Structures of Urban Conviviality:
Everyday Multiculturalism as more than Interpersonal

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Everyday Multiculturalism and its ecosystem

Intercultural relations as everyday encounter, everyday lived and negotiated co-existence ... work, school, sport, neighbourhoods, public spaces cities etc

Mediating ethos, histories, categorisations of difference, racisms, media discourse, political zeitgeist

Mediating structures, institutions, regulations, political, legal and policy frameworks, programmes, built environments, technologies
A grounded approach to understanding the *everyday practice* and negotiation of multiculturalism,

- explores how cultural diversity is experienced and negotiated on the ground in everyday situations such as neighbourhoods and workplaces;
- and how social relations and social actors’ identities are shaped and re-shaped in the process (Wise and Velayutham, 2009)
- The retention of ‘ISM’ in everyday multicultural *ism* (rather than simply ‘multiculture’ is intended to signal how wider histories, structures and forces mediate the everyday contours of coexistence. The not so local of face to face encounter.
- The ‘ISM’ includes policies of multiculturalism; on group based rights, service provision and legislation; wider economic structures; media discourse and political debate; the variegated forms of migrant citizenship and migration regimes signalled in the superdiversity debate (eg temporary migrants vs long settled); the built environment; histories of racism and colonisation.
About 28.1% of Australians are born overseas. Almost half of all Australians were either born overseas or have one parent born overseas.

189,000 people migrated permanently to Australia in 2015-2016.
- Skilled visas comprising 67.7%
- Family reunion 32.2%
- India, China, England, Philippines & Pakistan top source countries.

Plus about 17,000 humanitarian entrants (refugees) annually

TEMPORARY – far outstrips permanent:

And about 177,390 (85,000 granted 2016) temporary 457 work visa holders (India 31%, UK, China, Philippines top source countries)

Student visas: 700,000 (half with work entitlements)

Guestimate of another 200,000 on temp graduate work visas
• Maximising **straightforward participation**, (strolling, street markets, playgrounds, places for informal sport)
• Legitimising **diversity of activity**, 
• Designing in **micro-retreats** of nearby quietness, and; 
• Addressing **structural inequalities of open space provision**.


• Small symbols of recognition built into the landscape
WALKABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD

ASHFIELD PARK

+ Proximity to local Schools with local kids
  + Flats + Houses + Walkable to high streets, transport.
  + Socio-cultural mix + Grandparents (I’ll come to that)
WALKABILITY
+
SOCIAL MIX

Flats in Ashfield

Big houses in Haberfield
Benches
Sitting as co-presence
A framework for urban design practice – parks

Rishbeth et al (2018)

- Maximising straightforward participation,
- Legitimising diversity of activity,
- Designing in micro-retreats of nearby quietness and
- Addressing structural inequalities of open space provision.

Sitting…
Watching walking
Walking ... strolling with purpose and without
BBQ-ing
Picnicking
Exercising
PLAY & PARKS
the walkable suburb
Games & play
CURIOUS

BELONGINGS
TREES & TAI CHI
A homeless woman has lived in this car for several years and hangs her washing on this tree. Locals all know her.
SYMBOLS
Transnational belongings
SYMBOLS
Inclusive &
intercultural
belongings
ASHFIELD CARNIVAL
TRANSNATIONAL belongings
BENGALI NEW YEAR
NADF REUNION BARBECUE

Date: 23 December 2017
Venue: Ashfield Park, Ashfield
Time: 11 am to 4 pm
Contact: 0413 258 678, 0431 794 777, 0424 699 925
POLITICAL BELONGINGS
Ashfield Park SAVED from WestConnex

A previous plan to swallow up four per cent of Ashfield Park for the WestConnex has been abandoned by the NSW government after Roads Minister Duncan Gay intervened.

Taking pressure off the park’s advocates, Mr Gay said he would now consider an alternative site for the viaduct.

The Ashfield Park Alliance (APA) welcomed the news.

"Ashfield Park is a special place for the community," said APA chairperson Christine Morgan.

"Keeping the park open will not impact on the WestConnex project and it is a small price to pay to save this historic park."
SUPERDIVERSITY & URBAN CONVIVIALITY

Visas, migration channels & the reinvigoration of the park

A life-course account....

- 2004-8 International students – the south Asian presence and the student visa to PR period, with the ‘punjabi cooks and Nepalese nurses’
- 2003 onwards...The 457 visa scheme for IT and engineers – lots of South Indians>>>> Many eventually sponsored for PR
- 2012: Around the time of PR, marriages, babies... policy changes lead to demands for grandparent visas. (starts off 12 months, from this year it is a 5 year visa – proposal for 10 year visa)
- SLOW TIME... GRANDPARENT TIME... Grandparent visas and the formation of park community.... Slows down the pace of temporary people churn......
- Leading to the pace of the park - Time-pass and slow-time of grand-parenting
## Table: Asian-Australian populations by country of birth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asian ancestry</th>
<th>% Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korea, Republic of (South)</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong (SAR of China)</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not stated</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>33,753,551</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source. ABS Census 2016

Figures courtesy Jen Tsien Kwok, drawn from 2016 ABS Census
SOCIAL CRICKET

South Asians
ASHFIELD PARK & informal sport

Value Extraction, marginalising the already marginal
ORGANISED SPORT

VALUE EXTRACTION &

THE BIG CLUB TAKEOVER
Refugees & asylum seekers – Afghanistan, Iran etc
Migrant ‘elders’ from other communities
International students
Racial minorities – black, SE Asian, Chinese
Marginalised migrants (eg Nepalese)
General ‘ethnic others’ new migrants from soccer playing nations
TEMPORARY MIGRANTS + LONG TERM MINORITIES
INFORMAL vs FORMAL SPORT

‘proper’ Club sport vs the neighbourhood riff-raff

Or

The consequences of who pays

The soccer club rents this field – where the ‘pickup games’ used to occur

The informal soccer meetups now occur here on uneven sloping ground at the side.
APIA Tigers – have their own multi-field stadium & commercial sponsors

BUT: the focus is on professional men: Women development players marginalised to neighbourhood fields....
Ashfield Park plan 2007

Informal sport recognised as an ideal.....

Before the value extractors took hold.

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### ASHFIELD PARK WINTER SEASON 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>SUN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>School booking 11.00am - 4.00pm</td>
<td>School booking 10.00am - 3.00pm</td>
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### ASHFIELD PARK SUMMER SEASON 2006/2007

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<tr>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
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### OBJECTIVE

6.1 Balance of use between sporting organisations without increasing intensity and invasiveness.

6.1.1 That the current use of the playing field by organised sports, such as cricket, football and soccer, be recognised and Council not increase such use beyond current levels of intensity (See Appendix 7).

6.1.2 Continue use of the playing field as a blend of formal organised sport and informal, social sport and games. To facilitate this, booking of the playing field for formal sport continue to be limited to currently established periods.

### STRATEGY

A. Establish policy and procedures that ensure a ceiling on bookings of the playing field to ensure the current intensity of use by organised sports is not exceeded.

B. Maintain booking procedures that ensure future usage is limited to the extent governed by the schedule of usage set for the 2006/2007 Summer season and the 2007 Winter season.

C. Establish playing field usage controls for organised sports including monitoring usage to ensure that each group remains within its allotted booking period.

### PRIORITY

- High

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Big sport Big Business
But marginalised women
VALUE EXTRACTION: Paid courts vs streetball – race, migrant status & marginality

IMAGE 1: Street ball & Aboriginal youth on the housing estate in Waterloo

IMAGE 2: Players in the fee based ‘social basketball’ comp that rents the fancy new courts at the Redfern ‘National Centre for Indigenous Excellence’ - $1500 a season.

IMAGE 1: Waterloo public housing estate

IMAGE 2: National Centre for Indigenous Excellence courts for hire & fee based ‘social’ basketball >> mobile elites – international students, white gentrifiers
URBAN DEVELOPMENT

* Speed and scale of new development in Sydney changing the social mix profoundly.

* Schools larger and not walkable.

* No new public spaces being built as part of Urban infill.

VALUE EXTRACTION

* No high streets – big shopping centers

* New skilled migrants moving en-mass into the new developments and for the first time suburbs with 90% of a single ancestry group.
Temporal Modes of differentiation: modulating ENCOUNTERS

1. **Migrant temporalities** & : temporary migrants, new vs long time migrants, migrant mobilities, temp work visas, fractured biographies, indentured time, effects of ‘people churn’ on workplace solidarity and community.

2. **Structural Temporalities of work**: Shift work, agency hires, casual workers (intermittent, irregular hours, short periods in one place)

3. **Situated Temporality of individual workplaces & occupations**: Work intensity, distribution of ‘slow time’, work rhythm
Work time

Workplace Rhythms
Work Intensification
Distribution of slow time
I had a problem in Woolworths because, you know, it’s a big company and they put you under pressure. If they pay you this much money they want to get, like, twice the amount out of you, you know.. they just want to push you like an animal, like a dog.. and ...ah, the supervisor there, he was always checking his watch. If you go on a break at 8.30 and we were supposed to come back 8.45 he’d be yelling on the PA in the Woolworths saying ...guys, come back you have to be on the floor, get back, get packing.

....

...you’re busy working, no socialising and interacting. - and I was working with, like, various nationalities and - - - there were Asians, most of them were Indians and Sri Lankans and Brent was Australian ...but like, at Woolworths I couldn’t learn much - because we were just, you know, getting pushed about getting work done and, yeah, the way I learned about social and cultural values of Australia and their language was, you know, socialising [at new job after quitting Woollies] and now I have more Aussie friends...

Imran – 27 year old Pakistani male (in Australia for 8 years) – large supermarket warehouse. Contract labour
But for me personally, because I’m dealing with all those people, I’m seeing their faces every day, the whole year, and I know them personally, one by one, their names, there’s definite respect.

Yeah, because we’re sitting in the same area, we interact with each other. They spend this time playing cards, so the same groups playing cards, the same faces. I have Indians, I have Aussies, I have Italians, I have Greeks – a lot of them are sitting, they’re just spending time, and joke with each other, then (claps) “Oh, I’m running late!”

Eihab – Sudanese bus driver (10 years, permanent)
“Because we’re doing barbeques or food activities ..... I have to deal with vegetarians. Most of them are Indian background. Buddhist as well, they do that. I have to deal with halal food for Muslims. I have to deal with the food for Aussies, which is bacon and egg, what they want...I have to deal with the Middle Eastern people. They love their meat. Lamb, and stuff like that. I ask them, first, which day you are fasting? Muslims are fasting on Ramadan, I will not do a barbeque when they’re fasting, so I have to shove it in a week before, or a week after, or stuff like that. Same with the Orthodox Christians, the Catholic. The Indians, they have one or two days in the week they cannot eat chicken, so we always have to go to the Friday. Some of them, they’re eating veges only [vegetarian], so I have to go for the special type of burgers, plus I have to put a salad and stuff like that.

We have a lot of respect – I mean, you have deal with, around it. Some people, they love the spicy food, so I am providing something spicy. Sausages or stuff like that. So it’s different. Then we have Italian people here. They love their sausages.”

Naser - Egyptian Coptic Christian –Bus Driver

Interviewer: How does that tension when driving, the stress when driving, how does that affect people

Eihab: ...we’re trying to avoid any clash or any distress with the drivers the moment they’re walking in from the yard. Give him five, ten minutes until he washes his hands, his face, goes to the toilets and come out, and you can feel, you can see on his face that he starts cooling down. By the time coming in during the day, he will start talking about what’s happening in the road with him. The moment of talking, it’s something like a social, something like...when somebody is sitting with you and –or – somebody just absorbs what you’re talking about, we get used to do that. Talk, talk talk...(Stress goes down). Or you put your anger or your stress, start doing sport, by that time you cool down. Soccer table, billiard, sit, wash, relax, have a cup of coffee, have a cup of tea, eat something.

Eihab – Sudanese bus driver
(10 years permanent. Union member, president of depot social club)
temporariness

Turnover & churn

Workplace precarity – being an agency hire, casual, subcontracting
• Basically I think, the casuals, we just want to survive in Australia. Make ends meet, and stuff. I get very angry that man [who made racist comments about Sudanese], why do you think this way? And stuff. But ...I’m just there to make money so I don’t drag it so far. If I was staff, yeah, I would drag it far. If I was staff, oh, man, there would be some punches fly.

• ....you don’t want to escalate things, because if you get sent home you don’t know when the next job will come

• Kenneth – Nigerian construction labourer (casual agency hire). Recent arrival.
• Value extraction
  • Humans (temporariness work, migration, skills focus)
  • Built environment (development)
  • Public space (quasi privatising, value extracting)

• >> Has effects on TIME – and the time needed for the slow cook of new community –

• >> Has effects on who mixes with whom and under what circumstances

• >> People ‘sorted’ at work and in the urban

• >> Complex layers of marginality temporary, citizens, indigenous, different hierarchies of temporariness, the most marginalised and stigmatised....

• >> BUT.... Some windows of hope --..... The slow time of grandparent visas.... Pathways from temp to Permanent migration are KEY....

• The lifecourse allowed to play out in place leads to better outcomes for urban diversity.