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**The Self and the City:
Narrating 'Glocal' Spaces and Identities in
Dionne Brand's *What We All Long For***

Abstract: Identity formation is inextricably connected to the idea of space; thus it is of special relevance in the context of migration. In her 2005 novel *What We All Long For*, Dionne Brand depicts Toronto as a space of ambivalence, temporariness, and heterogeneity, as a crossroads of intercultural encounters, a 'glocal' space, which influences the characters' self-images. Brand's four young protagonists from various ethnic backgrounds define their identities by challenging their parents' concepts of space and identification. They locate their understandings of self and community entirely within the glocal space of the city. Diverging approaches to space and identity cause major conflicts between the first and the second generation. An analysis of the depiction of glocal spaces, such as the characters' homes and the city in general, illustrates their effects on identification and generation relationships. The characteristics of the urban glocal setting are reflected on the level of narrative transmission as well as by the use of dynamic images of water and static images of ties that highlight the fluidity of identity and space as well as the limiting nature of family ties.