In the past decade, “Detroit” has increasingly come to signify both, urban decay and dysfunction as well as pioneering opportunities for emerging artists and entrepreneurs. While the “Motor City,” once primarily known for its large car-production facilities, has gone through a radical process of urban transformation, it is too simplistic to reduce it to narratives of failure or re-birth.

In his volume *Why Detroit Matters. Decline, Renewal and Hope in a Divided City* (Policy Press, 2017), editor Brian Doucet opens a dialogue between researchers and activists, between practitioners and artists, in order to find other ways of talking about the city, to see it in new contexts and from different perspectives. What can be learned from Detroit? Which practices to deal with urban transformation can be made productive elsewhere? The talk will introduce the publication and then dive into a discussion of *Why Detroit Matters*, and why it matters specifically in the Ruhr Region.

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