Strange Spaces

Explorations into Mediated Obscurity

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Certain bizarre spaces, where disruption or disarray rule, leave us estranged and 'out of place'. This book examines such spaces, highlighting the emotional and mediated geographies of uncertainty and in-betweeness; of cognitive displacement, loss, fear, or exhilaration. It expands on why space is sometimes estranging and for whom it is strange.

Overlapping with affections evoked by otherness, such as the 'exile', the 'obscene', the 'deviant', or the 'queer', strange spaces also call for a separate discussion ranging from decadence or disorder to spaces glowing with celebrification and wonder. Strange spaces in this book are conceived of in terms of change; involving processes when the consciousness registers a form of loss or difference as the habitual suddenly, or by degrees, is transformed into the site of exile, discomfort and sometimes novelty, astonishment and awe.

While literature exists which covers both strangeness and spatial production, as well as empirical explorations of strange spaces, these have previously been dispersed and most often non-explicit. This book is the first to link such work within a profound theoretical discussion of 'what is strange about strange spaces' and how they evolve in a modern media age.

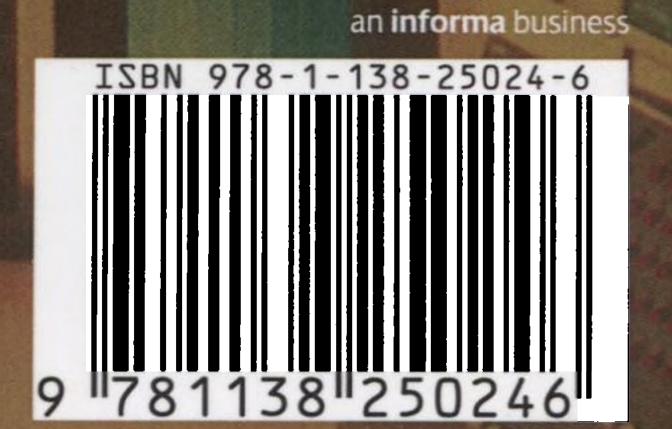
Strange Spaces splendidly shows why and for whom specific places and situations can be alienating. It is essential reading for those concerned with making and understanding inclusive public places and urban developments.

Rob Shields, University of Alberta, Canada

The order of space is always at odds with myths of social order. In this courageous book, an interdisciplinary range of authors formulate a richer language for understanding the culture of space and the space of culture. This important contribution to communication studies and cultural geography should be widely read.

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