

Representing Place: Developing the creative power of people to improve health and wellbeing

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How do we understand places?

- How do we currently know places?
- Who has the power to represent places?
- What is the relationship between how places are understood and the types of lives that become possible?

Focus will be the east end community of
Dennistoun



Google

Group	ID	Indicator	Count	%	Difference from Glasgow		Time Period
Population	P1	People aged 0 - 15	1,271	11.2%		-30%	2012
	P2	People aged 16 - 64	8,758	77.5%		+11%	
	P3	People aged 65 - 74	634	5.6%		-23%	
	P4	People aged 75 and over	642	5.7%		-15%	
Cultural	C1	People from an ethnic minority	1,179	10.4%		-10%	2011
	C2	People who are married, in a civil partnership, or co-habiting	3,492	35.1%		-16%	
	C3	Single parent households	385	43.4%		+7%	
	C4	Householders living alone	2,882	25.8%		+21%	
	C5	People with religious affiliation	5,993	53.0%		-14%	
Environment/ Transport	E1	People who travel to place of work or study by walking, bike or public transport	4,883	63.4%		+26%	2011
	E2	People living within 500m of vacant or derelict land	6,006	53.2%		-12%	
	E3	Households with one or more cars	2,604	42.0%		-15%	
	E4	Overcrowded households	1,204	19.4%		+12%	
Socio-economic	S1	Owner occupied households	2,533	40.9%		-10%	2011
	S2	People with grade D or E social classification	1,407	26.8%		-21%	
	S3	People in employment	5,916	62.6%		+10%	
	S4	People claiming Employment and Support Allowance	330	2.9%		-15%	2012
	S5	People claiming out of work benefits	1,455	17.0%		-20%	
Education	ED1	Adults with qualifications at Higher level and above	6,160	61.2%		+27%	2011
	ED2	Young people not in education, employment or training	104	22.1%		+87%	
Poverty	PO1	People in income deprivation	2,175	19.2%		-10%	2012
	PO2	People of working age in employment deprivation	1,315	15.3%		-20%	
	PO3	Children in poverty	550	41.2%		+28%	2011
Health	H1	People in "good" or "very good" health	9,131	80.8%		+4%	2011
	H2	People limited "a lot" or "a little" by disability	2,156	19.1%		-16%	
	H3	Male life expectancy	70.8 years			-2%	2008 - 2012
	H4	Female life expectancy	76.7 years			-2%	

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Representations of place easily come to define the people and lives that are lived there

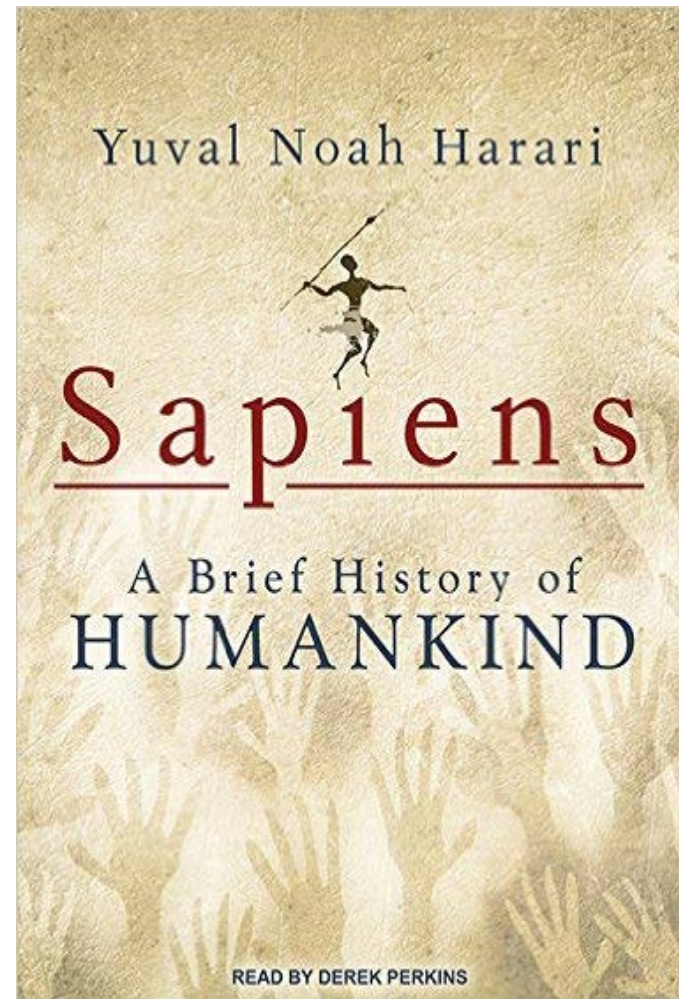
Particular communities and geographical areas are presented in negative and unequal ways in a manner which can impact on community identity and self-worth (Brent 2009)



Places which come to be known by their indices of policy defined problems have been understood as places that are not 'proper' (Popay et al 2003) and are mythologised in ways that perpetuate negative imaginings of people as 'passive, stuck and disconnected' (Hanley, 2008: ix)

The power of collective imaginings

Fictions have enabled us not merely to imagine things but to do so *collectively*. We can weave common myths such as the biblical creation story, the Dreamtime myths of Aboriginal Australians and nationalist myths of modern states. Such myths give Sapiens the unprecedented ability to cooperate flexibly in large numbers” (Harari, 2011: 27)



Representing Communities

enabling change

Representing Dennistoun
Glasgow
Enter

Representing 'Butetown'
Cardiff
Enter



Representing Cromarty
The Black Isle, Highland
Enter

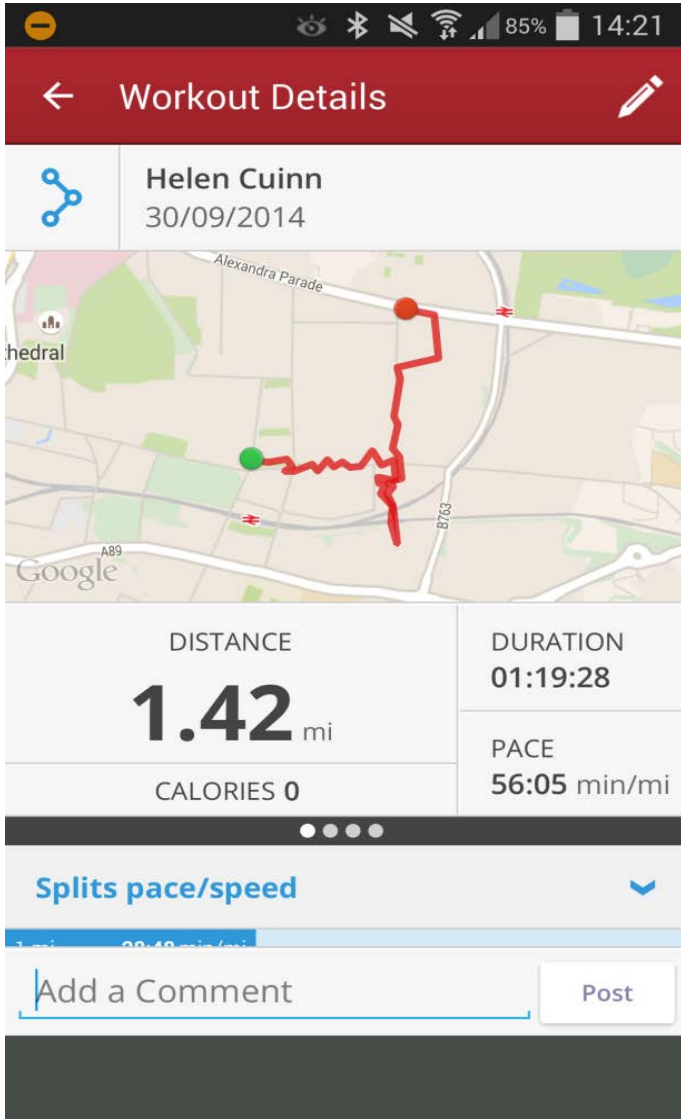
Representing Hodge Hill
Birmingham
Enter

Representing North Merthyr
Heads of the Valleys
Enter

Case study stages

1. Exploring existing representations (statistical and cultural)
2. Collection of new data using a mix of creative and participatory methods
3. The translation of 'data' into new forms of storytelling
4. Presentation of outputs to local and national policy makers and service developers

Walking interviews: *Show us places in Dennistoun that have meaning for you*



The Roller

By Eleanor Thom

Diane

I always thought that if I was going to live in a tenement, I'd live in a red one, like my gran did. The red's where it's at. I swing the black sacks out the front, go into my pocket for the key and lock the door.

It's sunny out. The first bright day of the year. Paper daffodils, pompom chicks with wire feet, and colouring-ins of Easter eggs decorate the windows of shops, cafes, and the nursery school down the road. I'm too warm in my coat. The sweat off my palms mixes with the tarry smell of the plastic sacks, the handles stretching with the weight of the stuff inside. It's good to get rid of things. I like a spot of Spring cleaning.

Some of this stuff came from Gran's old flat. I kept more of it than I should have. I suppose that's what we do when things change too fast. You try to hold on to the way things were. Gran was smart when she was younger. She kept cupboards of shoes and handbags, some of them so old they were coming back in fashion. She



Re-imagining Dennistoun



The Repairman Bill Bailey



Findings



Findings

- 1. A longing for social connection



WALL STREET

TRY

6!

93!

ACTING WRAP



Call in!



A PLAN



ACH OOH,
ATE, NAW
YEA TEAT
OOT!
"HARD OAN"
AWAY AP
YEA P OOK



THEY CAN'T
BE BOLD TO DEFEND



2. Belonging (and not belonging) in the face of change

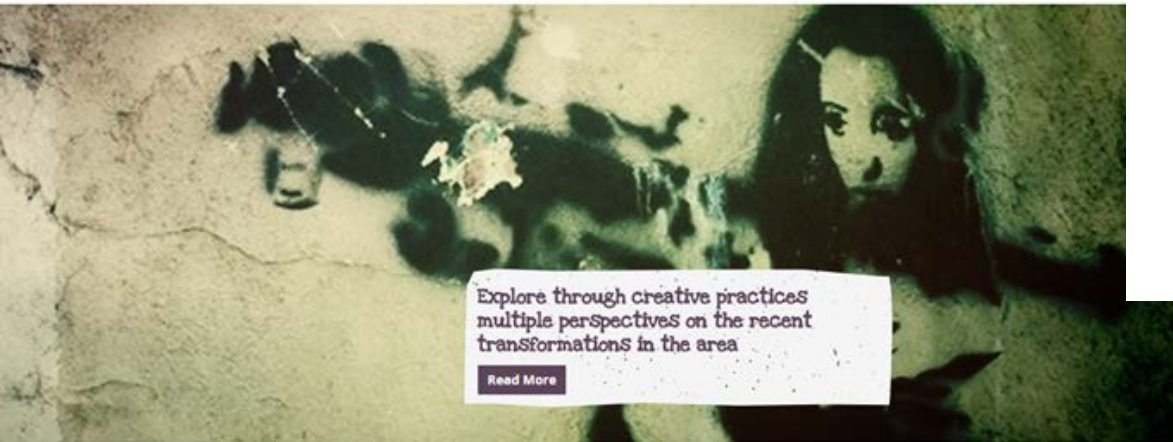


3. Empowerment



Where does this leave us?

- Social regeneration: focus on the strengths, hopes and what is already there
- How we know an area can be how we change an area: method is the change
- Art/ creativity's value in unearthing 'hope, dreams and ambitions' as intangible assets (Burnell 2013) as the sources of resilience, adaptability and diversity within communities.



Connected Communities Festival 2015 – Dennistoun

The Dennistoun Connected Communities Festival involved a group of over-65s from a local sheltered housing facility at Minbank Housing Association (MHA). In a collaboration between Dennistoun Library (Glasgow Life) and MHA, seven participants worked alongside a researcher, Dr Claire McKechnie-Mason, to explore ways in which they could represent their lives in Dennistoun through creative practices, including writing, drawing, colouring, collage, and memory jars. Weekly sessions took place between 12th May and 9th June 2015. The Connected Communities Festival, which was open to the public, took place in Dennistoun Library on 16th June 2015. With support from MHA volunteers and support workers, and Glasgow Life staff, opportunities to participate were provided at MHA sheltered housing complex and Dennistoun Library. Refreshments were provided by Dennistoun Library and MHA. Transport, when required, was provided by MHA. £250 worth of materials was provided by MHA. Given the level of support given to the project by MHA and Glasgow Life, funds awarded by the AHRC were put towards the production of a film about the process and outcome of the Connected Communities Festival work. This film was screened at the festival and sent out to other case studies for use at their festivals. The film is available here



<http://representingcommunities.co.uk/dennistoun/>