Diversification and changing neighbourhood spaces in Auckland’s Avondale

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Situating Urban Encounters

- Urban Encounters / CADDANZ project

- 2 empirically-driven conceptual points:
  a) fleeting encounters
  b) pragmatic coexistence
Situating Urban Encounters

• State of the art: too prescriptive and European-based.

• Migration and resulting diversification as situated in and as expressed through specific contexts such as Auckland.

• We call for a more situated understanding of “breathable diversity” by highlighting the importance of the partial and fleeting forms of diversity-in-practice.
Avondale’s public spaces
Neighbourliness

“I wouldn’t call it big friendships but knowing that you can knock on the neighbour’s door, I think it’s a good thing.”

Norms of neighbourliness and socio-demographic change:

International newcomers:

“We have a Chinese family, a Filipino family, a Vietnamese family ... immediately on our boundary. I don’t know how comfortable they all feel speaking to someone in English all the time.”

Internal affluent newcomers:

“I think it’s as if people are saying: ‘oh, I live here but I don’t want to have anything to do with you’.”
Market encounters
“cause that’s a bumping space, you know, if you see the same person every week at the market you start to get to know that person then you cross them in the street. Whole connections get built really slowly without any pressure.”
Pragmatic encounters

• Pragmatic encounters serve to
  – manage the practicalities of coexistence
  – increase sense of safety
  – build sense of community

• Breathable diversity
CaDDANZ
Capturing the Diversity Dividend of Aotearoa/New Zealand