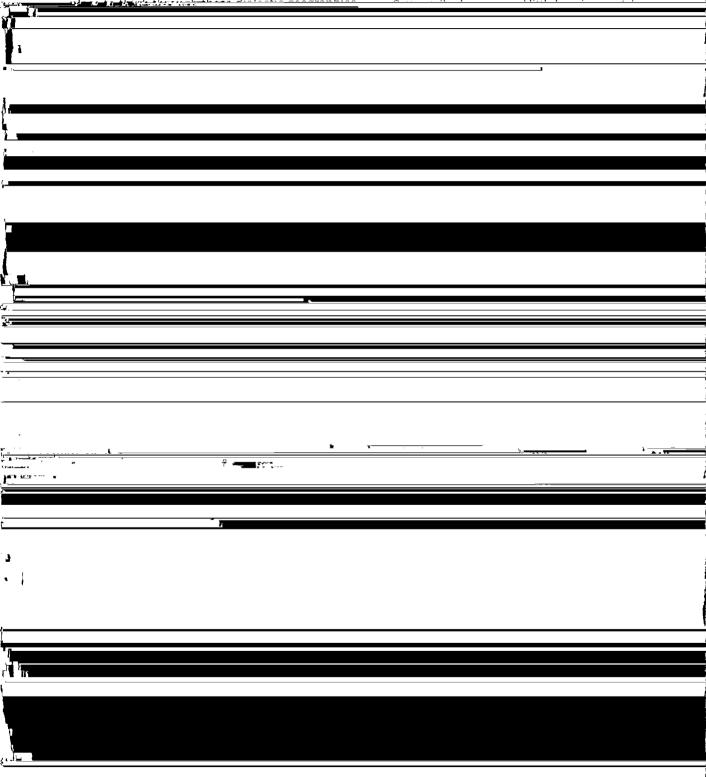
Nicholas Blomley Canadian Geographer; Summer 2004; 48, 2; CBCA Reference pg. 91	
	Wilov Locture ∴ ✓ Wilov Locture
	Wiley Lecture
	The boundaries of property: lessons from Beatrix Potter
<u> </u>	NICHOLAS BLOMLEY
	n. ,
THE SECTION OF THE SE	*
Li.	·
<u></u>	
Sa.	
	Beatrix Potter's classic children's book, The Tale of Le livre classique d'enfants, Pierre Lapin, par

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

Property and Its Boundaries

The boundary, precisely because it is simultaneously a legal and spatial construct, is one useful Mrs Rabbit one morning, 'you may go into the fields or down the lane, but don't go into Mr McGregor's garden. Your father had an accident there: he was put in a pie by Mrs. McGregor.... Flopsy, Mopsy and

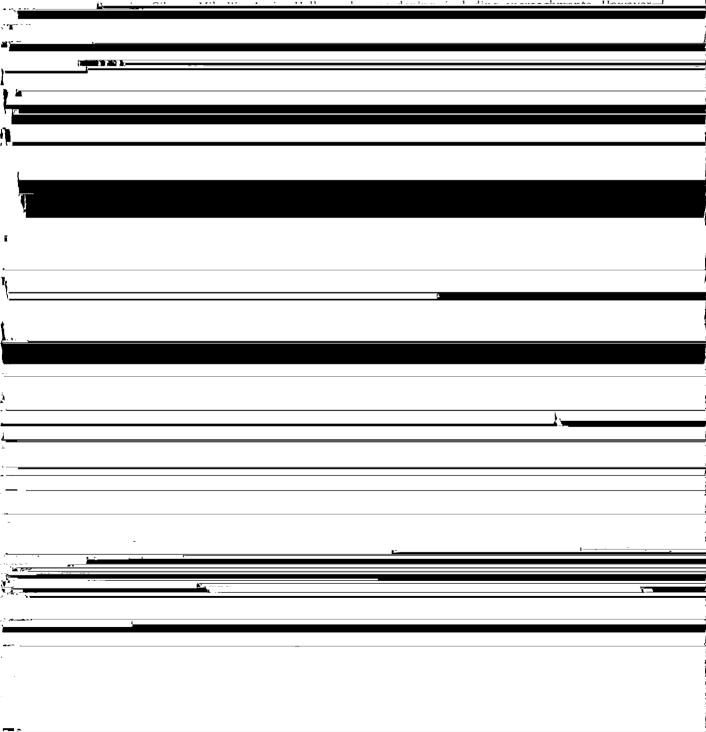




the boundaries of property? Singer argues that the dominant conception of property, while immensely powerful, 'misdescribes the way private property systems normally function' (1996, p. 1454). I also suggest that the McGregor model does not perform well. The gap, however, is instructive.

In 2000, with the help of several research assist-

of property. However, gardening is also said to have a particular relation to property. As both a metaphor and practice, gardening is closely linked to Anglo-American conceptions of property (Seed 1995; Williamson 1995). This research hopes to explore a number of questions, including people's attitudes and practices to more public forms of



96 Nicholas Blomley McGregor model. Some respondents saw marked he termed 'aesthetic' regulation—notably relating boundaries as quieting title and reducing the to garden upkeep-was seen to compromise the shower of conflict Wilson street if Is also distant

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

as part of the distinctive appeal of Strathcona. Perhaps, the countercultural ethic of the place shaped people's responses. In turn, maybe the nature of the landscape—diverse gardens and close houses—also fostered a relaxed boundary ethic. The bound-

synonymous with private property. Even the latter is open to diverse and often contradictory possibilities. This is important: If we cannot step outside property, or law more generally, the challenge becomes that of exploring its potential, as well as the appropriate of the lived under

constitute that place. The local mediations of law can prove consequential.

But, there is also a third insight that comes from a partialigation of law lagracements the local con

standings and practices of property and their geographies seems critical here (Blomley 1998, 2004).

Acknowledgements

