

Abstract Template

TITLE: Old school, new school: The impact of gentrification on local school communities

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Start text of Abstract Here (*no more than 200 words with no figures or tables*):

Gentrification is transforming neighbourhoods in cities across Australia and elsewhere. While usually seen as enhancing the socioeconomic profile of an area, gentrification can also exacerbate inequalities, as wealthy gentrifiers move into traditionally working class environments. Sometimes gentrifiers are Anglo Australian, entering historically migrant dominated areas. These transformations are reflected in local schools, which increasingly need to cater for families from very different social and cultural backgrounds. How do schools deal with this diversification of their communities? At the same time, policies of school choice intersect with gentrification, often leading to a polarisation between schools, some of which become 'schools of choice' for middle class parents, leaving other schools taking up the 'residual'. Reporting on research conducted in a rapidly gentrifying suburb in Sydney, this paper explores how gentrification affects school communities, both the changing social relations *within* school communities, and the changing relations *between* different schools.