

Territorial Behaviour Among Young People in Disadvantaged Areas

Keith Kintrea

University of Glasgow
Department of Urban Studies
25 Bute Gardens
GLASGOW
G12 8RS
Scotland,
UK

Tel: +44 (0)141 5875

Email: K.Kintrea@socsci.gla.ac.uk

Co-Authors: Jon Bannister and Maggie Reid (University of Glasgow)

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on territorial behaviour among young people in disadvantaged residential areas in UK cities. For the purposes of investigation we defined territoriality as: ‘a social system through which control is claimed by one group over a defined geographical area and defended against others.’

The main approach is underlain by an assumption that territoriality is problematic for the life chances of the young people caught up in it and for the neighbourhoods that play host to it. However we also recognised the potentially positive nature of territoriality as an expression of mutual support and positive attachment.

The paper addresses six questions:

1. What is the nature and role of territoriality in deprived neighbourhoods?
2. What are the origins of territoriality?
3. What is the geography of territoriality?
4. Who is affected by territoriality?
5. What are its impacts on young people and on their communities?
6. To what extent are the current policy responses to territoriality appropriate?

The paper is based on research in youth projects in six UK cities, where interviews and focus groups were held with project staff and volunteers and with young people.

Key Words: young people; territoriality; disadvantage