

URBAN CITIZENSHIP: AN ANTIPODIAN PERSPECTIVE

Oren Yiftachel, Ben-Gurion University, Israel and University College
London, UK

The lecture provides a critical overview of recent developments in research into 'urban citizenship', focusing on the 'Southern Turn' in urban studies, and its application to Australian Cities. The lectures 'travel' through key concepts and innovation developed by 'Southern' and 'Eastern' scholarship on the contemporary city, including 'deep difference', 'subaltern urbanism', 'self-constructed urbanism', 'grey space' and 'displaceability'. It traces the main ideas and contestations in the face of recent disruptions to the establishment of equal and free urban societies, such as massive migration, skewed land markets, spiraling housing prices and debt, neo-nationalism and coloniality. The lecture pays particular attention to urban displacement and the condition of '**displaceability**', which have become major (often overlooked) disruption to the attainment of urban citizenship, influencing mostly immigrants, indigenous people and the young. Recent land, housing and planning policies have often placed these groups in a state of 'permanent temporariness' and thus under the 'shadow' of potential displacement. Drawing on international examples, the lecture shows how this process has transformed the nature of urban rights and powers, creating structural inequalities and pervasive latent conflicts. The lecture will close by discussing the implications of the above to Australian cities, and by offering the concept of 'metrozenship' as new normative horizon for the coming urban age.