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What Can a Book Do?: Following a Book through a Literary Controversy and a War The Case of The Bookseller of Kabul.

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Kuusela, Hanna. 2010. *What Can a Book Do?: Following a Book through a Literary Controversy and a War The Case of The Bookseller of Kabul.*. Doctoral thesis, Goldsmiths, University of London [Thesis]

Text (What can a book do? : following a book through a literary controversy and a war : the case of The Bookseller of Kabul)



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Abstract or Description

This thesis discusses Asne Seierstad's international literary bestseller *The Bookseller of Kabul* (2002) and the controversy it created between the Norwegian author and the Afghan family presented in the book. Rather than asking what a book is, this research asks what a book does. It investigates the mechanisms through which a book like *The Bookseller of Kabul* can produce consequences in the contemporary world. In order to approach these productive abilities of books, the thesis develops an extended notion of the book as a relational and processual set of entities. Consequently, the thesis calls for research, which would take into account the complex relations between what we read and how we are able to read it. Methodologically, the emphasis is on material culture, the social life of the book and the actor-networks the book created as a global commodity. The thesis investigates how different actors and materialities collectively created the book and its consequences. Consequently, it discusses the relations a contemporary literary object needs and builds to other forms of media, to different materialities, to readers and to discourses in order to generate power effects. Because books are highly diffusible objects and enjoy a freedom and a status unthinkable for many other commodities, interventions against a literary bestseller are difficult if not impossible to carry forward. As a consequence, a book like *The Bookseller of Kabul* can play an unacknowledged role at the times when Western countries are involved in a war in Afghanistan.

Item Type:	Thesis (Doctoral)
Identification Number (DOI):	https://doi.org/10.25602/GOLD.00028538
Keywords:	Åsne Seierstad, <i>The Bookseller of Kabul</i>
Departments, Centres and Research Units:	Centre for Cultural Studies (1998-2017)
Date:	2010
Item ID:	28538

Date Deposited: 22 May 2020 14:42

Last Modified: 22 May 2020 14:46

URI: <https://research.gold.ac.uk/id/eprint/28538>

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Goldsmiths, University of London, New Cross, London, SE14 6NW, UK
Telephone: + 44 (0) 20 7919 7166 / Email: gro@gold.ac.uk

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The Causeway Bay Books disappearances are a series of international disappearances concerning five staff members of Causeway Bay Books, a former bookstore located in Causeway Bay, Hong Kong. Between October and December 2015, five staff of Causeway Bay Books went missing. At least two of them disappeared in mainland China, one in Thailand. One member was last seen in Hong Kong, and eventually revealed to be in Shenzhen, across the Chinese border, without the travel documents necessary to have crossed -legal books, judicial offices. 2. Why do legal professionals need Good research skills? -without investigation you cannot arrive at a fair reality for each case. Letter of Law // Where do I look? (Mirian Wheeler). There are many legal resources, so it's important to know how libraries organize them. 3. Which of the following does NOT focus on information about laws? A digests A computerized databases B primary materials D legal encyclopedias. 3 Vocabulary. Write a Word that is similar in meaning to the underline part. 1 The paralegal can find the case annotations in the (journals / legal encyclopedias). 2 It is much easier for Jane to find resources when she uses the (form book /computerized database). 3 The writer noted all the texts he used in the list of (digest / references).