

Geographies of Rhythm

Nature, Place, Mobilities and Bodies

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Translated into English in 2004, *Rhythmanalysis* puts forward Henri Lefebvre's theories on the relationship between time and space, particularly how rhythms characterise space. This book brings together leading geographers to expand and advance these theories and relationships. Although few scholars have explored the wealth of the critical, conceptual possibilities generated by rhythmanalysis, many of the issues raised by Lefebvre intersect with current theoretical and political concerns within the social sciences, and this book explores several of these themes.

In terms of geography, rhythmanalysis emphasises the dynamic and processual nature of space. Moreover, in thinking about the relationship of time to space, a focus on rhythm can highlight the tensions between repetition and innovation, and between the need for consistency and habit, but also the importance of breaks in routine, of disruption and unpredictability. These tensions reveal the ways in which social time is managed by power to ensure a measure of stability through the instantiation of temporal norms, but also illuminate how this is always contingent and often challenged. A rhythmic conformity concerning when particular practices should take place persists but superimposed upon and intersecting with these rhythms are the diverse habits of individuals, corporeal rhythms, seasonal and 'natural' rhythms and the rhythms of mobility which course through places, in addition to consciously mobilised alternative rhythms.

In looking at the rhythms of geographies, and drawing upon a wide range of geographical contexts, this book explores the ordering of different rhythms according to four main themes: rhythms of nature, rhythms of everyday life, rhythms of mobility, and the official and routine rhythms which superimpose themselves on the multiple rhythms of the body.

Geographies of Rhythm brings together fascinating contributions to the emerging field of rhythm analysis. Taking its starting point in Henri Lefebvre's inspiring but unfinished analysis, it works through concrete analyses to reach beyond his initial suggestions. The collection addresses a diverse range of issues, which are however connected in a common effort to show how places are always in a process of becoming but at the same time stabilised by repeated patterns of flow or rhythms. This should be a useful text for all those interested in the way in which rhythm analysis can advance the understanding of timespace, place and everyday life.

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Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| <i>List of Figures</i> | vii |
| <i>List of Contributors</i> | ix |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Introduction: Thinking about Rhythm and Space <i>Tim Edensor</i> | 1 |
|---|---|---|

PART I POWER AND THE RHYTHMS OF PLACE

| | | |
|---|--|----|
| 2 | Consuming Urban Rhythms: Let's Ravalejar <i>Monica Degen</i> | 21 |
| 3 | Life Hacking and Everyday Rhythm <i>Tracey Potts</i> | 33 |
| 4 | The Aesthetics of Place-temporality in Everyday Urban Space: The Case of Fitzroy Square <i>Filipa Matos Wunderlich</i> | 45 |

PART II RESISTING RHYTHMS

| | | |
|---|--|----|
| 5 | Urban Outreach and the Polyrhythmic City <i>Tom Hall</i> | 59 |
| 6 | Fascinatin' Rhythm(s): Polyrhythmia and the Syncopated Echoes of the Everyday <i>Deirdre Conlon</i> | 71 |
| 7 | 'I'm in a Park and I'm Practically Dead': Insomnia, Arrhythmia and Withnail and I <i>Craig Meadows</i> | 83 |

PART III MOBILE RHYTHMS

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 8 | ‘He Who Thinks, in Modern Traffic, is Lost’: Automation and the Pedestrian Rhythms of Interwar London <i>Richard Hornsey</i> | 99 |
| 9 | Improvising Rhythms: Re-reading Urban Time and Space through Everyday Practices of Cycling <i>Justin Spinney</i> | 113 |
| 10 | Repetition and Difference: Rhythms and Mobile Place-making in Santiago de Chile <i>Paola Jiron</i> | 129 |
| 11 | ‘The Engine Sang an Even Song’: Rhythm and Mobilities among Early Women Aviators <i>Dydia DeLyser</i> | 145 |

PART IV DRESSAGE AND BODIES

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 12 | Rumba and Rhythmic ‘Natures’ in Cuba <i>Shannon Hensley</i> | 159 |
| 13 | Equine Beats: Unique Rhythms (and Floating Harmony) of Horses and Riders <i>Rhys Evans and Alexandra Franklin</i> | 173 |

PART V RHYTHMS AND SOCIO-NATURES

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 14 | ‘The Breath of the Moon’: The Rhythmic and Affective Time-spaces of UK Tides <i>Owain Jones</i> | 189 |
| 15 | Re-thinking Catastrophe in the Time of Climate Change <i>James Evans</i> | 205 |

- | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----|
| | <i>Bibliography</i> | 217 |
| | <i>Index</i> | 239 |