From the Braai to the BBQ: Making home in Aotearoa/New Zealand

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• Affect
• Recreating home
  – Home ownership, home making and doing family at home
  – Church and neighbourhood
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Research Overview

• Integration of Immigrants Programme
  – Two objectives

• Survey of migrant employers and employees
  – China, India, Korea, South Africa, United Kingdom

• South African migrant focus
  – Depth and range of emotion
  – Complex narratives
  – Active construction of ‘home’
Affect

• What is affect?
  – Embodied
  – Situated
  – Relational

• Memory common to each of these
Home Ownership

• A commitment to *this* place
  – ‘putting down roots’
  – ‘... we will be able to establish ourselves more, you know, especially now with a family. That has helped to settle us more and when we get a house and all those things will root us deeper into New Zealand’

• Memory and the ‘African Ache’
Making Home

• Replicating home
  – ‘I can change my surroundings to suit me. We still live the same. We still like a braai ... we have changed the surroundings so that we can live the life. We have the lifestyle block because we are used to open space’

• Creating new ways of being in the home
  – ‘I had a Bull Mastiff outside, six feet fence, gates, burglar bars, alarm system, whereas I leave my front door sometimes open when I am at home.

• Active construction of home that is deeply embedded in remembering
Doing Family in the Home

• ‘Immigration places a huge amount of pressure on the relationship. If your relationship isn’t rock solid, then it can come unravelled’

• Renegotiating gendered relations
  – Domestic labour
    • ‘We used to come home and the food was cooked and the kids were ready to go to bed ... so you would go and have a glass of wine, have supper, wind down and do your own thing …’

• Building intimacy within the family
  – ‘I was not close to my son when we were in Africa, because he was just a child that was looked after by nannies ... It has changed totally. We go away together now ...’
  – ‘... every day I take my kids to school and I never did in Africa ... I take them every day, even if there are people in the shop’
Neighbourhood

• Emotional response to landscape/place.
• Commitment to place – acts of engagement
• A society that “works”
• Longing for home: choices
• Living in “South African“ neighbourhoods vs integration
Church

‘I have got my church. That is my anchor in life.’

• Place of safety and continuity
• Friendships and support
• Networking
• Outreach into community
The last word[s]

• Nga Tangata Oho Mairangi
  – Interconnectedness
  – Place matters
  – Attachment and belonging
  – Affect

http://newsettlers.massey.ac.nz