

The New Wave of Studentification?

Dr Darren P Smith

University of Brighton
School of the Environment
Brighton
BN2 4GJ
England
UK

Tel: +44 (0)1273 643318
Email: D.Smith@bton.ac.uk

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the effects of a second-wave of studentification, and considers the implications for wider policies of urban renaissance. Drawing upon empirical evidence from the UK, USA, Australia, Canada and Ireland, it is shown that the manufacture and supply of purpose-built student accommodation is being redefined. Pointing to the growing prominence of 'student gated-communities', it is argued that this trend may place student populations in more vulnerable socio-spatial contexts. It is therefore contended that the unfolding global geographies of studentification are tied to an increasing 'ghettoisation' of student populations, and higher levels of social segregation. This will have important implications for policies which seek to foster balanced and sustainable communities, and will have serious impacts on the 'student experience' and well-being.

Key Words: studentification, urban renaissance, gated communities