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With macro environmental issues occupying increasing space in public and private discourses, it can be refreshing to come across scholarship that attempts to draw attention to the less glamorous aspects of the environment-society relationship. This has been achieved by Anna Davies in *The Geographies of Garbage Governance*, a study of municipal solid waste governance in two developed nations, Ireland and New Zealand.

The aim of Davies text is to ‘confront the dual processes of translocalization and politicalization’ (p.4) in the area of municipal waste management governance.

Methodologically the study adopts a comparative approach that utilises a case study method to examine and draw comparisons between the legislative frameworks and policy mechanisms that each country has taken in managing their respective municipal solid wastes.

Through eight Chapters in three sections, Davies takes the reader on an insightful journey through contemporary waste management in a way that goes beyond traditional approaches that have tended to emphasise the technical and economic aspects. By defining municipal solid waste management as being as much a global concern as it is a local one, Davies demonstrates how waste has emerged out of the socio-historical developments of both societies to operate within a wider international context.

In what follows, both cases are carefully deconstructed. The first section unravels the complex theories, concepts and frameworks that have influenced waste governance practices to date. The second section is devoted to an in-depth description and analysis of the two cases. This is achieved initially by considering the unique social, political and economic developments of Ireland and New Zealand, before moving on to analyse the waste management practices and policies in each nation. In the final section more explicit comparisons are drawn between both countries, enabling Davies to offer some concluding thoughts on where further empirical attention might be focused in the future.

So does it deliver? Davies style is lucid and engaging, ensuring that each section hangs together in a logical manner. The description and analysis is suitably detailed to convey the complexity of the issues in a thoughtful way that brings to life the subject matter. The discussion and explanation given to governance in the context of waste is convincing, which is seen as emerging out of the historical, legislative and policy developments of each nation being coupled with the ongoing influence of state and non-state actors on the policy process.

Where comparative studies can generally be weaker is in attempting to juxtapose two seemingly unconnected cases. Davies seeks to overcome this by emphasising the shared patterns and influences that have contributed to the cultural, political and economic developments of each nation (p.159). But despite this, the reader is still left wondering why these two countries in particular were selected and not some other two that may be more comparable some way, because while the paths of different countries may be similar in some areas, there is usually just as much evidence to

suggest different and divergent ones.

But this aside, *The Geographies of Garbage Governance* does still provide a sophisticated analysis of the two cases to effectively lift the lid on modern garbage governance in each country in a considered and engaging way. The result is a book that will be of interest to students and scholars from across academia, but particularly for those with an interest in environmental social science, policy implementation and global governance.