



Centre Métropolises du Québec - Immigration et métropolises

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## MIDI-CAUSERIE

DOMAINE 6 - Logement, vie de quartier et environnement urbain  
en collaboration avec l'Axe 1 du CEETUM  
Intégration des personnes issues de l'immigration

**Vendredi 12 octobre 2012, de 12h30-14h**  
**à l'INRS, 385 rue Sherbrooke Est, salle 2105**

### **A politics of presence: Signifying 'home' in the built landscape of Chinese shopping precincts in Auckland, New Zealand**

**Robin Peace**  
**School of People, Environment and Planning**  
**Massey University, New Zealand**

This presentation explores the idea that evidence of a “politics of presence” of Chinese migrants in the context of a dominant English language environment can be seen in the “linguistic landscapes” of the city’s Chinese ethnic precincts [clusters of same-ethnic businesses]. I suggest that the linguistic landscape comprises an “affective edifice” that both migrants (and hosts) interact with as ‘the idea of ‘home’ is established in the new country. The discussion draws on the work of Ghassan Hage, an Australian anthropologist, who suggests that security, familiarity, community, and a sense of possibility provide the bases for inclusion and belonging. Precincts, therefore, need to be regarded as more than places of commerce in which group identities are evident. Ideally, the significant affective dimensions that are evident in these spaces build identity and belonging in relational and interpersonal ways that can be read, at least in one framing, through the artefacts of linguistic landscapes.

**Entrée libre**

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