SOCIOPOLITICAL CONTEXT - GENTRIFICATION
Minseo Kwon

Gentrification in Oslo has significantly shaped neighborhoods, including St. Hanshaugen, where I currently live. One major milestone in this process is the gentrification of Grünerløkka, once a working-class district, now transformed into a trendy area with rising rents and boutique cafés. As highlighted in *The directors of urban transformation: The case of Oslo*, this shift has made housing less affordable for students and low-income residents, forcing them to move to less central areas. I have personally noticed the high rental prices in Oslo compared to Seoul, making it challenging for students like me to find affordable housing.

Another example is the Barcode Project, a modern high-rise development along Oslo's waterfront. While it symbolizes economic growth, critics argue it has led to social segregation and an exclusive urban space, as discussed in the Barcode Project article. The contrast between luxury apartments and the struggle for affordable housing reflects a growing divide in Oslo, similar to gentrification trends in Seoul's areas like Itaewon.

As a student, I see both the benefits and downsides of gentrification. While it revitalizes urban spaces, it also creates financial barriers for many residents, reshaping Oslo's social fabric.

1.https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0269094220988714

Research article
First published online January 26, 2021
"The directors of urban transformation: The case of Oslo"
By Bengt Andersen.

2.https://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/2022/07/16/national/kcampus/itaewon-haebangchon-%EC%9D%B4%ED%83%9C%EC%9B%90/20220716070007207.html

Korea Joongang Daily
Published online July 16, 2022
"Making Itaewon: The evolution of Seoul's most diverse neighborhood"
By Student reporter Benjamin Devise.

Pictures.

1-2 Itaewon, Seoul, South-Korea.

3. Grünerløkka, Oslo, Norway