Her books *The Art of Being Black* (1996) and *The Asian Gang* (2000) are core ethnographies in race and ethnicity studies.

Ash Amin
Ash is Professor of Human Geography at the University of Cambridge and is a leading urban theorist on cities and their political and social life. His latest books include *Land of Strangers* (2012) and (with Nigel Thrift) *Political Openings* (2012).

Suzanne Hall
Suzi is a researcher at LSE Cities, where she leads the 'Ordinary Streets' research project focusing on migrant economies and spaces. Her book, *City Street and Citizen* (2012), explores the public life of a multi-ethnic street in south London.

Iris Hagemans
Iris is currently working on her PhD research at the University of Amsterdam. Her studies of working-class perspectives on neighbourhoods and gentrification focus on the role of shopping areas as nodes around which people develop and struggle over issues of sense of place, community and representation.

Christine Hentschel
Christine is a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Urban Sociology at Humboldt University. Her research is in the field of urban and political anthropology and currently revolves around the interplay between material, social, legal, and affective infrastructures in changing urban settings. Her book on *The Spatial Life of Security in Durban, South Africa* is forthcoming.

Philip Kasinitz
Philip is Professor of Sociology at the City University of New York. His award-winning work on race and immigration including *Becoming New* Yorkers (2004), and 'second generation' immigrants in *Inheriting the City* with John Mollenkopf, Mary Waters and Jennifer Holdaway (2008), explores the intersections of diversity, citizenship and justice in the context of North America.

Jan Rath
Jan is Professor of Urban Sociology at the University of Amsterdam. He is particularly interested in the ways in which cities in a globalizing world help shape unity and diversity. Jan is editor (with Volkan Aytar) of *Selling Ethnic Neighborhoods: The Rise of Neighborhoods as Places of Leisure and Consumption.* (2012).

John Solomos
John is Professor of Sociology at the University of Warwick and co-editor with Martin Bulmer of *Ethnic and Racial Studies.* John is a leading figure in the sociology of race, racism, multiculturalism and citizenship in the UK, and is co-editor with Les Back of *Theories of Race and Racism* (2002; 2009).

Fran Tonkiss
Fran is Reader in Sociology, and Director of the Cities Programme. Her research and teaching is in the fields of urban and economic sociology. Publications in these fields include *Space, the City and Social Theory* (2005), and *Contemporary Economic Sociology: Globalisation, Production, Inequality* 2006).

Sophie Watson
Sophie is Professor of Sociology at the Open University. Her work on street markets explores sociality, cultural practices and innovation. She is editor (with Gary Bridge) of *The New Blackwell Companion to the City* (2011).

Susanne Wessendorf
Susanne is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, and is currently working on patterns of 'super diversity' in a London neighbourhood. She is author of *Super-diversity and everyday life* (forthcoming) and *Second-Generation Transnationalism and Roots Migration* (2013).

Mariana Valverde
Mariana is professor in and director of the Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal studies at the University of Toronto, and is author of *Everyday Law on the Street: City governance in an age of diversity* (2012).

Sharon Zukin
Sharon is Professor of Sociology at the City University of New York. Sharon works on consumer society and consumer culture, gentrification, arts and economic development, and ethnic diversity. Sharon is the author of the highly acclaimed *Loft Living* (1990) and *Naked City* (2010).

Please note:
A public lecture on 'Global Migration and Urban Renewal' will follow the conference:

Philip Kasinitz and Michael Keith in discussion.
18h30-20h00, Sheikh Zayed Theatre, NAB, London School of Economics and Political Science

Intense, contemporary migration presents challenges but also real potentials and opportunities for global cities. Philip Kasinitz and Michael Keith will respectively explore how and why the US and British discourse on this topic is different, what the interesting points of convergence are, and how we might more productively engage with migration as a central aspect of our urban future.

Chair: Mike Savage (LSE)
Panellists: Sharon Zukin, Rob Berkeley (Runnymede Trust), Tim Finch (IPPR)

For further details, please see our LSE Cities.net website:

http://lsecities.net/media/objects/events/global-migration-and-urban-renewal

Conference Participants

Participants	Organisation	e-mail
Chairs:		
Claire Alexander	University of Manchester	claire.alexander@manchester.ac.uk
John Solomos	University of Warwick	J.Solomos@warwick.ac.uk
Fran Tonkiss	LSE	f.tonkiss@lse.ac.uk
Overview:		
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Papers:		
Iris Hagermans	University of Amsterdam	i.w.hagemans@uva.nl
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Philip Kasinitz	CUNY	PKasinitz@gc.cuny.edu
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Susanne Wessendorf	Max Planck Institute	Wessendorf@mmg.mpg.de
Sharon Zukin	CUNY	Zukin@brooklyn.cuny.edu
Invited participants:		
Rob Berkeley	Runnymede Trust	rob@runnymedetrust.org
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Neil Wrigley	University of Southampton & High Street Futures centre	n.wrigley@soton.ac.uk
Sophie Yetton	Architect	sophieyetton@me.com
Austin Zeiderman	LSE Cities	a.zeiderman@lse.ac.uk

LOCATION & CONTACTS

Conference:
LSE, 32 Lincoln's Inn Fields
Conference room (Lower Basement) 32L.B.07, Lincoln's Inn
London School of Economics, 32 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 2AE

Public Lecture:
LSE, New Academic Building, Lincoln's Inn Fields (corner of Sardinia Street)
Sheikh Zayed Theatre (Lower Ground Floor), New Academic Building
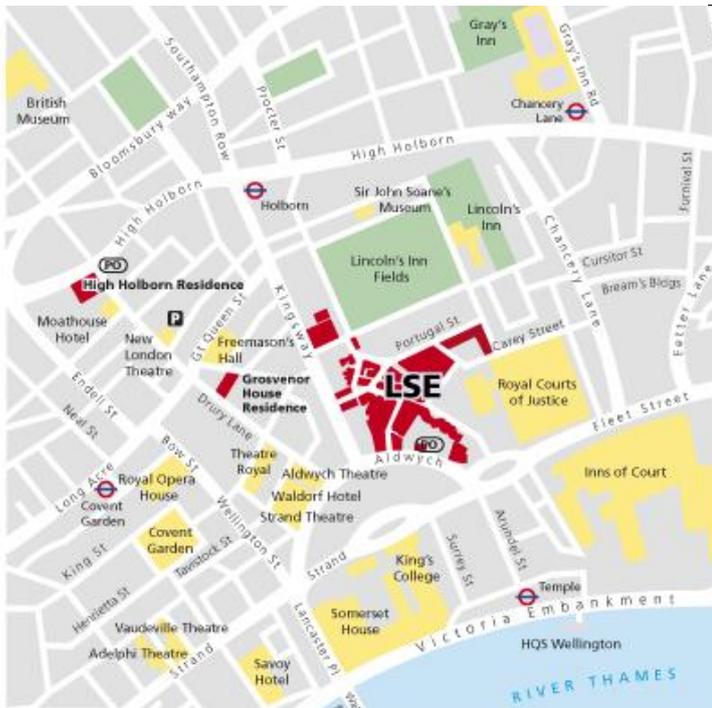London School of Economics, 54 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 2AE

Dinner:
Fernandez and Wells, Somerset House, the Strand, WC2 R 1LA (5-10 minute walk)

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Location map   LSE Campus map