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The Practice of Public Topography: Teaching People to Appreciate Ordinary Places Using Books and New Media

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Abstract

People have a deep need to connect to places, but modernity has weakened many of the traditional ways that people have bonded with localities. Geographers of the past believed that a core responsibility of geography was to describe places. This connection between geography and place education, however, has attenuated as geographers have become increasingly concerned with theory and have eschewed regional geography. This research seeks to revitalize the geographic tradition of topography (writing about small places) by examining its best works, while at the same time exploring new ways to connect people with places. It answers the question, "What lessons can we learn about place writing for non-academic audiences from the genre's best examples, and how can these lessons inform the use of new media to connect people with places?" Examples of excellent topographic books and audio podcasts were analyzed to answer this question. Based on a study of the topographic tradition, literature on place attachment, and an empirical examination of topographic books, three essential features of a modern public topography are proposed: 1) topography teaches people to appreciate particular places; 2) topography engages the general public; and 3) topography is inherently geographical. Topographic works that incorporate these elements are found to use one or more of three strategies for facilitating the appreciation of place: 1) an explanatory strategy; 2) a poetic strategy; 3) or an experiential strategy. Specific recommendations for the application of these features and strategies to topographic writing are given. These essential features and strategies were used to analyze audio podcasts about small places. The result is a series of recommendations for the creation of topographic podcasts. To illustrate the utility of these recommendations, a podcast about the influence of the Brazos River on the landscape of Texas's Brazos Valley was produced, along with an accompanying webpage. This research suggests that while modernity has created significant obstacles to place attachment, a new interpretation of the old geographic tradition of topography has the potential to reduce those obstacles and to help the public to better appreciate places. Based on a study of the topographic tradition, literature on place attachment, and an empirical examination of topographic books, three essential features of a modern public topography are proposed: 1) topography teaches people to appreciate particular places; 2) topography engages the general public; and 3) topography is inherently geographical. Topographic works that incorporate these elements are found to use one or more of three strategies for facilitating the appreciation of place: 1) an explanatory strategy; 2) a poetic strategy; 3) or an experiential strategy. Specific recommendations for the application of these features and strategies to topographic writing are given. These essential features and strategies were used to analyze audio podcasts about small places. The result is a series of recommendations for the creation of topographic podcasts. To illustrate the utility of these recommendations, a podcast about the influence of the Brazos River on the landscape of Texas's Brazos Valley was produced, along with an accompanying webpage. This research suggests that while modernity has created significant obstacles to place attachment, a new interpretation of the old geographic tradition of topography has the potential to reduce those obstacles and to help the public to better appreciate places.

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Theme by



With the invention of the Internet and development of TV media more and more of ordinary people become famous. Some people see this trend as a beneficial one whereas other argue that it causes a harm to the society. In my opinion, it's rather a negative development. This essay will discuss both sides of the tendency. Some believe that the Internet and TV shows provide an unique opportunity for anyone to gain money from something they enjoy to do. For example, talented singers may participate in musical TV shows, such as Voice. As a result , they become popular and recognizable , therefore they The purpose of public relations is to inform, shape opinions and attitudes, and motivate. This can be accomplished only if people receive messages constantly and consistently. The media, in all their variety, are cost-effective channels of communication in an information society. They are the multipliers that enable millions of people to receive a message at the same time. Through the miracle of satellite communications, the world is a global village of shared information. On a more specialized level, the media are no longer just mass communication. Thousands of publications and hundred of rad In the fight against crime, police forces and governments are increasingly using security cameras in public places. Some people are opposed to this, saying that it invades our privacy. What do you think? In the beginning they appeared only in banks and high-security areas, they are now entering public places such as malls, streets, stadiums and transport. Many people fell this affects their privacy. To my mind, surveillance cameras have several benefits. Firstly, with the help of cameras the police can catch criminals in the act, thus reducing crime. This will make the streets safe for ordinary people. Secondly, criminals, particularly young offenders or pretty criminals will be deterred. They will not be tempted to carry out crimes, and thus society will be a lot safer.