









>> Sign in here to start your access to the latest two volumes for 14 days

66 Citations

Share

Metrics

References

Read this article

ABSTRACT

♣ Reprints & Permissions

Full Article

Figures & data

While the Westminster government's class-driven austerity is UK-wide, Scottish social democracy influences how it is conceptualised and resisted. The Scottish Parliament's limited devolved powers and a broken system of local government funding – with roots in both Scottish and Westminster Governments – leaves little room for challenging austerity. Responding to increased demand for services and financial constraints, Edinburgh Council's 'transformation programme' sought a leaner, agile council to promote community resilience. As a discretionary service, protected by a weak legislative requirement, sport received significant cuts. Using interviews with policy actors, this article contends that, by embracing the conservative concept of resilience over the more critical concept of resourcefulness, the council's management of cuts revolved around financial savings and income generation not socially just progressive

localism. The leisure trust's success in managing cuts encouraged more, mirroring the argument that, in resilient councils, councillors think the 'outer organisation' can be diminished without damaging the core. This accelerated neoliberal processes predating austerity. Apparent progressive localism from asset transfers downplays how, driven by financial savings, this empowered some middle-class individuals while deflecting attention from the state's withdrawal from promoting social justice. A campaign to save a leisure pool in a deprived area saw arguments for an ethical 'play' space to support community resilience. However, within neoliberalism's 'cracks and fissures', protestors encouraged council support for community management – later rescinded amidst much acrimony – for a facility they could never run progressively.

KEYWORDS:

Austerity	resilience	local government	progressive localism	sport	community protest	

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author.



Information for

Authors

R&D professionals

Editors

Librarians

Societies

Opportunities

Reprints and e-prints

Advertising solutions

Accelerated publication

Corporate access solutions

Open access

Overview

Open journals

Open Select

Dove Medical Press

F1000Research

Help and information

Help and contact

Newsroom

All journals

Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up











Accessibility



Copyright © 2025 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy Cookies Terms & conditions



Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954 5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG