



Ecologies of Affect: Placing Nostalgia, Desire, and Hope

Tonya K. Davidson, Ondine Park, and Rob Shields, editors

\$42.95 Paper • 360 pp. • 978-1-55458-258-7 • Environmental Humanities series • May 2011

A stellar collection of essays; sharply focused, cohesive and very smart... The theory never simply floats off the page and into the ether but is always grounded in some particular phenomenon or experience and, as examples of passionately engaged scholarship, the essays offer a coherent critical apparatus that simultaneously enacts how to go about using concepts like "affect" or "the virtual" in a very concrete fashion. That is, the chapters don't just do the talk (they never bog down in pure philosophy-speak), they walk the walk.

– Gregory J. Seigworth, Millersville University, Pennsylvania, co-editor, with Melissa Gregg, of *The Affect Theory Reader* (2010)

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Ecologies of Affect offers a synthetic introduction to the felt dynamics of cities and the character of places. The contributors capture the significance of affects, including desire, nostalgia, memory, and hope, in forming the identity and tone of places. The critical intervention this collection of essays makes is an active, consistent engagement with the virtualities that produce and refract our idealized attachments to place. Contributors show how place images, and attempts to build communities, are, rather than abstractions, fundamentally tied to and revolve around such intangibles. We understand nostalgia, desire, and hope as virtual; that is, even though they are not material, they are nevertheless real and must be accounted for. In this book, the authors take up affect, emotion, and emplacement and consider them in relation to one another and how they work to produce and are produced by certain temporal and spatial dimensions.

The aim of the book is to inspire readers to consider space and place beyond their material properties and attend to the imaginary places and ideals that underpin and produce material places and social spaces. This collection will be useful to practitioners and students seeking to understand the power of affect and the importance of virtualities within contemporary societies, where intangible goods have taken on an increasing value.

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Wilfrid Laurier University Press

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