



The Moral Economy of Cities: Shaping Good Citizens (Cultural Spaces)

Evelyn S. Ruppert

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What makes a good city? This question has long preoccupied groups interested and involved in the making and remaking of city spaces. In *The Moral Economy of Cities*, Evelyn S. Ruppert contends that the vision of the 'good city' embraced by professionals in the business of city making recognizes the interests of a dominant public, namely middle class consumers, office workers, tourists, and families. This vision stigmatizes certain members of the public like street youth, panhandlers, discount- and low-income shoppers, and the language used to extol the virtues of the good city inherently moralizes social conduct in the city.

Using the redevelopment of the Yonge-Dundas intersection in downtown Toronto in the mid-1990s as a case study, Ruppert examines the language of planners, urban designers, architects, and marketing analysts to reveal the extent to which moralization legitimizes these professions in the public eye and buttresses the very projects they produce. Ruppert's conclusion that economic practices are not free from moral investment encourages the considerable task of re-examining the implications of city planning and development worldwide. *The Moral Economy of Cities* is mandatory reading for urban studies scholars and practitioners, and their critics.

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