

The Production of Space, Time, and the Body in Feeling Wrong

By Ondine Park, MacEwan University

OUTLINE OF PAPER – The work as it is presented here is not intended for circulation or citation.

1. Background

- Initial project: North Vancouver
 - Purpose: consider the ambivalent and mutually constituting relationship between two historically and spatially defining sites:
 - local shopping mall (Lynn Valley Centre)
 - large park (Lynn Canyon)
 - 2 polar abysses
 - reserve of wild nature – abyss:
 - “represents the terror of existential freedom. ... [T]he abyss ironically represents transcendence and the possibility that we might become more tomorrow than we are today” (Featherstone 2015, 213).
 - inward-facing shopping mall and vast emptiness of the surface parking that encircled it – negative abyss:
 - “offers no real freedom and does not lead anywhere new but rather *transfixes* the viewer somewhere and nowhere in such a way that [its] darkness ... becomes a representation of the nothingness of death” (Featherstone 2015, 213).

II. Failed Nostalgia Tour

- ***Nostalgia tour***: revisited some places with the intention of being reminded of past habits or inducing an affective resonance.
 - 2 companions
 - Expectation: some sort of affective resonance between a visceral or habitual bodily encounter with a familiar or reminiscent place.
 - But: unaffecting.

III. Wrong Feelings

- Feeling wrong
 - unsettling experience of having an unexpected and unwelcome affective response to a place and in a place and, in turn, the place having the wrong feel and mobilizing the wrong feelings.
 - related to the production of place, of time, and of the body
 - the place lacked affective or temporal depth
- Sense of failure on 3 registers
 - The body fails.
 - The place fails.
 - Affect fails.
 - Failures only in relation to a particular matrix of expectations and familiar ways of feeling premised on some relationship to temporality.
- Premised on critical theories of spatialization – social production of space (Lefebvre 1991)
 - Adding production of time—temporalization.

IV. Other wrong feelings

- Uncanniness
 - Freud: “Unheimlich is the name for everything that ought to have remained... secret and hidden but has come to light” (Vidler 1992)
 - suggests unacknowledged but lurking layers of symbolic, subjective, imaginative, and collective depths.
- Déjà vu
 - a moment in a specific social configuration of place, people, and activities, that registers as cognitively feeling familiar and simultaneously lacking emotional intensity in and of itself.
 - E.g. “Time Travelling” comic by Kevin Huizenga – sense of repetition, déjà vu, and accumulation of time — similar to the “instant” and the relation between temporal and eternal that Kierkegaard describes in *The Concept of Dread*.

V. Conclusion

- This paper extends theories of spatialization (that space is an ongoing social production) to include considerations of time and the ways in which time layers with space at the site of the experience of the body in order to render place.
- Being at the beginning of such a project, I am yet uncertain how to tackle jointly the problem of making space, time, and the body through affect but it seems worth remembering Elias’s (1992) five dimensions:
 - The 3 dimensions of space
 - The 4th dimension of time
 - And, for humans, the 5th dimension of meaning/symbols/consciousness/experience

References

- Creed, Barbara. 2007. *Déjà vu, Film, and the Uncanny*.
- Elias, Norbert. 1992. *Time: An Essay*, translated by Edmund Jephcott. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Featherstone, Mark. 2015. *The Negative Abyss: Surface, Depth, and Violence in Virilio and Stiegler*.
- Freud, Sigmund. Freud, Sigmund. 1985. "The Uncanny," translated by Angela Richards. *Sigmund Freud, vol. 14: Art and Literature*, edited by Albert Dickson, 339–76. London and New York: Penguin Books.
- Huizenga, Kevin. 2006. “Time Travelling,” in *Curses #1*.
- Kierkegaard, Søren. 1957. *The Concept of Dread*, translated by Walter Lowrie. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Lefebvre, Henri. 1991. *The Production of Space*, translated by Donald Nicholson-Smith. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Park, Ondine. 2016. *Feeling Wrong in the the Production of Space, Time, and the Body*. Presentation at the Canadian Sociological Association annual meeting, Calgary, AB.
- Vidler, Anthony. 1992. *The Architectural Uncanny: Essays in the Modern Unhomely*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Images

Robert Adams, Sumer Nights Walking 5
Todd Hido, Untitled
Amy Bennett, “Sleeping Separately.”
Lori Nix, Circleville
David Hoffos. Winter Kitchen.

Henry Wessel, Night Walk No 22
Todd Hido, 2133
David Hilliard, Dad
Robert Adams, Longmont, Colorado
Leonard Koscianski, *Dusk*

Robert Adams, Colorado Springs
Gregory Crewdson, from *Under the Roses*
Laurie Simmons, Underneath
Diane Arbus, Christmas Tree in a Living Room in Levittown, Long Island
Sheila Pree Bright, Untitled 40
Still from *Poltergeist*.
Piotr Chizinski, Philanthropist
Barbara Gallucci, Barb and Jess
Gregory Crewdson, untitled
Susan Dobson, Open House 11
Promotional image from *Six Feet Under*.
Promotional image from *Breaking Bad*.
Gregory Crewdson, Untitled
Laurie Simmons, Blonde, Red Dress, Kitchen
Lori Lorusso, Inferno
Martin Mull, House Hunter
Diane Arbus, A family on their lawn one Sunday in Westchester
Eric Fischl, Barbeque
Kristopher Karklin, Backyard (Daytime)
Isabelle Hayeur, Aube
Mark Kasumovic, Suburbs #1, Toronto, ON
Liz Kuball, Pods #2
James Griffioen, Feral House 13
James Griffioen, Feral House 13
Sarah McKenzie, Aerial 53
Edward Burtynsky, Suburbs #1
Ross Racine, Elmwood and Oaklawn
William Garnett, Foundations and Slabs, Lakewood, CA
Ross Jones, Suburb
Bill Owens, from *Suburbia*
Robert Selwyn, Overpass
Jaclyn Shoub, Untitled (Bridge and Tower)
Amy Casey, Safety in Numbers
Edward Burtynsky, Suburbs #3
Michael Light, Black Mountain 11
Sze Tsung Leong, Houston II
Angela Strassheim, *McDonald's*
Meg Aubrey, Thursday Afternoon
Jeff Brouws, Strip Malls, No. 13
Benjamin Edwards, Fresher, Hotter, Better
Jeff Brouws, Strip Malls, No1, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Marlene Mulder Blight and Consumption, Bedford Heights, OH
Lewis Baltz, South Corner, Riccar American Co.

Michelle Muldrow, Sprawlmart Ohio
Susan Dobson, Home Depot
Susan Dobson, Home Depot
Chris Ballantyne, Warehouse
Mark Kasumovic, Silhouettes - Concord, ON
Craig Lloyd, Cruiser
Lori Lorusso, The System
Chris Ballantyne, Berm
Michael Light, Compton and Carson Industrial Park
Matthew Moore, "Moore Estates"
William Garnett, Housing Development, San Francisco, CA
Ed Ruscha, Plots
Ben Needham, Transients
Steven Millar, Suburb
Ed Ruscha, Averages
Jennifer McAuley, Dream Home 1
Chris Ballantyne, Fence (and Trail), 2008
Glenn Priestley, The Suburbs
Peter Drake, Bulwark
Gillian Willans, *The Neighbourhood 2*
Tom Berenz, Shortly Aftermath (California Wildfires)
Blue McRight, Untitled (Man of the House)
Brian Tolle, "Cheaper by the Dozen"
Meg Aubrey, Suburban Coffee Blues
Laurie Simmons, *Lying Objects (house)*
Sarah Ross, *Architecture for a Comfort Class*
Shaun Tan, from "Stick Figures," *Tales from Outer Suburbia*
Jennifer McAuley, Twilight Bullrushes
Kevin Huizenga, cover image, from *Curses* from *NaturesGraffiti.com*
Promotional Image from *Stepford Wives*
Still image from *Dawn of the Dead*
Shaun Tan, from *Tales from Outer Suburbia*
Kevin Huizenga, from *Curses* from *ToothpasteForDinner.com*
Catherine Opie, from *Mini-Malls* series
Still image from *ET: Extra Terrestrial*
Still image from *Edward Scissorhands*
Still image from *The Truman Show*
Still image from *Arrested Development*
Image of Harry Potter's house from the *Harry Potter* film series
Still image from *Despicable Me*