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Abstract

The question of whether or not contemporary processes of social restructuring are caused by the rise of capitalism in urban terms. There is, in fact, a complex process, because of changing work patterns, changing patterns of reproduction, and the changing relationship between work and reproduction. In light of these arguments, issue is taken with the claim that gentrification is a 'chaotic conception' and it is suggested how, instead, the social restructuring that is currently being observed is closely related to an economic restructuring, and that both together involve a dramatic spatial restructuring of which 'gentrification' is one part. The new urban patterns now unfolding do involve the construction of 'consumption landscapes' in the city, and the emergence of an incipient 'urban dream' parallel to the suburban dream of the last decade, but this does not imply that urban geographical change is now somehow demand led.

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