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# Queering the city: understanding gravitational forces

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## Résumé

This paper uses examples drawn from US cities (Midtown in Atlanta, Georgia and Ybor City in Tampa, Florida) to develop a more generalizable framework within which to analyze the process of queering a neighborhood and keeping it queer. The interviews that drive these cases were all conducted by the author over the previous 15 years. This kind of comparative approach enables a more careful reading of queer urban spaces based on the behaviors of LGBTQ people in and around those spaces. The strategic aim of these comparisons is to expand our understanding of queer spaces and to elaborate a more fluid model of queering cities. The paper uses a gravitational framework allows for the identification of centering (centripetal) and decentering (centrifugal) forces and the interplay between these forces. Each case provides different lessons for planners regarding the importance of either mitigating or exacerbating the centrifugal tendencies that so often threaten queer spaces. Because these forces are unique to each LGBTQ space, the analytic strategy provides for greater generalizability across different sizes of cities, across various cultural and ethnic areas, and a wider array of geographies.

**Petra Doan :** Professeure à Florida State University. Spécialiste d'urbanisme dans les zones en développement, urbanisme pour les communautés LGBTQ, les populations non-normatives, espaces queers. Elle est l'auteur de *Planning and LGBTQ Communities: The Need for Inclusive Queer Space*. (London: Routledge, 2015) <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/978113879815> et de *Queering Planning: Challenging Heteronormative Assumptions and Reframing Planning Practice*. (Farnham: Ashgate, 2011). <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409428152>. / Petra Doan is a Professor at Florida State University. She specializes in urban planning for developing areas and also for LGBTQ communities, non-normative public and queer spaces. She is the author of *Planning and LGBTQ Communities: The Need for Inclusive Queer Space*. (London: Routledge, 2015) and *Queering Planning: Challenging Heteronormative Assumptions and Reframing Planning Practice*. (Farnham: Ashgate, 2011).

**Mots-Clés:** keynote

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