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Current Research on Neighbourhood Change

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Key Questions Currently Being Addressed 1-(UK Perspective....

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- Urban renaissance-back to the city
- Increasing homogeneity of neighbourhoods
- Policy interventions and social capital building and maintenance
- Social mix and social balance mainly via housing tenure policies

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Key Questions Currently Being Addressed 2-(UK Perspective....

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- Ethnic segregation-are ethnic minorities becoming increasingly concentrated in particular neighbourhoods?-link to localised tensions, violence, right wing extremism, post 9/11-debates over faith schools etc
- Democracy and civic participation-active citizenry-devolution of powers over public service delivery-informal social care
- Neighbourliness and social cohesion-govt 'respect' agenda

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Backcloth.....

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- Post privatisation consequences-rising levels of home ownership combined with (until recently) very high levels of house price inflation-so more intense sifting and sorting of neighbourhoods
- General social exclusion agenda-area regeneration via eg. schools upgrading, physical interventions

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Current Work 1



- Neighbourhood trajectories and consumption profiles using commercial data sets
- Interactions between education and housing markets-ie neighbourhood effects of school catchment areas
- Detailed work on residential and social mobility-tracking individual moves-closed circuits in the city?



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Current Work 2



- Particularities of 'provincial gentrification-light touch, tentative, mixing of gentrifier types
- Rise of gated communities in UK-self segregation
- Cross national research on the meaning and role of neighbourhoods, patterns of social interaction, role in urban governance and participation-European Union, China



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Gaps and Inadequate Research



- Overemphasis on poor and disadvantaged neighbourhoods and the exotic gentrified- need a range of neighbourhood types
 - eg. Suburbia-ageing of people and dwellings
- Ideas of neighbourhood dominated by residence (where people sleep) (Blokland) rather than:
 - Inter-neighbourhood movements by day
 - Significance of neighbourhoods for non-residents (business, people passing through)



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Gaps and Inadequate Research.....



- Neighbourhood interactions rather than atomised studies
- Sense of belonging..... (lifestyle similarity rather than community solidarity?)
- Contemporary ideas of sense of belonging
 - (lifestyle similarity rather than community solidarity?)
- Reflexive neighbourhoods and impact of IT/GIS on choice, location, reputation, stigma

