

I acknowledge that St FX is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

Mar. 19, 21 Focus on youth

READ: Dolson, Mark. 2015. "By Sleight of Neoliberal Logics: Street Youth, Workfare, and the Everyday Tactics of Survival in London, Ontario, Canada." *City and Society* 27(2): 116-135.

Marwick, Alice E. and dana boyd. 2014. "Networked Privacy: How Teenagers Negotiate Context in Social Media." *New Media and Society* 16(7) 1051 –1067.

Dolson:

Argument: "Through creative interpretation and manipulation of OW rules, I argue that street youth challenge the redefinition of the morality of poverty through OW's neoliberal policies and discursive strategies, and refashion a moral economy based on survival and making do. Their alternative moral economy reveals the limits of the state's reach and effort to domesticate marginalized youths." (Dolson 2015, 116)

Concepts:

- what is the "culture of poverty" (Lewis)?
- what is "neoliberalism"?
- what does de Certeau mean by "tactics"?
- what does de Certeau mean by "strategies"?

Context:

- what is the Ontario Works program, and how has it been structured in neoliberal ways?
<https://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/ow/index.aspx>
- how much do recipients now earn? E.g.
<https://www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca/en/settle-and-belong/resources/OW-ODSP-RAP-Rates---Mar2018.pdf>
- what are the strategies OW uses to try to induce desired behaviours? (from entitlement to reponsibilization, or "entrepreneurial rhetoric of self-making")
- where and what is "At Home"? Whom did Dolson study there? How?

Evidence:

- what are the situations of the people Dolson discusses here?
- how do they describe OW? What does it look like on the basis of their experience?
- how do they work to achieve their own goals?

Conclusion:

- what does Dolson think would be a better approach to youth homelessness and economic precarity?

What do you think? Are such people individually responsible for their situations, or is there a need for structural reform to address underlying causes?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcjP0xgkch4>

