Today Talks

Borders within Borders: Gentrification of Urban Spaces

Cities today have become more diverse and complex both in cultural and economic terms. Physical and social patterns of existing neighbourhoods are in flux as longtime residents are uprooted from their streets and new buyers/tenants move into those neighbourhoods where they bring the lifestyles of a new social milieu and create new hybrid structures to emerge. Gentrification has become today’s reality of world cities especially in the neighbourhoods which display the significant features of the historic development of a city. In the process of urban transformation, however, the initiators of gentrification can cause invisible borders to be drawn on the city maps that may artificially yet visually divide streets, buildings and residents in everyday life. In this week’s Today Talks we will be discussing the establishment of borders within the cities by demolishing neighbourhoods, social, economic and cultural implications of gentrification.