

Moving Spaces and Places

Emerald Interdisciplinary Connexions

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Moving Spaces and Places: Interdisciplinary Essays on Transformative Movements Through Space, Place, and Time

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Preface

When Progressive Connexions opened the floor for the theme of spaces and places, a gathering of scholars and professionals took place that reached across an overwhelming variety of disciplines and touched upon a wide array of topics related to spaces and places. The topic of movement stood out, among others. Movement in a literal sense of moving bodies through space and place, and movement in a more figurative way, of shifting perceptions and affects for spaces and places, affect in the meaning of a transitional product of an encounter through the senses. After a first conference on spaces and places, in Bruges, Belgium, in April 2019, the collaboration for this book was started. But then, the project got intercepted by the pandemic, causing serious delays. Luckily, both Emerald Publishers Ltd and Progressive Connexions allowed us to suspend and seek new contributions during a second event on spaces and places, which took place online in March 2021. We were thrilled to find, again, refreshing and cross-cutting perspectives on movement in relation to space and place. Again, however, the road through the pandemic remained bumpy, and new shuffles in the composition of contributions occurred over the course of 2021.

But here we are, and we are thrilled with the outcome. This edited volume, *Moving Spaces and Places: Interdisciplinary Essays on Transformative Movements through Space, Place, and Time*, presents a collection of 10 contributions which all approach the relationship between movement and spaces and places in surprising ways. We are aware that the relationship between movement and space and place is not a new topic, already addressed by many – predominantly spatial scholars – in multiple ways. But the diversity of these current contributions, as well as their multi- and cross-disciplinary approaches, reveals a depth to the theme that none of us had anticipated. Each of the contributions tells its own unique story of how movement is both an act of physical moving bodies and objects, as well as a way in which perceptions and affects can be unsettled and shifted. The contributions also illustrate how physical and psychological movements are often intertwined, creating new relationships between people and the spaces and places they inhabit, as well as new relationships with their own selves. The contributions illustrate how aesthetic experience, the study of culture and art, artistic and participatory practices play a crucial role in bringing the physical and psychological experience of movement into symbiosis. Moreover, the book reveals how physical duration and agency as a psychological act create a potential for healing and reconciling the often broken, interrupted or disturbed relationships between people and places and spaces.

The creation of this book has been an exhilarating journey. The suspense and forced reorientations due to pandemic challenges, granted us time to think and to reflect and revealed to us the intertwining of physical and psychological movement, and the transformative potential that emerges from this intertwinement. As such, this book does not only speak of transformative movements across real, physical spaces and places, but also is the result of a transformative experience itself.

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Secondly, our thanks goes to Progressive Connexions for the organisation of two inspiring events: the first conference on spaces and places in Bruges, April 2019, and the second (online) conference on spaces and places in March 2021. Their call for interdisciplinary perspectives on spaces and places has given ground to the truly enriching experience of putting this book together. Our special thanks go out to Teresa Cutler-Broyles, the soul and creator of these events, and our lightning beacon through pandemic disturbances. You always kept faith and never let us take our eyes off the content and the creation of the book. And you were always there to delve into the even deeper levels of meaning that connected the chapters in the book. Stefano Rozzoni, thank you for your ever lasting optimism, your critical observations, supportive thinking and inspiration, as well as your pioneering efforts in creating the other Progressive Connexions book on space and place: *Re-imagining Spaces and Places: Essays on Identity, Spaces, and Places* (2022). Beitske Boonstra, your always kind reminders and constant work to keep this volume on track has resulted in our meeting all the deadlines, and your communications with the authors has been exemplary in sometimes difficult circumstances. Your vision and dedication are inspiring: thank you for all that you have done.

Thirdly and lastly, we would like to thank all the contributors to the book. Many of you were there at our very start in Bruges; some of you joined the project at a later stage. For all of you, we are very thankful that you have stood with us through these challenging years and most of all, to remain adaptive to the transformations in the thematic focus of the book. Changes in the lineup of authors (mostly due to the pandemic) first forced us to shift focus, and at the very

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end of putting the book together, we as editors noticed an emerging consistency, a new connecting line throughout the book which we could not let go unnoticed. We thank you all sincerely for your latest efforts in making this connecting line even more explicit in your works. We deeply feel this book has been a collective journey that has transformed and enriched us all.