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## The Edge and the Center: Gated Communities and the Discourse of Urban Fear

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Across America, middle-class and upper-middle-class gated communities are creating new forms of exclusion and residential segregation, exacerbating social cleavages that already exist (Hakely and Snyder 1997; Higley 1995; Lang and Danielson 1997; Marcuse 1997). While historically secured and gated communities were built in the United States to protect estates and to contain the leisure world of retirees, these urban and suburban developments now target a much broader market, including families with children (Guterson 1992; Lofland 1998). This retreat to secured enclaves with walls, gates, and guards materially and symbolically contradicts American ethos and values, threatens public access to open space, and creates yet another barrier to social interaction, bucking of social networks, as well as increased tolerance of diverse cultural/racial/social groups (Davis 1992; Devine 1996; Iltis 1995; Judd 1995; McKenzie 1994).

In this paper, I explore how the discourse of fear of violence and crime and the search for a secure community by those who live in gated communities in the United States legitimizes and racializes class-based exclusion strategies and residential segregation. I examine whether residents of cities experiencing increasing cultural diversity are fleeing neighborhoods because they have experienced a "loss of place" and therefore feel unsafe and insecure (Ahman and Low 1992). Some people are responding to this loss by clanking to buy into a defensive space, a walled and guarded community that they can call home. [*gated communities, United States, urban fear*]

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Contemporary anthropological studies of the city focus predominantly on the center, producing ethnographies of culturally significant places such as markets, housing projects, gardens, plazas, convention centers, waterfront developments, and homeless shelters that articulate macro- and micro-urban processes (Low 1999). These studies illuminate both the material and metaphorical power of spatial analysis for theorizing the city. One problem, however, is the perpetuation of an uneasy relationship between suburban and urban studies. The historical division between "rural" and "urban" exacerbates this tendency by sorting researchers into separate disciplinary and methodological camps.

The shift to a spatial analysis of the city requires reconsidering this separation in that contradictions and conflicts at the center are often drawn more vividly at the edge.<sup>1</sup> So we find that the suburban "malling of America" is a spatial counterpart of economic restructuring and the de-industrialization of central cities (Zukin 1991); and the cultural diversity and racial tensions of the center are reflected in the segregation and social homogeneity of the suburbs (Massey and Denton 1988). The gated residential development is particularly intriguing, mirroring changes in social values that accompany rapid globalization. Understanding this spatial form, its historical and cultural context, and

why residents choose to live there provides an important perspective on the central city that is often overlooked.

For a majority of Americans the distance from suburb to city, or from work to home, is maintained through a complex social discourse. Anti-urban sentiment is often expressed as fear of violence and crime that is said to pervade the city. Within gated communities, though, the intensity of the discourse of urban fear suggests other underlying societal explanations. In this study, I explore the complex interconnections between this discourse, loss of a sense of place, and increasing class separation. I suggest that adding walls, gates, and guards produces a landscape that encodes class relations and residential (race/class/ethnic/gender) segregation more permanently in the built environment (Low 1997). Understanding how this landscape is legitimated by a discourse of fear of crime and violence helps to uncover how this design form is materially and rhetorically created.

I use thematic content analysis to document the existence of urban fear in its many forms and its influence on residents' residential narratives. Critical discourse analysis provides a complementary methodology for decoding talk about urban fear as an acceptable, socially constructed discourse about class exclusion and racial/ethnic/cultural bias. The use of urban fear discourse reinforces residents' claims

# Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center

**Sheri Lynn Gibbings**



## **Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center:**

The Edge and the Center Setha M. Low, 2006      **Gated Communities** Rowland Atkinson, Sarah Blandy, 2013-09-13 This informative volume gathers contemporary accounts of the growth influences on and impacts of so called gated communities developments with walls gates guards and other forms of surveillance While gated communities have become a common feature of the urban landscape in South Africa Latin and North America it is also clear that there is now significant interest in gated living in the European and East Asian urban context The chapters in this book investigate issues and communities such as gated communities in the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires Argentina planning responses to gated communities in Canada who segregates whom The analysis of a gated community in Mendoza Argentina sprawl and social segregation in southern California These illustrative chapters enable the reader to understand more about the social and economic forces that have lead to gating the ways in which gated communities are managed and their wider effects on both residents and those living outside the gates This book was previously published as a special issue of the journal Housing Studies

*Ärgerliche Räume und Räume der Ergötzlichkeit* Sebastian Ernst, 2018-05-14 Ärgerliche Wirtsh user erg tzliche H fen empfindsame Kerker R ume und Emotionen bilden emotionale Topografien mit deren Hilfe sich die Akteure die Welt als Lebenswelt ordnen und aneignen Der Autor untersucht den Zusammenhang zwischen Bewegung in fr hneuzzeitlichen R umen und der emotionalen Bewegtheit der Akteure Er kommt zu dem Schluss dass Emotionen und R ume dabei nicht nur passiv erlebt sondern aktiv vollzogen werden Denn es handelt sich bei beiden um wechselseitig verbundene Handlungsanweisungen die in Regeln Topoi und Vorstellungen m nden Die sich ergebenden Verflechtungen nehmen verschiedene Formen an die in kulturell sozial und individuell bedingten emotionalen Topografien kulminieren also in Anordnungen von R umen und zugeh rigen Emotionen In dieser Struktur liegen somit Erkl rungen f r das Verhalten der Akteure verborgen From the joyfull harbor to the annoying pub and into the sentimental prison To operate in these early modern spaces demands concurrently an emotional operation of the actors Emotions and spaces are not only passively perceived but actively implemented Both entities are reciprocally interconnected handling instructions which are transformed into rules topoi and concepts The resulting interconnections assume various forms that culminate in culturally socially and individually related emotional topographies The culmination climaxes in formation of spaces and their respective emotions With these interconnections actors are enabled to construct deploy and assume the world as their own lifeworld This structure reveals explanations for the behavior of the actors

**Gated Communities** Samer Bagaeen, Ola Uduku, 2010-02-09 Gated Communities presents a collection of new writings by an international and interdisciplinary group of contributors which provides a historic socio political and contemporary cultural perspective of gated communities      Die US-amerikanische Stadt im Wandel Barbara Hahn, 2025-01-31 Die US amerikanische Stadt ist einem steten Wandel unterworfen Im Osten und Mittleren Westen sind die meisten St dte als Handelsorte an Wasserwegen gegr ndet worden Zu Zeiten der Industrialisierung erlebten sie einen

Aufschwung und ihr Bevölkerungsmaximum erreichten sie Mitte des 20. Jahrhunderts, ehe aufgrund von Suburbanisierung und Deindustrialisierung ein Bedeutungsrückgang einsetzte. Überall zeigten sich Spuren des Verfalls und die Prognosen für die Zukunft waren denkbar schlecht. Wie Barbara Hahn in ihrem Buch zeigt, scheint dieser Trend mittlerweile gebrochen. Es geht wieder aufwärts mit der US-amerikanischen Stadt. Einigen der früheren Industriestädte ist ein Strukturwandel gelungen. Im Süden und Westen des Landes haben sich die Städte zu neuen Wachstumszentren entwickelt. Allerdings profitieren nicht alle Städte von dieser positiven Entwicklung und viele schrumpfen weiter in erschreckendem Ausmaß. Wie die Autorin betont, sind unabhängig von Lage und Entwicklungsstand in allen Städten ähnliche Prozesse wie Neoliberalisierung, Deregulierung, Privatisierung und Gentrifizierung zu beobachten. Aufgrund der Vielzahl an didaktisch aufgearbeiteten Grafiken eignet sich das Buch für Studierende, Wissenschaftler und interessierte Laien als Lektüre. Die Charakteristika der US-amerikanischen Stadt, die anhand aktueller Beispiele herausgearbeitet sind, veranschaulichen ebenso wie die illustrativen Fotos auch dem interessierten Leser den Wandel der US-amerikanischen Stadt.

### **Hegelianische Sozialstaatlichkeit** Joshua

Folkerts, 2024-02-22 In diesem Buch wird erstens Hegels ideengeschichtlicher Beitrag zur Genese von Sozialstaatstheorien herausgearbeitet und zweitens seine politische Theorie für die politiktheoretische Modellierung von Sozialstaatlichkeit fruchtbar gemacht. Mit Hegel lässt sich ein Mittelweg zwischen vor allem ökonomisch orientierter Sozialpolitik und vor allem anerkennungs-fokussierter Identitätspolitik einschlagen, der weder mangelnde Anerkennung nur als Epiphänomen ökonomischer Verhältnisse versteht noch freiheitsbeschränkende Armut durch die Einforderung von Respekt für prekäre Lebenslagen normalisiert. Im genuin modernen Konflikt des Auseinandertretens von Gesellschaft und Staat von sich selbst verwirklichendem Individuum auf dem Markt und der Gemeinschaft zeichnet sich eine neue zentrale Funktion des Staats ab. Die Garantie der Freiheit für seine Bürger. Der Sozialstaat als Mittel dieser staatlichen Freiheitsgarantie erfüllt somit nicht nur eine bedeutende Rolle in der Versöhnung von Individuum und Gemeinschaft, sondern bildet hierdurch zugleich ein zentrales Legitimationselement des modernen Staats.

### **Nachbarschaft, Räume, Emotionen** Sandra Evans, Schamma

Schahadat, 2014-03-15 Kann Nachbarschaft geplant, organisiert oder gar erzwungen werden? Welche Rechte, welche Verantwortung haben die Nachbarn und wie wird der ideale Nachbar definiert? Wo liegt der Unterschied zwischen Nachbarschaft und Gemeinschaft? Dieses Buch richtet den Blick auf den räumlichen und emotionalen Zustand des Nachbar-Seins. Nachbarschaft kann Nähe und Intimität zum räumlich nächsten erzeugen, birgt aber auch die Gefahr von Unstimmigkeiten und Konflikten. Der interdisziplinäre Band untersucht verschiedene Entwürfe und Realisierungen von Nachbarschaft. Die Beiträge richten den Blick auf unterschiedliche Formate: auf die sowjetische Kommunalwohnung, die amerikanische gated community, auf den Klosterbau, aber auch auf gute und schlechte Nachbarschaften in der Literatur. Mit Beiträgen von Zygmunt Bauman und Slavoj Žižek und mit zwei Texten von Wladimir Kaminer.

### **Die fragmentierte**

**Stadt** Georg Glasze, 2013-07-02 In vielen Ländern der Welt sind in den letzten Jahren Siedlungen und Apartmentanlagen

entstanden die durch Zune abgeschlossen sind und deren Zugänge bewacht werden Das Buch untersucht anhand bewachter Wohnkomplexe im Libanon die Ursachen und die sozialen Folgen dieser Fragmentierung der Siedlungsstrukturen **The**

**Gated City** Emma Regina Morales, 2025-04-23 The book tells the story of the proliferation of gated communities and the privatisation of public life and public space in Mexico over the last three decades Drawing on research from Lomas de Angelópolis in Puebla one of the largest gated communities in the world Emma Regina Morales explores why such fortified spaces have proved popular with middle class households Weaving together the multiple influences of housing policy predatory financial markets and an increased fear of crime the book sets out how policy makers and planners can improve decision making and provide non gated solutions to urban anxiety **There Was Nothing There** Sara Martucci, 2024-05-21

Explores the daily lived effects of gentrification for neighborhood residents Williamsburg Brooklyn a prominent neighborhood in New York City has undergone significant transformations through cycles of divestment and gentrification In 2005 the city's decision to rezone the Williamsburg waterfront for high rise housing led to a profound alteration of the physical cultural and social landscape The result was the rapid influx of thousands of new residents many of them wealthy giving rise to luxury buildings upscale dining and high end retail stores alongside new norms and expectations for the neighborhood These new arrivals coexist with earlier gentrifiers as well as working class Latinx and white ethnic populations creating a complex and layered community In *There Was Nothing There* Sara Martucci draws on four decades of residents' memories and experiences providing insights into the tensions contradictions and inequalities brought about by gentrification Martucci focuses on the individual level exploring how residents form connections to their neighborhoods and how these attachments shape their daily experiences of public spaces local consumption and evaluations of safety As established residents bohemians and newcomers vie for ownership and belonging their perceptions give rise to conflicting narratives that define the essence of the neighborhood While the book's primary focus is Williamsburg it serves as a cautionary tale about the broader impact of state led gentrification extending far beyond Brooklyn The text underscores the potential consequences of such transformations for the future of cities urging readers to consider the implications of cultural displacement

homogenization and increased surveillance as gentrification permeates urban landscapes *Everyday Sectarianism in Urban Lebanon* Joanne Randa Nucho, 2016-11-22 What causes violent conflicts around the Middle East All too often the answer is sectarianism popularly viewed as a timeless and intractable force that leads religious groups to conflict In *Everyday Sectarianism in Urban Lebanon* Joanne Nucho shows how wrong this perspective can be Through in depth research with local governments NGOs and political parties in Beirut she demonstrates how sectarianism is actually recalibrated on a daily basis through the provision of essential services and infrastructures such as electricity medical care credit and the planning of bridges and roads Taking readers to a working class predominantly Armenian suburb in northeast Beirut called Bourj Hammoud Nucho conducts extensive interviews and observations in medical clinics social service centers shops

banking coops and municipal offices She explores how group and individual access to services depends on making claims to membership in the dominant sectarian community and she examines how sectarianism is not just tied to ethnoreligious identity but also class gender and geography Life in Bourj Hammoud makes visible a broader pattern in which the relationships that develop while procuring basic needs become a way for people to see themselves as part of the greater public Illustrating how sectarianism in Lebanon is not simply about religious identity as is commonly thought Everyday Sectarianism in Urban Lebanon offers a new look at how everyday social exchanges define and redefine communities and conflicts

**T.C. Boyle's "The Tortilla Curtain": Urban Conditions, Racism, and Ecological Disaster in Fortress Los Angeles** Laura Schomaker, 2015-02-01 Los Angeles is famous for its sunny weather for the Hollywood film studios and for being the residence of the rich and beautiful And although or precisely because all this is more illusion than reality the city frequently serves as setting for various pieces of fiction However Los Angeles does not only play a huge role in the media but since lately also in the realm of urban studies Having long been a kind of outsider in the field it is now regarded as a prototypical example for urban development by the L A School In this context its image is less sunny and positive but reveals a deep rooted racism against Latin American immigrants in combination with a fortress mentality on the part of its white population as well as a unique urban ecology in which natural catastrophes seem to be regular occurrences This paper intends to outline the significance of Los Angeles in urban studies and trace the thereby acquired findings in a fictional representation of the city T C Boyle s novel The Tortilla Curtain In the process it is shown how urban conditions racism and nature especially in the form of ecological disasters intersect and influence each other

**Global Elites A.** Kakabadse, 2011-12-12 Exploring the nature configuration and influence of global elites this book examines the impact of elites on transnational policy development and strategically on corporations as board members of PLCs and international joint ventures Overall the book provides a balanced view of how our present day elites operate

**Pakistan: From the Rhetoric of Democracy to the Rise of Militancy** Ravi Kalia, 2012-08-21 The essays in this volume address the central theme of Pakistan s enduring yet elusive quest for democracy The book charts Pakistan s struggle from its very inception at least in the political rhetoric provided by both civilian and military leaders for democracy liberalism freedom of expression inclusiveness of minorities and even secularism At the same time it demonstrates how in practice the country has continued to drift towards increasingly brittle authoritarianism religious extremism and intolerance of minorities both Muslim and non Muslim This chasm between animated political rhetoric and grim political reality has baffled the world as much as Pakistanis themselves In this volume scholars and practitioners of statecraft from around the world have sought to explain the dichotomy that exists between the rhetoric and the reality Crucial areas such as Pakistan s troubled status as a theocracy its relationship with the US the position of women and their quest for empowerment the Mujahir Qaumi movement the sharp class divide that has led to an elitist political culture and finally an erudite discussion of the popular topic Jinnah s vision of

Pakistan are the focus of this book This volume will be of interest to scholars of history political science international relations sociology anthropology and urban planning policy makers and think tanks as well as the wider reading public curious about South Asia

**The Two-Income Trap** Elizabeth Warren, Amelia Warren Tyagi, 2016-04-12 From 1 New York Times bestselling author Senator Elizabeth Warren and consultant Amelia Warren Tyagi the classic book about America's middle class and why economic security remains out of reach for many In this expos Elizabeth Warren and Amelia Warren Tyagi show that modern middle class families are increasingly trapped by the grinding reality of flat wages and rising costs Warren and Tyagi reveal how a ferocious bidding war for housing and education has silently engulfed America's suburbs driving up the cost of keeping families in the middle class and placing unprecedented pressure on hard working families Revolutionary when it was first published in 2003 The Two Income Trap remains disturbingly relevant today Now with a new introduction by the authors The Two Income Trap shows why the usual remedies won't solve the problem and points toward the policy changes that would create better opportunities for both parents and children

**Research in Urban Sociology** Mark Clapson, Ray Hutchison, 2010-12-14 Presents contributions in comparative suburban studies for urban regions not just in Europe and the United States but also metropolitan regions in China India and other areas of the world This title examines the patterns of suburban development in metropolitan regions around the globe

Hegemony, Security Infrastructures and the Politics of Crime Gideon van Riet, 2021-11-01 This book examines the politics of crime and the response to it in Potchefstroom a small settler colonial city in South Africa It draws on the city's everyday practices and experiences to offer local bottom up insights into security beyond the state The book provides a comprehensive understanding of security beyond the state and how security workers and residents experience and perceive their own security practices their daily interactions with other security providers which influences power dynamics between those who express fear through various platforms and those deemed potential criminals It aids in re conceptualising violence and security governance in South Africa with a view to analysing the processes of crime prevention and management the changing nature of public and private spaces and how these spaces interact with state and local authorities In a rigorous exploration of the ways to tackle the complex problem of crime the book critiques an overreliance on security infrastructures such as social media gated barriers neighbourhood residents associations and private security companies It also looks at how crime is treated as an individual as opposed to a societal problem The book addresses the urgent need for collaboration across these fault lines to promote a more inclusive security in a broader fragmented social and political context With a novel analytical approach based on the twin optics of infrastructure and post structural hegemony the book will be relevant to scholars and students of South African politics and critical security studies as well as international audience interested in crime and private security

Lokalität und kulturelle Heterogenität Esther Baumgärtner, 2015-07-15 Urbane Räume der Gegenwart sind zunehmend durch eine hohe sozio kulturelle Heterogenität gekennzeichnet Doch wie sieht das Zusammenleben differenter Gruppen in solchen

Stadtgebieten aus Esther Baumg rter erm glicht tiefe Einblicke in den Alltag eines multi ethnischen Stadtraums in Deutschland Ihre dichte ethnographische Forschung ist von der zentralen Frage geleitet wie sich die Bewohner mit ihrem Quartier den Stigmatisierungen aufgrund des marginalisierten Umfeldes und den gegenw rtigen Entwicklungsprozessen auseinandersetzen und sich und ihren Wohnort im sozialen Raum der Stadt verorten **Shadow Play** Sheri Lynn

Gibblings,2021-07-30 Focusing on government organized relocations of street vendors in Indonesia Shadow Play carefully exposes the reasons why conflicts over urban planning are fought through information politics Anthropologist Sheri Lynn Gibblings shows that information politics are the principal avenues through which the municipal government of Yogyakarta city seeks to implement its urban projects Information politics are also the primary means through which street vendors activists and NGOs can challenge these plans Through extensive interviews and lengthy participant observation in Yogyakarta Gibblings shows that both state and non state actors engage in transparency rumours conspiracies and surveillance practices Gibblings reveals that these entangled information practices create suspicion and fear form new solidarities and dissolve relationships Shadow Play is a compelling study explaining how we cannot understand urban projects in post Suharto Indonesia and the resistance to them without first understanding the complexities embedded in the information practices **Motherhood, Poverty, and the WIC Program in Urban America** Suzanne

Morrissey,2015-12-24 The study presented here is one of urban poverty household survival and social institutions that both enable and control the decision making of poor women in America First and foremost it is about a public health program the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children known more commonly as WIC and how the institution re inscribes persistent stereotypes of the urban poor on the women it eagerly wishes to serve Despite encountering opposition and occasionally humiliation at the hands of those chosen to serve many low income women throughout the United States and Puerto Rico return to WIC every month because it represents a rite of passage that characterizes pregnancy Enrolling in WIC prenatally signifies to others the importance of providing for one s family in spite of socioeconomic disadvantage Yet whether women access WIC benefits or not their lived realities include a painful and enduring connection between urban poverty and health inequalities particularly inequalities leading to poor birth outcomes and infant mortality as explored in this urban ethnography



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## **Table of Contents Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center**

1. Understanding the eBook Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
  - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center User Reviews and Ratings
  - Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center Free and Paid eBooks
  - Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center Public Domain eBooks
  - Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center eBook Subscription Services

- Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center eBook Formats
  - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center Compatibility with Devices
  - Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
  - Interactive Elements Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
- 8. Staying Engaged with Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
  - Setting Reading Goals Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Gated Communities And The Discourse Of Urban Fear Center
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends

- Integration of Multimedia Elements
- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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