Culture-led Urban Development: Ambivalence or Ambiguities?

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Practices of cultural production, often associated with public policies, are supposed to contribute to fostering the quality of urban life, both generating an advantageous climate for new economic activities and reinforcing the sense of place and community belonging. A vast literature in urban studies has long supported this thesis, starting from some internationally well-known successful cases and extracting from them general recipes supposedly suitable for any city or neighborhood. Starting from a critical perspective on the interconnections between cultural practices and urban regeneration, and developing on the concept of place-making, the seminar aims at deconstructing the orthodoxy of creative cities and cultural districts and offering some insights into alternative practices of cultural actors and organizations in the urban realm.