Antwerp urban studies literature

For those of you who want to read some urban studies analysis on Antwerp, we collected a list of fifteen publications on the city, its governance and development and its social dynamics from the past 15 years. Antwerp is mainly studied by scholars based in Flemish universities. The literature covers familiar urban studies terrain: gentrification, entrepreneurial governance, living in diversity, urban diversity policies, housing and urban contestation.

Loopmans, Maarten (2008). "Relevance, gentrification and the development of a new hegemony on urban policies in Antwerp, Belgium." Urban Studies 45(12): 2499-2519.
This paper applies a state-theoretical perspective to a historical analysis of gentrification and urban policies in Antwerp, Belgium.

Christiaens, Etienne, Moulaert, Frank and Bosmans, Bie (2007). "The end of social innovation in urban development strategies?: the case of Antwerp and the neighbourhood development association 'Bom'." European Urban and Regional Studies 14: 14.
This article examines the changes since the 1970s in the urban political regime in Antwerp. It focuses on the period 1990—2005; there was a shift from the traditional physical renewal policy (including social housing construction) of the 1980s, to a neighbourhood-based socially innovative urban development policy (1990s), and finally to a more mainstream real-estate led and market-driven urban policy starting in 2002.

De Maesschalck, Filip (2011). "The Politicisation of Suburbanisation in Belgium." Urban Studies 48(4): 699-717.
This paper analyses a growing polarisation between city and suburban fringe in the Antwerp urban region and shows the development of an electoral divide. However, because of the comparatively limited development of functions in the Belgian suburbs, a suburban discourse emerges that focuses on safe and accessible cities for the suburban user.

Albeda, Ympkje, Tersteeg, Anouk, Oosterlynck, Stijn and Verschraegen, Gert (2018). "Symbolic Boundary Making in Super-Diverse Deprived Neighbourhoods." Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie 109(4): 470-484.
Neighbourhood-based research on the rise of super-diverse cities has mostly focused on the implications of living in super-diverse neighbourhoods for individual relations, and paid little attention to processes of group formation. This paper focuses on how residents of super-diverse neighbourhoods identify social groups and draw, enact and experience symbolic boundaries.

De Vos, Els (2010). "Living with High-Rise Modernity: The Modernist Kiel Housing Estate of Renaat Braem, A Catalyst to a Socialist Modern Way of Life?" Home Cultures 7(2): 135-158.
Based on a case study of the modernist, well-promoted high-rise public housing blocks of the a avant-gardist Renaat Braem at the Kiel Estate, Antwerp this article questions the idea that high-rise housing blocks are maladjusted for families with children. Going from the macro-scale of Belgian postwar housing policy to the micro-level of the home of two occupants of Braem's Apartments, the article reveal the tensions between the discourses of mainstream politicians and designers, the architecture of the building and the living practice of its inhabitants.

Loopmans, M. and P. Van Den Broeck (2011). "Global pressures, local measures: the re-regulation of sex work in the Antwerp Schipperskwartier." Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie 102(5): 548-561.

This paper analyses the changes in the Antwerp Schipperskwartier, one of the oldest and largest red light districts on the European continent. This paper analyses the Schipperskwartier's restructuring in the light of the globalisation of the sex industry and zooms in on the political struggles in which new urban geographies of sex work unfold.

Van Loon, Jannis, Oosterlynck, Stijn and Aalbers, Manuel (2019). "Governing urban development in the Low Countries: From managerialism to entrepreneurialism and financialization." European Urban and Regional Studies 26(4): 400-418.
This paper studies the transformation of urban governance in the Low Countries. We show how Flemish municipalities like Antwerp have shifted from a model of laissez-faire urban development (embedded in a system of large municipal autonomy) towards entrepreneurial urban growth regimes, in which technocratic public and private actors have increased access to public financial resources. Autonomous municipal real estate corporations are a crucial instrument for connecting municipal finance to the real estate market.

Tasan-Kok, Tuna (2010). "Entrepreneurial governance: challenges of large-scale property-led urban regeneration projects." Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie 101(2): 126-149.
This paper focuses on how the complexities of multi-actor governance influence the implementation of large-scale urban regeneration projects. Comparative analysis of two old port regeneration projects, namely Rotterdam's Kop van Zuid in the Netherlands, and Het Eilandje in Antwerp, Belgium, reveals how similar challenges were dealt with in different institutional contexts.

Saeys, Arne, Van Puymbroeck, Nicolas, Albeda, Ympkje, Oosterlynck, Stijn and Verschraegen, Gert (2019). "From multicultural to diversity policies: Tracing the demise of group representation and recognition in a local urban context." European Urban and Regional Studies 26(3): 239-253.
This article deals with the question of how and why urban governments have implemented diversity policies in the context of a broader backlash against

multiculturalism. We investigate the changes in the policy practices and discourses regarding the representation and recognition of ethnic minorities in Antwerp.

Van Wymeersch, Elisabet, Vanoutrive, Thomas and Oosterlynck, Stijn (2020). "Unravelling the Concept of Social Transformation in Planning: Inclusion, Power Changes, and Political Subjectification in the Oosterweel Link Road Conflict." Planning Theory & Practice 21(2): 200-217.
This article argues that applying a polysemic understanding of the concept of 'social transformation', in which inclusion-, power-, and subjectification-oriented approaches to social transformation are all taken into account, provides a richer understanding of the transformative dynamics at work in contentious urban planning processes. We illustrate this argument through an empirical investigation of the transformative dynamics in the Oosterweel link road conflict in Antwerp, Belgium.

Blommaert, Jan (2014). "Infrastructures of superdiversity: Conviviality and language in an Antwerp neighborhood." European Journal of Cultural Studies 17(4): 431-451.
This article develops an ethnographic approach to 'linguistic landscapes', applied to an inner-city neighborhood in Antwerp (Belgium). We see how the use of languages, notably of a lingua franca, 'oecumenical' variety of Dutch, contributes to the perpetual shaping and re-shaping of an infrastructure for superdiversity: a space in which, constant change and motion are the rule, in which complexity and unpredictability are rife, but within which important forms of conviviality are being articulated and sustained by means of language choice and language display.

Verhetsel, Ann, Kessels, Roselinde, Zijlstra, Toon and Van Bavel, Marjolijn (2017). "Housing preferences among students: collective housing versus individual accommodations? A stated preference study in Antwerp (Belgium)." Journal of Housing and the Built Environment 32(3): 449-470.

While young professionals are increasingly choosing for peer-shared housing, student expectations are increasing with regard to personal space and comfort. Following the massive expansion of the student population, private sector developers have recently become more involved in the student accommodation market providing high standard expensive single person flats. Responding to a lack of attention to student housing preferences in both student housing and cohousing research, this study aims to discover housing preferences of Belgian students with a focus on the relative importance they attach to private versus shared amenities.

De Munck, Bert. (2010). "From brotherhood community to civil society? Apprentices between guild, household and the freedom of contract in early modern Antwerp." Social History 35(1): 1-20.
This article examines the nature and impact of late medieval and early modern guilds through the lens of the master-apprentice relationship. Starting from a conceptual distinction between the 'guild ethos' and 'civil society', it is shown that Antwerp craft guilds stopped being 'brotherhoods' and 'substitute families' and retreated into a sphere separate from household and family.

Martínez, Javier Gimeno (2007). "Selling Avant-garde: How Antwerp Became a Fashion Capital (1990—2002)." Urban Studies 44(12): 2449-2464.
During the 1990s, the Belgian city of Antwerp underwent a branding process as a fashion city. This example does not follow the pattern of contemporary fashion cities, which are chiefly based on major trade activity around fashion. Conversely, Antwerp's status as a fashion capital was created within the logic of organised tourism and mega-cultural events. The intertwining of both public and private networks of influence resulted in fashion's becoming absorbed by the local institutions as Antwerp's most characteristic creative industry.