

Urban Enclosure: Contemporary Strategies of Dispossession and Reification in London's Spatial Production

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Abstract

The research assessed the new strategies for 'public spaces' (Johnson, 2009) in their relation to the 'housing' policy proposed by the mayor of London (Johnson, 2010, 2013 and 2015). These strategies were analysed in their content, social conflicts and implied concepts of development. In response to London's housing crisis, these policies intended to deliver a greater number of housing projects that focussed on big developments and regeneration schemes, as well as strong partnerships between the state and development corporations that provided specially designed financing schemes. In order to 'bring forward land' for development, the proposed tactic was to change the laws governing 'compulsory purchase', 'land assembly', 'anti-social behaviour' and 'affordable housing' (as a replacement for council housing strategies). The 'openness' of the developments between 2009 manifesto and 2014 were analysed with a methodology designed upon the literature review. Results shows a process of "urban enclosure" in London.