Privilege in Place:

Traveling the Well-Carved Path



Dr. Kee Warner

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I suggest that privilege in place-building is like a wellcarved path easing us toward certain destinations along established routes. The operation of systemic power within urban political economies has been clearly articulated in such concepts as the growth machine. Considering the well-carved paths of place-building illuminates how even when the hegemony of growth is challenged patterns of privilege and exclusion may be reinforced. Charting the course to new destinations by unexpected routes involves serious and sustained trailblazing. This means challenging privilege by establishing and reproducing alternative institutions, social practices that can be sustained over time and space. I will develop these theme drawing from scholarship on growth management, environmental justice, sustainability, and housing policy.

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