

# Place Making: Writer As Resident (in Coventry)

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The announcement of a City of Culture unleashes possibilities for both changing cities, as well as excavating and re-harnessing heritage, some of which may be currently undervalued or even invisible. Place making ensues in the process of making cities through how the city is announced by a spectrum of makers, including politicians, economic corporations and cultural leaders. These also include a broad range of cultural producers, ranging from voluntary organisations, arts organisations, as well as small DIY artistic collectives. New initiatives, gatherings and projects start to unfold across multi-scalar economies and social networks. In this context, what does an academic as Writer As Resident do? Where do they/we find themselves? Who do they/we position themselves with? How do they/we navigate long standing and newly forming boundaries of city making. How does the academic make the city in the capacity of being a Writer as Resident? In this paper, I will address how there are multiple positionalities which can be adopted. But most interestingly it is the navigation of routes in place making, as well as an active re-routing of routes which can provide moorings to centre academics, without giving them/us the god's eye view. Nonetheless, this is simultaneously both a grounded and privileged point of being in space which can lend itself to independent thinking, without swallowing the fantasy of an outer-space viewer. In fact, it is in the very ways in which the Writer as a Resident makes the city, through writing, art and networks, which anchors depth of perspective to our working of being both participant and observer. One of the perspectives we can adopt as place makers is to become ethnographically located campaigners. This paper will discuss this state in place through the different activities available to us to galvanise how we make place. Different creative practices are involved in this academic work, including walking, picking, collecting, listening, observing, shaking and making. Thus, well recognised skills and methodologies become re-aligned in place making.