



TITLE:

Loosing Place: The promise of displacement through culture

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Place is a central feature in the literature of culture-led regeneration and claims surrounding the success or failure of large cultural institutions. Yet place is under-theorised in these accounts and poorly conceptualised in empirical investigations. Without adequate attention in this regard, understandings of effects and impacts – either actualised or aspired to – are assumption-laden, disjointed or just plain wrong. In implicitly embodying a place dualism I argue, also, that many accounts regarding place transformation and place renewal through culture enact neoliberal ideals. In this dualism certain types of places are defined as uncompetitive and are set against an idealised notion of the ‘competitive’. This idealised notion cannot be located as to be competitive is to break the binds of history, politics and society that co-produce places. I introduce a theorisation of place that is relational and embodies a distributed agency, and describe how such a theorisation redefines ideas of effect, impact, success or failure beyond ideas of competition.