

ALLISON BOLAH

<https://allisonbolah.com>

Working Definitions

Space/Place

For me, 'place' is denotative and indicates an intention to 'fix' where 'space' is connotative and indicates 'flexibility'.

Thus, 'Toronto' simultaneously refers to the location of and carries ideas about the experience of that Canadian city.

Community

Communities share physical places and spaces like cities and conceptual places and spaces like ethnic or gendered identities that affect community members' lived experiences in predictable patterns.

In North America, 'Black' typically refers to both people like me who have/appear to have/claim indigenous sub-Saharan African ancestry and expresses ideas about experiences related to my race.

Politics

Politics is the on-going negotiation of community relationships.

To identify with a particular community is to consciously engage the politics of one's relationship to that community.

Aesthetics

Aesthetics, community's ideal formal practice like 'hearing everybody out' 'in the round' as in my Black communities and as illustrated in Morrison's novel *The Bluest Eye*, are political.