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## THE "OKLAHOMA CITY PLUNDER": TURNER'S SOCIAL DRAMA AND TEAM RELOCATION

*Matthew Morris*

### ABSTRACT

This essay frames the phenomenon of team relocation as a social drama defined by anthropologist Victor Turner. To support this view I examined the controversy surrounding the Seattle Supersonics' move to Oklahoma City, which occurred over a two-year period beginning

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which occurred over a two-year period beginning in 2006 and ending in 2008. I provide a context for team relocation in the four major professional sports leagues of the United States and Canada as well as the specific context of the Supersonics controversy. I then analyze the situation as a social drama occurring between two parties: city officials and team owners. The media's role as an intermediary and the fan's role as an observer are also explored. I conclude briefly noting the impact of team relocation on the fans.

## KEYWORDS

Fall 2009; social science; sociology; sports

## FULL TEXT:

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