Topographies of Remembrance across the former British Empire



Paul Gough, ‘Topographies of Remembrance across the former British Empire’, in Racine, Michel; Bastin, Christine, and Evrard, Jacques (eds.) *Gardens of Peace / Jardins de Paix*, Paris, Fonds Mercator, 2019.

Abstract

Where once geographers could argue that the ideological and aesthetic issues surrounding the military cemeteries created by the British Empire had drawn little comment, there is now a considerable literature exploring the spaces and places of remembrance. Increasing attention has been paid during the past decade to the value of *‘*situation*’* in the discourse of death, grieving and commemoration. In this respect, ‘situation’ should be understood to be a focus on ‘place’, ‘space’ and the geopolitical.The emerging discipline of cultural geography in the late 1990s created the tools necessary to elaborate ‘space’ in the abstract, to regard ‘place’ as a site where an individual might negotiate definitively social relations, and give voice, as Sara Blair argued, to ‘the effects of dislocation, disembodiment, and localisation that constitute contemporary social disorder’.Almost a century after Sigmund Freud’s treatise *Mourning and Melancholia*, our understanding of how memory and mourning function continues to be challenged, revised and refined. Issues of place have become important to this debate. Once a marginal topic for academic investigation, there is now a body of scholarly work – including deep research in landscape and garden design – that explores the complex interrelationship between memory, mourning and *‘*death-scapes*’* (or *‘*memory-scapes*’*), a portmanteau term that fuses an appreciation of once-violated landscapes with personal and discursive memories.

pgough@aub.ac.uk

January 2020

* Hardcover : 224 pages
* ISBN-10 : 9462301220
* ISBN-13 : 978-9462301221
* Product Dimensions : 24.8 x 2.6 x 27.8 cm
* Publisher : Mercatorfonds; 01 Edition (19 Dec. 2019)
* Language: : French