

Reading Questions Week 5 HCW

Spaces of Inequalities and Bodies in Space

Setha Low's piece is an introduction to an edited volume. The names of other authors and brief summaries that she refers to might be too confusing and truncated for a comfortable understanding. However, the article is an efficient way to expose oneself and to start exploring more in-depth issues related to space. It also helps to find ways to distance ourselves from the taken-for-granted and discover invisible aspects of space. With this article you should start thinking and asking questions related to power, inequalities, and other meanings that certain spaces might convey.

For instance, consider the following while reading this piece.

1. What is spatial analysis?
2. What are the multiple scales and methods of spatial analysis?
3. "Space is a form of social practice" – what does this mean?
4. What questions does the author bring up in discussing the works of her colleagues?
5. List and think about the categories or labels of spaces that the author discusses (i.e. countries, museum displays, racially or class segregated neighborhoods).

Teresa Caldeira Imprinting and Moving Around

Caldeira argues that both *pixações* and graffiti are transgressions. Explain what she means by this. How does she support her argument? Pay attention to the components of her argument and ethnographic details that she uses. (Hint: think about the historical context of the city, such as what was the space like before the transgressions and who dominated the public space, etc).

1. Do you agree or disagree with Caldeira's argument? Explain why.
2. What kinds of meanings do *pixação* embody for different parties (i.e. practitioners, spectators, etc) and what technologies do they use for achieving them?
3. The author also states (in more than one place) that while the transgressive practices of inscription and moving around reveal inequalities, they also do not help to lessen them, but almost exacerbate. How does she support this argument?
4. Caldeira also tries to show how signs are interconnected and they are meaningful in relation to other signs. Can you give examples that illustrate her points?

5. Why do these young men, who practice transgression, create, according to Caldeira, a disjuncture in democracy?

Michel Foucault's Docile Bodies

1. What were the advancements in the understanding of the relationship between the human body and power during the classical age?
2. What are the techniques of the body? How are they related to the larger social structures, societal norms, and everyday life?
3. What do you think of Foucault's description of technologies of discipline and power? Do you agree with him or disagree?

Franz Boas

Changes in the Bodily Forms of Migrants

1. What is Boas' main goal?
2. What is his argument against the ones made by Mr. Radosavljevich? Why? What does this disagreement teach us about race, body, contexts, and claims?
3. Why do you think Boas suggests a revision of established concepts, methods, and taken-for-granted assumptions? What issues prompted him to propose these revisions?
4. What does Boas think of "natural selection" in this context?

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