

## BOOK REVIEWS

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ENTANGLEMENT OF POWER: GEOGRAPHIES OF DOMINATION/RESISTANCE by Joanne P. Sharp, Paul Routledge, Chris Philo and Ronan Paddison (eds.), London: Routledge, 2000.

Entanglement of Power: Geographies of Domination/Resistance is a collection of essays which were first delivered at a conference whose aim was, the editors inform us in their preface, to investigate “thoroughly such entangled geographies of domination/resistance” (p. xv). In the first sentence of their introduction the editors declare that: “The purpose of the book is to explore fresh perspectives on the geographies of power” (p. 1).

To achieve this purpose the editors have brought together a number of essays which portray “the myriad *entanglements* that are integral to the workings of power, stressing that there are—bound up in these entanglement—countless processes of domination and resistance which are always implicated in, and mutually constitutive of, one another” (ibid.).

The expansion of the concept of power and the attempt to examine it from the point of view of those upon whom power is exercised, and the attempt to do so also from the point of view of those who need to exhibit the ability to resist power, are themes that have been taken up by many working in the field of post-colonial studies. And so when I picked up the book I expected to find in it essays that develop themes in the direction of the geography of post-colonialism. This expectation was also fueled by the editors in their introduction when they proclaimed that: “...power should not be viewed solely as an attribute of the dominant, expressed as coercion or political control, since it is also present in the ability to resist.” (p. 3)

Here the book connects directly with Foucault and does not confine itself to traditional concepts of power that relate it directly and exclusively to authority and control of A over B, that find expression in the classical analyses of power by authors such as Robert Dahl, Harold Lasswell and Bertrand Russell. As the book is part of a series that deals with *Critical Geographies* the natural expectation was that the essays in the book would deal with the localization of hidden and camouflaged power within geographic space. Moreover my expectation was to find essays that throw light on the nature and location of resisting power or what could be referred to as the power of the powerless. Hence, I expected to find special analysis of examples of this type of subversive power which would display them in all their complexity in their relationships with the formal institutions of power such as government, the law and the bureaucracy. In short the chief problem I expected to find being analyzed in this book is the connection between power, space and geography.

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With this expectation in mind the book will be a success to the extent that it establishes the connotations between different forms of powers to different types of location, for example the relationship of control that holds between center and periphery where periphery is able to apply subversive power against the center; or the relationships of power that develop over time as a result of changes taking place in a specific geographical area such as the changes due to famine draught, urbanization and colonization.

In this sense the book is only a partial success for while some of the contributing authors take up the challenge others only mention it. For example, in her article 'Entangling resistance, ethnicity, gender and nation in Ecuador' Sarah Radcliff speaks about power in its geographical setting stressing both its spatial and local dimensions and she does it in such a way that throws light on the geography of the gendered body. More specifically what she argues for is "a sustained gender focus in discussions of hybridity. Perceived as a complex interplay between relations of domination and resistance, the ambivalence of the hybrid with relation to unequal gender relations points to the domination within hybridity. In the Ecuadorian case such domination rests largely upon the politics of heterosexuality. Andean patriarchal popular imagination link femininity with the risk of loss of essence. Whereas the male adoption of indigenous clothes is couched within a context of masculine (albeit subaltern indigenous) agency, the readoption of Indian clothing by women speak to (but is not encompassed by gender relations of heterosexuality." (pp. 177–8)

Another essay 'Entanglement of power: Shadows?' by Nigel Thrift deals enlighteningly with the complexity of power from the vantage point of Foucault, but treating Foucault's own work metaphorically as a geographical place, talking for example of Foucault's oeuvre as 'Foucault's country' (p. 269). This latter idea is interesting and promising, unfortunately Thrift does not really pursue it seriously.

All in all one find in this book many interesting attempts to refashion traditional concepts such as power, space and location and to show how they can be used by geographers to throw light on contemporary issues of politics, cultures gender and even sport. However, not all of the attempts succeed to the same extent.

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THINKING SPACE by Mike Crang and Nigel Thrift (eds.), London: Routledge, 2000.

In the introduction to the book that they have edited, *Thinking Space*, Mike Crang and Nigel Thrift write:

Space is the everywhere of modern thought. It is the flash that flatters the bones of theory. It is an all-purpose nostrum to be applied whenever things look sticky. It is an invocation that suggests the writer is right on without her having to give too much away. It is flexibility as explana-