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Prior to attending the Cultures of the Suburbs conference I had been drawn in by the themes which were tangential to my own research which is concerned with language, space and identity. I attended with the hope that I would meet with others and hear about other research which would enable me to see my own in a different light.

I found the first session (Spaces, Edges and Thresholds) to be particularly engaging and was entirely engrossed by the narrative concerning the 19th Arrondissement in Paris. The most valuable elements of the presentation for me were the methodological insights. My doctoral project is concerned with notions of identity and attitudes towards accent and identity in a town in the Belgian borderland and I will be carrying out fieldwork as part of the project. The panellists in this session spoke about how they had used images of meaningful parts of the 19th arrondissement as conversation stimuli; a technique I never would have thought of, but something I feel would enhance my fieldwork.

I also found the presentation by Christopher Niedt particularly pertinent to my own research. In his presentation he spoke about different ways of measuring segregation and isolation. This presentation got me thinking about ways in which I might quantitatively and qualitatively measure different lived experiences of my informants and so once again was useful for my research.

Aside from these two panels, I found the other sessions I attended insightful and stimulating and came away feeling enriched and inspired.