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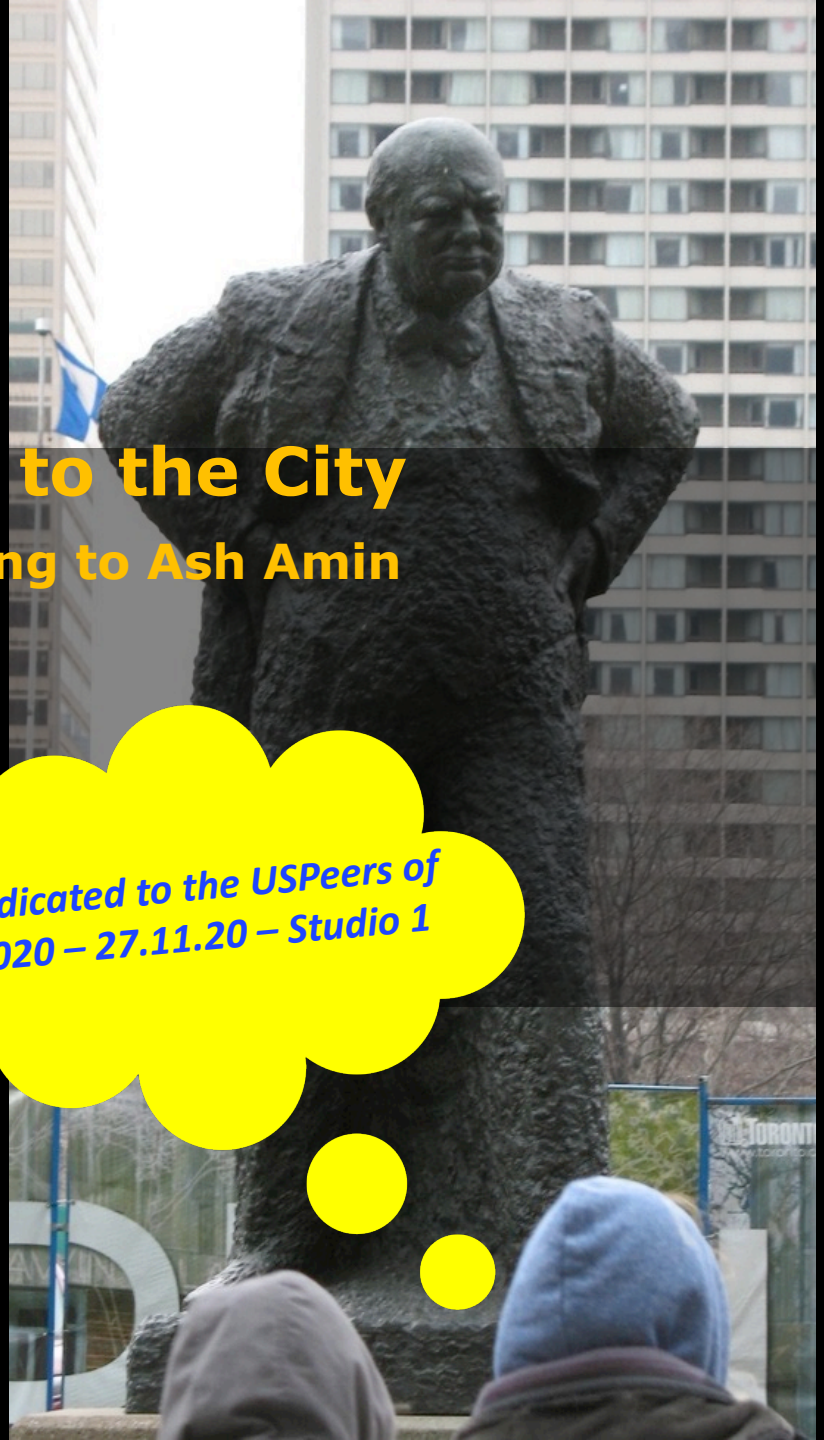
Materialising the Right to the City

Public Space According to Ash Amin

Michail Galanakis

DArts, MArts, MArch



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JUST Cities are …

The right to the city is the right to presence, to occupy public space, and to participate as an equal in public affairs.

Sandercock (2009: 220)

Leonie Sanderock, Professor of planning, University of British Columbia

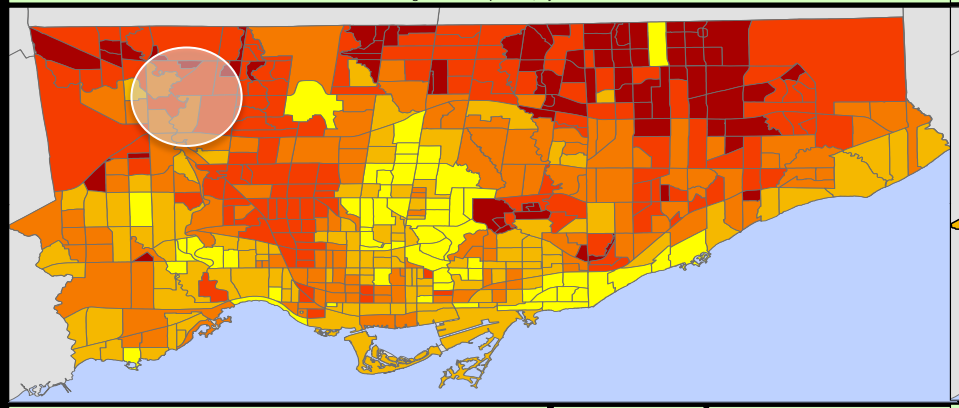
[…] cities are becoming ecologies of surplus that can only yield a politics of the fittest, with the collision of bodies in public space reduced to a game of appropriation of the commons, based on pathologies of envy, suspicion and resentment. Public space becomes a synonym for collective privatism and social antagonism rather than social agonism and civic formation.

Amin, 02.06.2009

Ash Amin, Professor of geography (urban, cultural and economic), University of Cambridge

Immigrant Population 2006

As a Percentage of Total Population, By Census Tract



Legend

Immigrants as a Percentage of Total Population

- 0% - 25%
- 26% - 40%
- 41% - 53%
- 54% - 64%
- 65% - 80%

N W E S

0 1 2 3 4 Km

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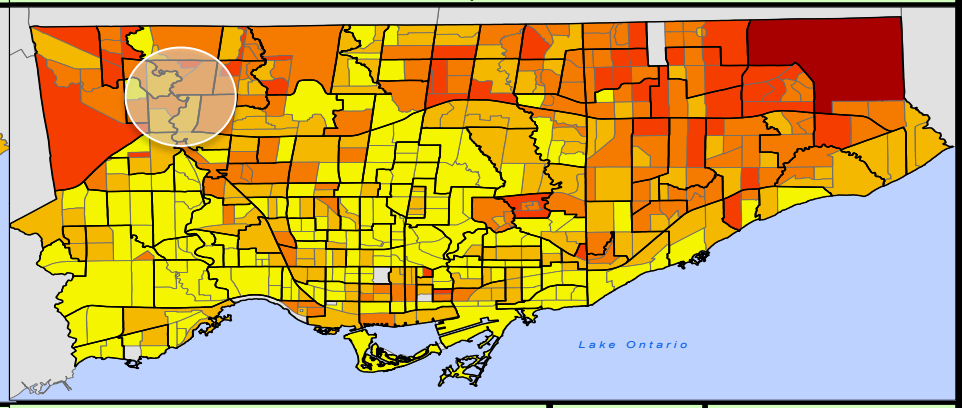
Notes: Classification is by Natural Breaks

Total Visible Minority 2006

Persons by Census Tract



Legend

Visible Minority Persons

- 10 - 1,340
- 1,341 - 2,700
- 2,701 - 4,475
- 4,476 - 10,800
- 10,801 - 21,315

Neighbourhood Boundary

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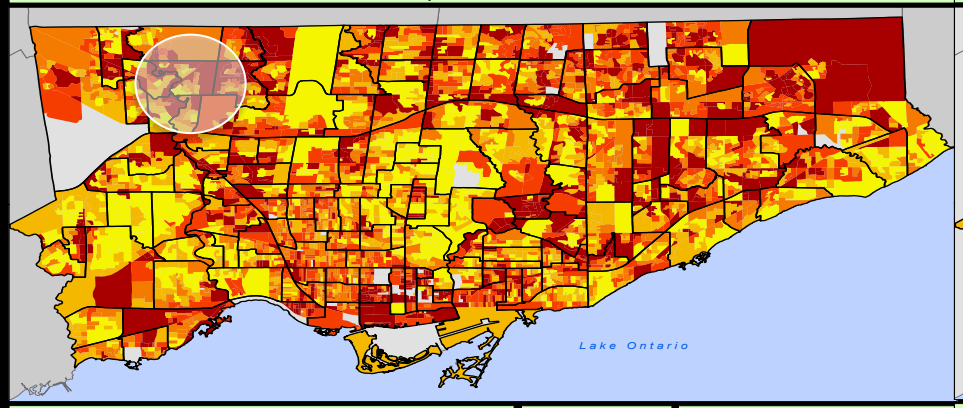
Distribution of Low-Income Private Households, 2006

by Dissemination Area



Legend

Private Households Under LICO

- 0 - 40
- 41 - 75
- 76 - 124
- 125 - 221
- 222 - 4222

Neighbourhood Boundary

No data or data suppression

Notes: Rate is Before Tax. Distribution by quantiles.

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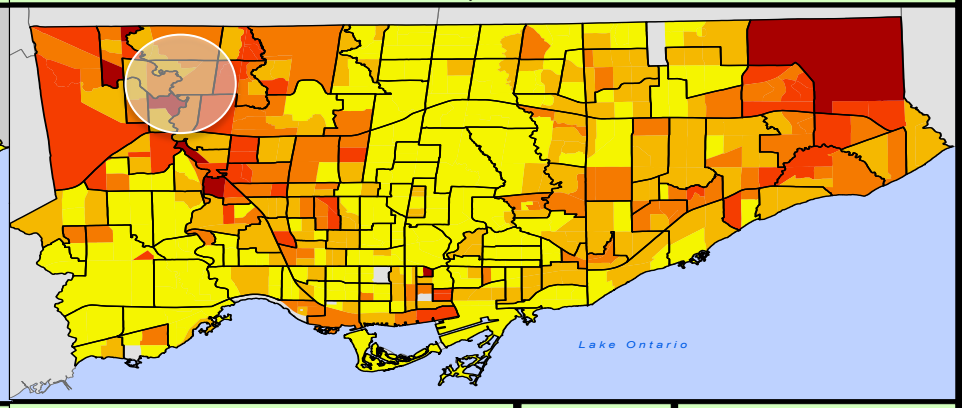
2006 Visible Minority - Black

Persons by Census Tract



Legend

Black Visible Minority Persons

- 0 - 205
- 206 - 510
- 511 - 1,005
- 1,006 - 1,720
- 1,721 - 3,595

Neighbourhood Boundary

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CYBER SPACE

https://citynature.eu/en/location/keskuspuisto/

how to design and manage urban public spaces that cater to heterogeneous publics consisting of individuals whose needs and aspirations we hardly know?

Amin (2009) argues that:

public space does not concern only human 2 human interactions

People – Space – Time – Visible Thing – Nature – Other Species – Invisible Infra – etc.

all and all a condition of "**situated multiplicity**"

we can only *hope* that public space contributes to *civicness*
there is no tool-kit only possibility-making
Amin suggests to work with the keywords:

multiplicity

symbolic solidarity

conviviality

technological maintenance

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mulitplicity

the active juxtaposition of diversity, the play of ground-up and distributed watchfulness, and an entanglement of uses - economic, social, and cultural - that promises individual and collective benefits

symbolic projections [...] oriented towards aesthetic disruption rather than hegemonic confirmation, but always in the spirit of reinventing the ties that bind.

symbolic solidarity

[…] incorporating new images into visual representations of the city can be democratic. It can integrate rather than segregate social and ethnic groups, and it can also help negotiate new group identities.

(Zukin, 1995: 20)

Sharon Zukin, Professor emerita of sociology, Brooklyn College and the City University of NY Graduate Center

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conviviality

comprehensive audit of the sources of civic ease in public space, an exercise that might reveal how the design and lay-out of mundane intermediaries such as sewage systems, traffic rules, public toilets, street furniture, spaces for dogs, children, cars and pushchairs, affect not only the social experience of space but also the civic remains of such experience.

conviviality

technological maintenance

along with postcodes, pipes and cables, satellites, commuting patterns, computers, telephones, software, databases, regulate urban provisioning by setting the delivery systems, internet protocols, rituals of civic and public conduct, family routines and cultures of workplace and residence.

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[expose the] pervasive entanglement between urban technological systems and the social life of cities.

technological maintenance

Thank you!