
Alternatives

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Abstracts

Introduction: Geography and the Reconceptualization of Politics

Prem Kumar Rajaram and Nevzat Soguk*

An introduction to a special issue, this article explores the form of the political founded upon spatial transformation: an enabling framework of recognition setting parameters for the sayable and unsayable. It points especially to techniques of discipline, repression, and exhibition through which control over space is maintained and to the ambivalence, contradiction, and paradox inherent in place. **KEYWORDS:** space/place; political; exclusion; differentiation; identification

Splinters of Hegemony: Ontopoetical Visions in International Relations

Nevzat Soguk*

Drawing on a montage of specific cases from diverse political landscapes that echo well beyond their specificity, this article examines border poetics enacted in international migration, biopolitical poetics harnessed to the resistance by refugees to government regimentation of their displacement, the disruptive potential of poetics in the war in Iraq, and the poetics of poverty and wealth in Jamaica. **KEYWORDS:** onto poetics; resistance; poetic geography; another geography; borderlines

Taking Flight in Condemned Grounds: Forcibly Displaced Karens and the Thai-Burmese In-Between Spaces

Decha Tangseefa*

Based on fieldwork in non-ceasefire war zones within and between Thailand and Burma, this article explores the nexus between written language, intelligibility, and qualified voice in order to examine the Karen people as unqualified political subjects in a quotidian theater of the displaced. **KEYWORDS:** borders; state terror; displacement; intelligibility; sovereign power

From War to War:
Lord of the Flies as the Sociology of Spite

Bülent Diken and Carsten Bagge Laustsen*

A reading of Golding's *Lord of the Flies* as an allegory of a biopolitical or postpolitical society that elevates "security" to the most sacred principle of organization as a permanent state of exception and attempts to combine it with consumerism. It is in this context that spite, an impotent and self-sacrificial violence, reemerges as a postpolitical strategy. **KEYWORDS:** spite; security; exception; postpolitical; political infantilization

Security, Spatiality, and Social Suffering

Phillip Darby*

This article outlines a schema for developing an alternative knowledge about security, privileging non-European peoples and focusing on the sources and potentiality of insecurity. Urging attention to the everyday and the personal, to the claims of the other, and to forms of social suffering, the analysis foregrounds the part that spatiality can play in reconceptualizing security without making spatiality itself the subject of analysis.

KEYWORDS: security, spatiality, social suffering, the everyday, subjectivity

Dystopic Geographies of Empire

Prem Kumar Rajaram*

Through an economy of contemporary colonial power, this article examines the twin tropes of discipline and aesthetic representation in order to trace the intimate effects of contemporary colonial power on bodies placed in spaces of exception. **KEYWORDS:** colonial present; colonized bodies; geographies of dysutopia; spaces of exception