



Due to confidentiality issues, this full paper has been reduced to its general abstract / a simplified version.

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Title: Elucidating solidarity in Swedish working-class attitudes to ex-ante gentrification

Abstract:

Comprising mostly of ethnographic studies, the literature on gentrification is extensive. However, a complete understanding of this now ubiquitous outcome of local housing development projects eludes us. This is particularly true of the initial phase of this process. Therefore, operationalized as the proposal of *constructing buildings with expensive rental apartments and condominiums in their neighbourhood*, we investigate to what extent residents are either willing to consent to, or reject, impending gentrification. From a survey conducted in three Swedish working-class neighbourhoods, we find that a majority of residents will reject gentrification in solidarity with vulnerable resident groups who fear exorbitant rents. Unsurprisingly, resistance to gentrification is strongest in emergent and traditional working-class neighbourhoods. Nevertheless, our findings cut against the grain of previous research inasmuch as when compared to their older neighbours, younger residents are significantly less likely to give their consent to gentrification. Also, old predictors of attitudes to gentrification, such as gender and length of residency, are not applicable to this initial stage of the process. Finally, we argue that the high level of awareness of, and considerable lack of legitimacy for, gentrification is a democratic problem that city planners cannot avoid.

Keywords: Gentrification, consent, social class, neighbourhood, legitimacy, democracy