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Rethinking Suburban Cultures

Cultural studies has long had a interest in suburban cultures. In formative contexts in the North America, Britain and Australia, suburbia has come naturally into focus in the turn of the field to the everyday. But the history of engagement with suburbia has also put in place assumptions which may now need to be brought into question. Four, at least, might be identified:

- that the suburbs are primarily a site of consumption and/or unpaid labour
- that the suburbs are relatively homogeneous beside the cosmopolitanism and diversity of the city
- that suburban experience is largely an experience of the developed (and particularly the Anglophone) world
- that suburbs stand in relation to the city as dependent satellites, rather than as independent nodes in the global economy

Papers are sought which reflect on these assumptions and advance ideas on how we should now engage with suburban cultures.