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Gentrification as Urban Strategy: Evidence from Dublin *La Gentrification comme Stratégie Urbaines: Témoignage de Dublin*

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Over the past decade, the residential environment of Dublin's inner city has been dramatically transformed. Having experienced sustained depopulation and disinvestment since the 1960s, inner-Dublin, in the 1990s, has witnessed the large-scale construction of private apartments and gated enclaves for middle/upper income groups accommodating a population influx of ca 30,000. Drawing on recent empirical research on the residential transformation of inner-Dublin, this paper seeks to illuminate processes and outcomes of state-engendered gentrification. Recent findings on the extent, scale, location and type of new residential development in central Dublin will be presented before turning to an examination of the impacts of incentivised urban renewal on inner-city communities, largely characterised by deepening displacement and an escalating housing-affordability crisis. The paper also seeks to explore whether Dublin can be characterised as a revanchist city. This exploration involves an examination of recent housing-policy approaches which have been embraced by the local state, characterised generally, by a greater involvement of the private-sector in providing/refurbishing social housing. But, attention is paid to one policy in particular, which, through an emphasis on 'social-mixing', is serving to "cleanse" inner-city locales of local-authority housing. The paper argues, finally, that the rapidly-changing social make-up of Dublin's inner-city, together with a deepening entrepreneurialism in local governance will hasten the introduction of increasingly carceral measures, as currently typified by many urban regimes.