

cus—amplified by the media—on pedophilia, which has extended into the whole range of the child sex market.

Seabrook laments the tabloid treatment of the Bangkok sex trade and you can understand his angst at its shallow reporting of the situation. Not every reporter has an opportunity—or the time—to sit down with subjects like those in this book and really understand their circumstances as he has done.

The result is a sympathetic treatment of the humanity involved and despite the subsequent academic work done in this area—which Seabrook's isn't—this book will remain a reference standard in the field.

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Tourism and Leisure Landscapes: Social and Cultural Geographies

Cara Aitchison, Nicola E. MacLeod, and Stephen J. Shaw. (London: Routledge, 2000, Advances in Tourism series; £55.00, 201 pp; ISBN 0-415-17060-5)

The “cultural turn” in geography, defined as the application of social theory to place, space, and environmental issues, has contributed to an increased attention by the “mainstream” geography discipline toward issues of leisure, recreation, and tourism. This has been especially true in cultural geography, which has come to view tourism as an essential nexus of modernity and postmodernity, experience and illusion, and equity and power. David Crouch's (1999) edited volume, *Leisure/Tourism Geographies: Practices and Geographical Knowledge*, has been among the more prominent efforts to bring these new ideas and approaches together in a single book. Like many edited efforts, however, his attempt lacked a certain degree of cohesiveness, particularly in linking the tourism and leisure focused themes of the chapters. For more cohesive applications of social theory to tourism and leisure, cultural geographers have instead turned to the writings of sociologists, particularly John Urry's (1990) *The Tourist Gaze* and per-

haps Chris Rojek's (1995) *Decentering Leisure*. As much as these authors are able to offer, they did not encompass the breath and focus of geographic inquiry that had especially exploded in the 1990s. In *Leisure and Tourism Landscapes: Social and Cultural Geographies*, Cara Aitchison, Nicola E. MacLeod, and Stephen J. Shaw have, for the first time, combined the range and scope of the geographic perspective with the depth and understanding of social theory (especially poststructuralism) to define a new geography of tourism and leisure in a fairly comprehensive and comprehensible manner.

The authors state that the book “is about the production, representation, consumption and (re)presentation of the British landscape” (p. 1). The British focus is a bit of a barrier to this book receiving a much wider audience. However, for readers outside of the UK, the methodological nature of the subject matter, its overall organization and presentation, and its wealth of new perspectives and ideas

should be more than enough to draw considerable interest. Including the introduction, the book is comprised of 10 chapters. Chapters 2 and 3 provide a contextual background on geography and leisure/tourism. Chapter 2 discusses the evolution of geographic thought and its relationship to research in leisure and tourism. Among the major themes covered here are the dominance of structuralism in most geographic research on leisure and tourism, including land use typologies, exclusionary environments, and colonial interpretations of history and place. Chapter 3 focuses on the conceptualization of the leisure and tourism through a focus on the development of transit and human mobility; and its accompanying "annihilation" of time and space.

Most of the remaining chapters examine major themes or contexts of leisure and tourism. These include valuing the rural and countryside landscapes (Chapter 4), literary and artistic interpretations of leisure places (Chapter 5), the creation and experience of heritage landscapes (Chapter 6), deconstructing gender differences in leisure and tourism (Chapter 7), public policy and commercial decadence in urban landscapes (Chapter 8), and a rather short chapter on landscapes of desire and sexuality (Chapter 9). Although similar in overall context to traditional geography approaches to leisure and tourism (cf. Hall & Page, 1999), the focus of these chapters and the literature upon which they are based are vastly different. Traditional structuralists research, which dominates most every other tourism and recreation textbook, is only minimally covered. The perspectives that are emphasized are those that focus on issues of feminism, power, dualism, modernism, symbolism, deconstruction, access and exclusion, experience and place, and personal identity.

The final, and very brief (3 pages long), chapter purports to identify the major themes that run through the book. Continuing in a poststructuralist manner, the authors view this chapter as a reflection on the journey they have taken the reader through in the previous nine chapters. They see the book as having challenged the dualistic nature of traditional leisure and tourism studies, especially between the self and the Other, production and consumption, and inclusion and exclusion. The heritage chapter, for example, challenges the notion that fact and fiction (or reality and myth) actually exist as distinct and

separate realities. This notion is similar to David Lowenthal's (1985) arguments in *The Past is a Foreign Country*, which interestingly is not one of the book's references. I question, however, whether the deconstruction of dualism is achieved in every chapter as clearly as it could be. In addition, I think that there are other themes that could have been identified and further defined in this final chapter, such as representation and identity formation, thereby making this final chapter more fulfilling.

In their conclusion, the authors note that while social and cultural geographers have engaged poststructuralism for some time, and have encountered tourism and leisure issues in the process, the opposite has not been the case among geographers whose research has focused more on tourism and leisure. They state, "This book has sought to develop *leisure and tourism geographies* to a point where they might meet *geographies of leisure and tourism*" (p. 172; italics in original). By this they mean to bridge the gap between "traditional tourism geographers" and "new cultural geographers" who do tourism and leisure as part of the poststructuralist research. I felt that this book was a welcome and commendable effort in that direction. Despite its decidedly UK emphasis, I will seriously consider it as a text for my graduate seminar in tourism geography, but only as a welcome addition to more comprehensive works, such as Hall and Page (1999). This means that there is still room for another attempt to integrate traditional tourism geography, which is a significant body of literature, with the new cultural geography approach that has emerged in a major way in the mainstream geography discipline.

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