



Yale University

Workshop in Urban Ethnography

The Ethnographic Interpretation of Urban Life and Culture

Monday, September 16, 11:30am-1:20pm

210 Prospect Street, Room 203



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Developing a Notion of Belonging: Rethinking Community for Social Research

The general notion of community is familiar enough but the contemporary manifestations are intriguing and call for further empirical inquiry. While “community” designates a social entity with strong bonds, togetherness, and clear boundaries of belonging, its empirical aspects are idiosyncratic and at times ambiguous. People do not belong to a single but to several entities, in varying ways and intensities. These entities have different ways of recognizing membership; sometimes these mechanisms of recognition are difficult to identify. Moreover, it is not always clear whether people’s significant relations form a social entity, or in fact have a more differentiated organization. Urban life in particular often consists of differentiated bonds, settings, and interactions that extend locality, and the emergence of communal bonds and boundaries remains an open empirical question.

Lunch Served - All Welcome

For upcoming speakers, visit <http://www.yale.edu/sociology/UEP>.

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