



# Methodological challenges for situating mobile policy knowledge

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# ‘Supportive Housing’ as mobile urban policy

Mobilisation and adaptation of Supportive Housing homelessness models in Australia

- permanent affordable housing + on-site support services aimed at ‘rough sleeping’ inner-urban homeless





## Situated-mobile knowledges

1. If knowledge is contextual, embodied and made in place, but under certain circumstances mobilised, what methodological approach could be used to research situated-mobile knowledges?
2. How do my own choices as a researcher intervene in making situated claims about mobile knowledge?



## Assemblage methodology

- an ‘assemblage’ describes a bringing together of diverse elements, such as people, texts, discourses, objects, and infrastructures, that cohere into a discernable constellation
- can be used as a descriptor, an analytic, and/or a methodological frame
- production of ‘policy assemblages’ through which mobilisation and adaptation occurs

### Methodological emphases

1. indeterminacy, processuality and turbulence
2. entanglements of relational and territorial processes
3. practices of assembly

(see Anderson & McFarlane 2011, McFarlane 2009, McCann & Ward 2011, Prince 2009)





# Methodological practices

## 1. Uncertain orientation

- a. eschewal of the tendency to know in advance
  - instead, making provisional judgements over what is significant or not
- b. contingency and limitations of claims to know
  - ‘research assemblage’: idiosyncratic collection of texts, experiences and accounts that I am able to assemble



# Methodological practices

## 2. Spatial framing

‘...there is an inescapable need to confront new methodological challenges. Spatially demarcated forms of policy evaluation certainly will not do’ (Peck & Theodore 2010: 171)

- urban policy as translocally produced
  - linking of various ‘locals’ to produce different spatialities (ie. national, global, topological)
- beyond bounded geographical and institutional research ‘sites’ as primary focus
  - ‘fields’ that incorporate multiple sites

(see McFarlane 2009, Burawoy 1991, 2000; McCann 2011)

# Methodological practices

## 3. 'Following'

- following practices holding together assemblages
- following 'traces' to piece together travels and mutations of policy ideas (Prince forthcoming)
- limitations to following traces – ephemerality + partiality
- intervening in the assemblage – anticipated and otherwise







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