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Suburban Spaces: ‘Shown’ as Unique Places?

Suburbia is frequently conceived as a relatively homogenous ‘other’ to the urban ‘centre’. The paper considers (cf Soja’s *Thirdspace*) the extent to which lived suburban space is conceived as, and imagined ‘into’, a “unique place”. In presenting a Queensland case study, it suggests Brookfield residents are seeking to create or sustain a lifestyle different not only from the urban centre, but also from perceived norms of ‘modern’ Australian suburbia – as communicated through the community festival that is the local show.

Australia hosts many hundreds of agricultural shows every year. Sustaining a ‘folk’ or rural ‘tradition’ the Brookfield Show has survived the growing urbanisation of the area to celebrate a centenary in 2010. Residents, and visitors, experience the traditional Australian rural show – complete with ‘showbags’, ‘fairy floss’, rodeos, and cake-baking competitions – within a suburb of the state capital, located less than 20 minutes from Brisbane’s centre.