

### *Apologies for cross-posting*

Call for Papers Association of American Geographers' (AAG) Annual Meeting Chicago, USA  
21-25 April 2015

Organizers: Fenne M. Pinkster (Universiteit van Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Sponsorship: Urban Geography Specialty Group

### **Contested neighborhoods**

This session focuses on the micro-politics of neighborhood life and the territorial practices through which different groups of residents express ownership over and claim neighborhood spaces. Suttles (1972) originally introduced the concept of 'defended neighborhoods' to study territoriality at the neighborhood level. More recently, this concept has been used in the United States to study the emergence of gated communities and private security measures in affluent neighborhoods (i.e. Lowe, 2001) and the emergence of delinquent street gangs in the ghetto (i.e. Harding, 2009). Both gates and gangs serve – somewhat paradoxically - as strategies to defend the neighborhood against the outside world and reflect strong ties to the neighborhoods in terms of belonging and everyday life. However, these 'informal territories' (Storey, 2001) represent two extremes of the spectrum and the question is therefore how the concept of territoriality may be used in a wider range of neighborhoods to study struggles between different resident groups over the meaning, value and everyday use of place. This session welcomes papers that...

explore various socio-spatial, discursive and political practices through which residents try to appropriate the neighborhood and shape it in their image;

discuss how some groups of residents may come to dominate neighborhood identity, neighborhood spaces and institutions, thereby excluding others representations, meanings and experiences of these neighborhoods;

move beyond a NIMBY-perspective to understand intra-neighborhood power dynamics and discuss how unequal power relationships play out through informal, everyday practices and/or through local politics and formal governance spaces;

may focus on a wide range of neighborhoods in diverse geographical settings.

### Submission procedure:

If you are interested in joining this paper session, please submit a 250-word abstract to Fenne Pinkster ([f.m.pinkster@uva.nl](mailto:f.m.pinkster@uva.nl)) by Friday October 17. Feel free to contact me about potential paper topics or with other questions concerning this call. Notification of acceptance will be sent by October 24. Selected contributors are expected to submit their own abstracts on the conference website by the deadline of 5 November 2014. More details about the AAG-meeting can be found here:

[http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting/call\\_for\\_papers](http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting/call_for_papers)

### References

- Harding, D. J. (2009) Violence, older peers and the socialization of adolescent boys in disadvantaged neighborhoods, *American Sociological Review* 74, p. 445-464
- Lowe, S. (2001) The edge and the center. Gated communities and the discourse of social safety, *American Antropologist*, vol. 103 (1), p. 45-58
- Storey, D. (2001) *Territory. The claiming of space*, Harlow, England: Pearson/Prentice Hall
- Suttles, G.D. (1972) *The social construction of communities*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.