

Mobilities.
Comparative Urbanism.
Fashion or progress?

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My little bit on mobilities then over
to Eugene...

Jacobs, J. and Lees, L. (2013)
Defensible space on the move:
revisiting the urban geography of
Alice Coleman, *International Journal
of Urban and Regional Research*,
37:5:1559-1583.

Alice Coleman

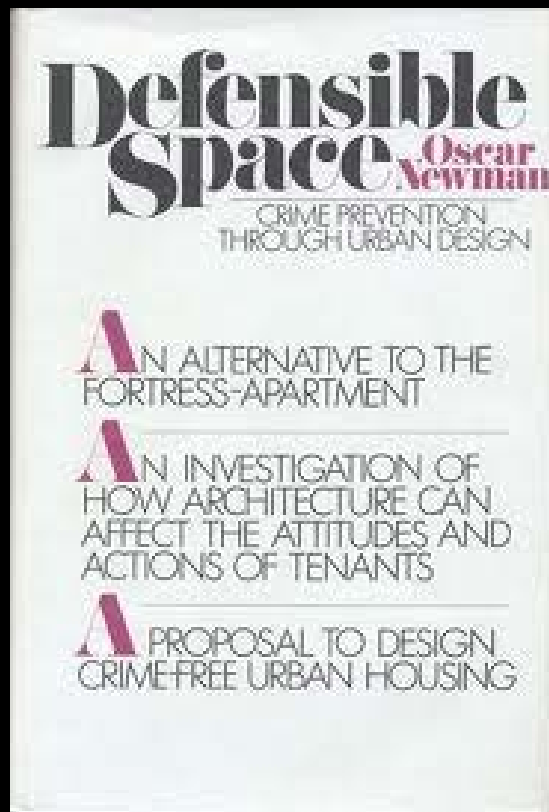


Scourge of the DoE : Alice Coleman at an estate in Southwark, south London—' No more flats.'

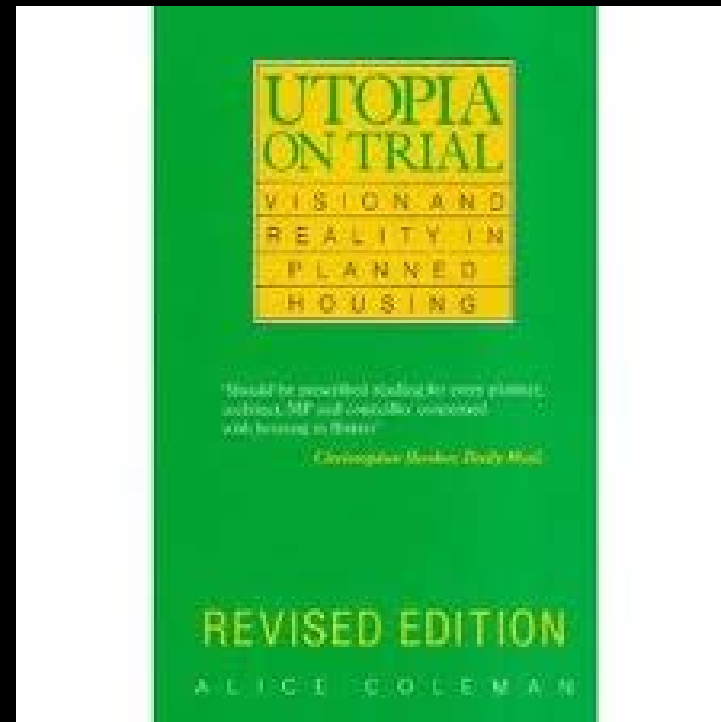
NEIL LIBBERT

Defensible Space – a transatlantic journey from NYC to London

Oscar Newman



Alice Coleman



Doing policy mobilities in the recent past (in the era before globalised policy)

Concepts/Methodology

Transnational and relational
comparativism

Situated knowledges

Historical registers

Players other than global
institutions

Follow processes, practices,
discourses, technologies
and networks

Embodiment of expertise

Methods

In depth interviews

Walk along interview

Oral history

Public biographies



Conclusions

Social scientific knowledge transfer is not simply about the robustness of social science, it is idiosyncratic, about the politics of the time/moment, about relevance, and the cult of personality.

The movement of 'defensible space' ideas from NYC to London was not a smooth model of transfer, it was a non-linear reproduction.

Policy mobilities are not new. There are urban histories of the transfer and translation of policy (and pre-policy) ideas and these happened during quite different political contexts and at a different speed to the fast policy transfers that now seem to characterise neoliberal urban governance.

This historical case of 'social science in action' has relevance for thinking about the wider relationship between science and the public sphere: evidence based policy making and the emergence of globally influential personality scholars.

By situating an urban social science and by charting the way in which personality driven social science develops and travels will help to uncouple the assumption that 'research equals evidence' and it will advance inquiry into the 'national and indeed specific urban cultures of academic influence within policy debate'.