University-led urban regeneration?

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National Engage Conference 2014
‘The urban location and centrality of universities to the nature and well-being of cities means that cities and countries can be expected to turn to their universities as part of strategies to respond to the new challenges and opportunities that global economic competition poses for urban regions’

(Wiewel and Perry 2008 p304)
+ve

• universities offer stability (‘sticky capital’, Maurasse 2001 – cf also Work Foundation) and local employment,

• produce skilled localised workforces to power the knowledge economy (cf NESTA report 2009)

• have access to alternative and diverse sources of funding that can be directed into physical projects with benefits for stakeholders including business and local communities
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- universities have a fundamental spatial independence from their physical contexts arising from their position within global circuits of capital
- universities tend to view the city rather as a strategic than physical space, and their relationship with it to be managed in order to promote their global performance rather than local regeneration
- institutional deadlock makes it hard for individual academic actors to engage with local contexts and various types of urban stakeholders from a research and impact perspective
- university actors often lack local and contextual knowledge about their physical location because they deal in a universal vision of knowledge production
- local stakeholders distrust universities for ‘laboratorising’ the city and its inhabitants, without bringing actual benefits – or because of historical predatory takeover bids and failures to engage with communities
DATA WHAT?
A CREATIVE EVENING ABOUT COMMUNITY DATA
• explore potential for technology-enabled community participation strategies over time

• use university resources to offer new skills and knowledges about the local environment

• explore meaning and relevance of digital data in everyday urban environment
• foster sense of community ownership through access to environmental data

• inform the design of the site as a conjunction of physical and digital spaces

‘Access to data is a key element of local democracy’

(The power of information taskforce, Urban Buzz funded project 2007)
Street Fair,
Somerleyton Rd
June 2014
Data visualisation workshop, No 6 Somerleyton Rd
July 2014
Menu

- Brixton Road near Brixton Station
- Regency Place in Westminster
- Bushy Park in Richmond
- Oxford Street near Selfridges
The Future of Somerleyton Road....

PLEASE COME IN

3PM-LATE

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