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# 4

## The LSE Cities Programme

### Critical City: An Exploration of Tottenham

# 6



## Realising Justice

Realising Justice is concerned with developer-led, mixed-used regeneration in White Hart Lane. Utilising a framework of justice, it argues that control over resources provides intervening groups the ability to aspire and realise spatial visions, and in turn diagnose the current regeneration as unjust due to the concentration of resources with the private sector. Its intervention advocates for a redistribution of resources towards impacted residents, businesses, but also in re-enabling the increasingly constrained council, providing potential for a socio-spatially just regeneration.

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# 32



## The State of Estates

The State of Estates explores the current housing crisis and its manifestations in Tottenham through historical and empirical research. The project seeks to address issues of local housing need, looking beyond market-driven solutions, which have historically fallen short. Utilising learnings from three in-depth case studies, it establishes an alternative strategy towards a truly affordable housing estate on a proposed redevelopment site, Ashley Road.

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60



## Mesocosm

Mesocosm draws attention to spaces that fall between major urban hubs. It critically responds to the logic of development as outlined in the London Plan, where growth is concentrated in a number of distinct and commercially-focused hubs, and shows that these in-between spaces are often underfunded by local government despite retaining importance to their habitual users. An intervention on Broad Lane promotes a bottom-up form of mesocosm governance, by which residents and stakeholders might offset problems of council neglect, and contest changes resulting from the growth of nearby hub developments.

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88



## Synergetic Retail

Synergetic Retail uses the popular and corporate retail models found in Seven Sister's Market and Tottenham Hale Retail Park as the basis for an exploration of how these two model types can symbiotically exist in the same space. It proposes an alternative management and ownership scheme that draws from lessons in the popular model and applies them to the corporate model in order to provide a space that responds to local conditions and perspectives. Through this synergetic scheme, the proposal endeavours to enable spaces in which a socially diverse, low-income population has the opportunity to exist.

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116



## The Politics of Diversity

The Politics of Diversity examines the discourse of diversity that has been depoliticised and co-opted to attract investment to Tottenham. This project has been carried out through a historical document analysis and interviews with representatives from cultural and community centres in the neighbourhood. It shows that in urban politics, diversity can be harnessed as positive and profitable but that this process may obscure and can exacerbate issues of racism, discrimination, disadvantage and ethnic inequality.

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# The LSE Cities Programme

The Cities Programme at the London School of Economics is an innovative centre for graduate education and research on urban issues. The Programme focuses on the relation between the social and physical organisation of cities and urban spaces. We understand design as a process of research and practice that shapes urban environments, responds to urban problems, and integrates social and material forms in the city. We take a multi-disciplinary approach to these issues, drawing on expertise and insights from the social sciences, architecture and urban design, engineering, planning, law, economics and other fields. The faculty team includes social scientists and political theorists, architects and urban designers, transport and planning experts. Our MSc City Design and Social Science aims to support the development of critical and committed urbanists who can work across disciplinary boundaries and have a positive impact on the making of cities in the future.

The City Design Research Studio is the centrepiece of the Master's programme, linking critical debates and research with the detailed analysis of problems of city design and development, and advancing original proposals for urban intervention. It promotes an understanding of the city as a social as well as a built environment. In 2014-15, the Studio focused on Tottenham as a context for exploring the dimensions of the 'critical city'. What does it mean to live in a city in a 'critical' condition? How should we respond critically to contemporary forms of urban development? And what critical interventions can we propose for urban problems today? Drawing on the tools of urban social science and creative approaches to city design, the aim of the Studio was both to understand Tottenham's challenges and its collective resources, and to propose urban interventions that might work with these social and spatial assets rather than facilitating their erasure.

These projects move from housing contexts to spaces of commerce, politics and play. They consider major schemes for urban renewal, as well as shifting the focus to more incidental spaces or overlooked sites of social encounter, exchange and occupation. They seek to move beyond diagnoses and discourses of urban crisis – and standard policy and planning responses to them – to think more imaginatively about the potential of a critical urbanism that takes social value, social assets and social claims seriously as the basis for city-making. The studio group worked in interdisciplinary teams to define and research their site contexts, to develop sensitive accounts of existing conditions and potential futures, and to propose original strategies for urban intervention. Their analyses, insights and propositions form the basis of this year's publication.

Fran Tonkiss  
Director, LSE Cities Programme

# Critical City: An Exploration of Tottenham

The theme of Critical City invokes the image of the city at a crossroads. The word critical can be traced to the Ancient Greek word for a turning point, the moment when a decision must be made. It can describe something in the throes of crisis – or denote a critique of established ways of doing things.

In today's contested, unequal cities, this theme raises a number of questions. Who decides which version of the city shall prevail? What unrealised possibilities exist for local urban life? How should we criticise contemporary neighbourhood development? What alternative projects can we propose?

Students explored these issues through fine-grained study of Tottenham in the borough of Haringey in northeast London. Tottenham is a place where many of the crises of urban life are visible. It is one of the poorest neighbourhoods in the most unequal borough in the capital. Many Tottenham residents are subjected to various forms of injustice, and the area has repeatedly been the site of uprisings and riots. But Tottenham should not be seen as a space of deprivation or dysfunction. The area is home to a huge number of cultural groups and institutions. And it is by some accounts the most ethnically and linguistically diverse district in Europe.

Tottenham is a contested ground. Haringey Council, Tottenham Hotspur F.C. and other powerful organisations have developed their own visions for the area's future. But many locals fear that the official regeneration plans will bring gentrification and displacement rather than social progress.

Students' work on these issues developed around a number of themes, including agency, exclusion, participation and the legacy of the housing and community development schemes of the past. They explored many difficult tensions: between the Council's plans and those of various Tottenham communities; between meeting the needs of current residents and building for newcomers; between commercial imperatives and social logics.

This studio publication represents the work of five groups over two terms. The first term centred on developing frameworks, locating data and refining research techniques. The second term was focused on exploring issues in more depth and developing strategies for intervention. Each group examined a different site within Tottenham, and drew on different methods from social science, design and architecture. Through their research and interventions, the resulting projects explore some of the critical issues in Tottenham today.

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Convenors, City Design Research Studio, 2014-15