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The Affect of Suburbanisms in the Global North and South

“The Affect of Suburbanisms” considers qualitative definitions of suburbia, globally, to ask what is the 'it-ness' of suburbanism. While there is a diversity of impetuses to peripheral urban development, questions of the governance of the urban and peri-urban spaces of social reproduction, and histories which trace the development of, for example, nuclear-family housing, suburbia as an object of research appears significant because of its ineffable and affective aspects. It does not have the clear boundaries and consistency of an empirical object or noun. American 'Suburbia' is the political-economic opposite of Brazilian 'suburbio'. It appears to have a range of topologies and temporalities. What are the implications of theorizing suburbia as a social spatialization rather than an object and as an ambivalent discourse of separation yet affiliation, departure yet tarrying with the urban? This is one theoretical foundation for a 3 year international team study of suburbanisms in the global north and south.