

BOOK REVIEWS

Mark BOYLE, *Metropolitan Anxieties: On the Meaning of the Catholic Adventure in Scotland*, Ashgate, Farnham 2011, 292 pp.

Academic and populist debate over religion, nation and ‘sectarianism’ in Scotland has clouded the changing experiences of what is sometimes called ‘the Irish Catholic community’ as well as ‘the Protestant Unionist heritage’. Mark Boyle’s (2011) multi-layered oral history of ‘the Irish Catholic community’ challenges this from the perspective of postcolonial theory. As he notes, one side in the dispute denies that sectarianism exists from the privileged ‘metrocentric’ perspective of professional social science while the other, more critical, side maintains that Scottish society is uniformly guilty of ‘institutional sectarianism’. Both sides share the same ‘metrocentric’ assumption that they have access to superior social scientific knowledge that can establish ‘the truth’ or otherwise of sectarianism.

Instead Boyle’s post-colonial framework rejects any claim that attempts to provide definitive knowledge that would make fully intelligible the Irish Catholic community in Scotland. Here group experience can only be known through idiographic, particular forms of knowledge rather than generalised categories. Boyle draws on Jean-Paul Sartre’s collective concepts of ‘masses’, ‘spontaneity’ and ‘Party’ (or ‘tribe’ as Boyle prefers). In the case of Irish Catholics as a group in Scotland alterity has been shaped by the proximity of the British empire, migration and co-existence in the colonial metropolis, anti-Irish racism, and political violence in north-east Ireland from the late 1960s to 2000s.

In challenging metrocentric assumptions that discount Irish Catholic heritage in Scotland Boyle also recognizes some of the problems of that assuming there is an identifiable and stable ‘community’ of Irish Catholic heritage. He argues that the category ‘Irish Catholic’ cannot be taken to refer literally to an actually-existing empirical population, say Irish-born or Irish heritage: ‘It is not a category with an essential referent or clearly defined object but instead a ‘hyper-real’ construct; a flag around which people gravitate, albeit to different degrees’ (p. 17).

However, throughout Boyle refers to ‘the Irish Catholic community in Scotland’ and ‘the Irish Catholic experience’ as a shared collectivity formed by ‘a unique cultural location [of] former colons now resident in the metropolitan heartland of former coloniser’ (p. 62). Knowledge of the historical processes of immigration and colonialization

are in this way made dependent on a binary and essentialist post-colonial model of an 'indigenous community' and a 'diasporic community' who continually encounter each other in multiple and complex forms. The Irish Catholic experience is therefore uniquely situated in every individual case.

In contrast to the 'inert tribalism' of frozen collective identities, Boyle argues that the Irish Catholic community in Scotland has exercised multiple forms of group belonging and difference, what he calls 'progressive tribalism'. This is founded on a more or less stable set of cultural signifiers: 'there exists a steady state or equilibrium to which the Irish Catholic community has repeatedly returned no matter what social, political, cultural, and economic offshoots it has spawned' (p. 260). While cultural alterity can be experienced negatively with the denigration of Irish Catholicism in metropolitan Scotland, the cultural proximity of a shared everyday universe constantly erodes any fixed culture of grievance.

With 'progressive tribalism' universal processes and individual lives are kept in 'constant suspension'. In this fluid situation it is difficult to establish a 'primary sense of loyalty'. After all, 'few members of the Irish community in Scotland deployed the category "Irish Catholic in Scotland"' (p. 97). Hence the group name under which Boyle constructs as 'progressive tribalism' is not one recognized by the subjects that it is meant to apply to. Here the social scientist defines reality for his subject despite cautioning against metrocentric classification systems.

Boyle constructs six ideal-types of hybrid Scottish-Irish Catholic identities ranging from the least assimilated 'biological Irish' to most assimilated 'Scottish with a repressed Irish Catholic past' (pp. 112–113). This is laced through with cultural constructions of Ireland as a lost homeland, ranging from the bitter and melancholic memories of first and second generation immigrants to the enchanted landscapes imagined by later generations, to more recent processes of modernization of (pre-crisis) Irish society and economy. It has also been buttressed by the role of Irish Catholic descendents in political and economic struggles for social justice through the labour movement, values that are served equally as well today by Scottish nationalism as it was in the past by British labourism. Clearly, Catholics in Scotland have not all been committed to progressive, left-wing or anti-imperialist politics. For instance, just as Scottish Catholics fought against fascism during the Spanish civil war (1936–1939), on the home front other Scottish Catholics supported Franco's forces as defenders of the church against communist atheism (Gray, 2008, pp. 125–134).

By 'Irish Catholic heritage' Boyle identifies a continuous collective subjecthood formed out of an unbroken cultural or religious tradition by the descendants of Irish immigrants in modern Scotland. On the other hand, in important ways the 'Irish Catholic community' in Scotland is defined and made intelligible by the discourse of sectarianism itself. Boyle's detailed research by-passes arid debates about sectarianism as a system or a cultural 'distortion', whatever the merits or de-merits of the Sartrean and post-colonial theory that he mobilizes to make the Irish Catholic experience intelligible in the first place. Boyle's study marks a refreshing and important alternative to the empiricism and mythologising that currently frames both scholarship and government policy on so-called religious sectarianism and cultural heritage in Scotland.

REFERENCES

GRAY, D. (2008) *Homage to Caledonia: Scotland and the Spanish Civil War*, Edinburgh: Luath.

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Judith MIGGELBRINK, Joachim Otto HABECK, Nuccio MAZZULLO and Peter KOCH (eds.), *Nomadic and Indigenous Spaces. Productions and Cognitions*, Ashgate, Surrey 2013, 298 pp.

The book titled *Nomadic and Indigenous Spaces. Productions and Cognitions* edited by Judith Miggelbrink, Joachim Otto Habeck, Nuccio Mazzullo and Peter Koch is a collection of essays which represent anthropological, geographical and ethnological approaches. The book is a result of the conference which took place at University of Leipzig in February 2011.

The first part called 'Nomadic and Indigenous Spaces: Paths and Perspectives', authored by Judith Miggelbrink, Joachim Otto Habeck, Nuccio Mazzullo and Peter Koch, is an introduction to different aspects of unexplored space and nomadic approaches to spatiality.

The second chapter, 'A Place Off the Map: the Case for a Non-Map-based Place Title' written by Denis Wood, presents the idea of the places which exist with their location and places which have no location but are very important for example for herders or Gypsies.

The third chapter, 'From Nomadic to Mobile Space: a Theoretical Experiment (1976–2012)' by Denis Retaillé, refers to the discussion about the end of nomadism in the Sahel. The author tries to show a new theoretical approach to space and places.

The chapter called 'Where is Indigenous? Legal Productions of Indigenous Space in the Russian North', written by Gail Fondahl, contains the new spatial visualizations across the legal landscape of Russian North. The author presents also legislation aspects of producing space.

The next chapter called 'The Nellim Forest Conflict in Finnish Lapland: Between State Forest Mapping and Local Forest Living', written by Nuccio Mazzullo, reflects on many aspects of the conflicts arising from large-scale forestry in the reindeer herding area. The author shows the case study of Nellim in Finnish Lapland as an example of conflict connected with the access to resources by the state-run forestry authorities and reindeer herders.

The part called 'Sámi-State Relations and its Impact on Reindeer Herding across the Norwegian-Swedish Border' written by Peter Koch tries to explain the theory of power mechanisms. The author seeks the answers to the question why cross-border reindeer herding on Norwegian-Swedish border still exists.

The next chapter called 'Identity Categories and the Relationship between Cognition and the Production of Subjectivities', written by Brian Donahoe, contains a collection of the author's considerations on different categories, classification and subjectivities in anthropology. The author also included some reflections connected with the issue of methodology and language in a discipline.

The chapter called 'Learning to Be Seated: Sedentarization in the Soviet Far North as a Spatial and Cognitive Enclosure' written by Joahim Otto Habeck tries to show how the sedentarization of nomads worked in the 1940s and 1950s in the Soviet Union in practice. The author describes the situation of Siberian reindeer nomads which were affected by administrative restructuring, collectivization or developing of new industrial branches.

The next part called 'Shamanist Topography and Administrative Territories in Cisbaikalia, Southern Siberia' written by Joseph J. Long is an attempt to show some aspects of ritual practices of Buryat Mongols. The author tries to describe sacred places along the road, annual offerings or sacred mountains in the context of shamanist topography, which enables the following of migration routes of their ancestors.

The part called 'From Invisible Float to the Eye for a Snowstorm: The Introduction of GPS by Nenets Reindeer Herders of Western Siberia and Its Impact on Their Spatial Cognition and Navigation Methods' written by Kirill V. Istomin is a proposal of a new approach to analysing the adoption process of technical innovation in specific cultures. It can explain why some innovations have greater effect on societies than others. The author presents also three-phase model of adopting a technological innovation.

The chapter called 'Narratives of Adaptation and Innovation: Ways of Being Mobile and Mobile Technologies among Reindeer Nomads in the Russian Arctic', written by Florian Stammer, shows how Nenets nomads participate in technological changes. The author tries to present how new technologies can change people's way of perceiving their surroundings.

The chapter called 'From Inuit Wayfinding to the Google World: Living within an Ecology of Technologies' written by Claudio Aporta presents a reflection on using maps and global positioning system (GPS). It also shows the author's observations of Inuit huters' everyday life in the context of using not only traditional methods but also new technologies. The author draws particular attention to how new navigational and cartographic technologies are embedded in the world of technologies.

The last chapter called 'Epilogue' written by Tim Ingold is some kind of summarization of the whole book. The author tries to point out the most important ideas from the whole collection of the papers.

The strong point of the book *Nomadic and Indigenous Spaces. Productions and Cognitions* is that the authors of the essays address rarely discussed topics. The essays also present an interesting overview of using new technologies in some regions.

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Linda STEG, Agnes E. van den BERG and Judith I. M. de GROOT,
***Environmental Psychology: An Introduction*, Wiley-Blackwell, 406 pp.**

Environmental Psychology: An Introduction is a wonderfully interesting, research-based analysis of the psychological interplay between people and their built and natural environments. It incorporates the work of over fifty well-known scholars offering an international approach and providing a valuable source of knowledge of key issues in the environmental psychology.

The book consists of three parts (with a total number of 28 chapters) and offers a valuable study of the intriguing correlation between the environment and human behaviour. Each chapter starts with a useful introduction providing the necessary outline of the subject and ends with a glossary, suggestions for further reading and review questions.

The book opens with an introductory chapter providing a short outline of history and main research methods used in the environmental psychology. The reader is informed about the beginnings of environmental psychology and its 'founding fathers' Egon Brunswik (1903–1955) and Kurt Lewin (1890–1947), who argued that the 'physical environment can affect psychological processes subconsciously'. The reader moreover learns about the increase in popularity of systematic research concerning environmental psychology that started in the late 1940s, which is when 'human behaviour interactions slowly received more and more recognition as a full discipline'.

The first part of the book encompasses eleven chapters tackling issues like: environmental risk perception, environmental stress, residential satisfaction and place attachment, as well as scenic beauty and the link between environment and quality of life. There we learn about the connection between environmental risk, values and morality and also about how our emotions may influence our risk perception.

The second part of the book deals with factors influencing environmental behaviour and focuses more on the social facet of the environmental psychology. The author investigates the phenomenon of pro-environmental behaviour (further differentiated as goal-oriented or not) and probes the correlation between social value orientations and approach to the environment. Here we learn that there are four motivational types (power, universalism, benevolence and tradition) that may mould people's behaviour and consequently shape their attitude to the environment. It is also noteworthy that the closing chapter in part two of the book provides an interesting analysis of the situation in Latin America. As the author notices herself: 'this chapter is different from the rest of the book'. It gives a very interesting Latin American background and includes an overview of topics studied in Environmental Psychology in Latin America.

The third part of the book encompasses eight chapters dealing with encouragement of pro-environmental behaviour. It explains the notion of 'persuasive psychology' and shows ways of stimulating social environmental systems. In the last chapter the author concludes that there is a strong need for further integration of different subdomains of the environmental psychology and a lot of areas to be covered by the research agenda in the nearest future.

The book is an interesting read. Not only is it a valuable source of information for students (providing them with clear definitions, useful figures, tables and graphs) but also a well-rounded and comprehensive study of the increasingly important issue which is the link between the environment and people's lives.

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Paul KNOX (ed.), *Atlas of Cities*, Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford 2014, 256 pp.

Atlas of Cities is a book full of surprises. It escapes an easy categorization as it not only takes the form of an atlas, but also a textbook on urban planning, history, sociology and geography, a guide on the most distinctive cities, and an absorbing storytelling. The book leads the reader through the complicated albeit exciting urban world, gradually unveiling the role of a wide range of factors that determined the location of cities, affected their functional structure and built environment, and steered their evolution. One may find here a considerable load of information referring explicitly to the cities, as well as to processes and phenomena occurring within their direct surroundings and in wider spatial contexts. Exemplification of specific cases is very suggestive due to a spectrum of eye-catching graphics.

The content of the book is divided according to the categories of cities, however, this classification differs slightly from commonly used ones. Subsequent parts of the atlas reflect the passage of time, but they also concern various city forming factors and types of responses of urban structures to their occurrence. This happens through deeper exploration of chosen examples – so called core cities (Athens and Rome, Augsburg, London, Venice, Florence, Innsbruck, Lübeck, Bruges, Paris, Ghent, Istanbul, Manchester, New York, Los Angeles, Mumbai, Brasilia, Miami, Milan and Freiburg) and a few supplementary cases in each chapter. Some of those examples may seem out of context at first glance, but all together they contribute to the emergence of a complex and adequate diagnosis of the contemporary urban world, of course as far as the limited capacity of such format allows for.

The first chapter – ‘The Foundational City’ presents the beginnings of urban Europe. In reference to Greek and Roman cities, ancient civilizations’ achievements are presented, starting from the evolution of political doctrines, architecture, town planning, and the development of infrastructure, ending with the remarks on globalization processes of those times. The authors do not cling, however, to ancient era exclusively - they also make references to contemporary problems in the Mediterranean region, such as urban decline.

In the following part of the book, the problem of medieval urban networking is explored. One may find here information on the European commercial revolution of the

13th century, merchant nations which are exemplified by the German *Hanse*, or the internal structure of trade centres. What is particularly interesting in this chapter are some facts on medieval transport and communication, e.g. postal speeds or journeymen mobility.

The subject of globalization is once again referred to in the chapter on imperial cities. Byzantium, and afterwards Constantinople and Istanbul, exemplifies the role of strategic location and efforts made to secure it, as well as the unique spatial planning solutions and architectural splendor. This is followed by description of the contemporary efforts aimed at regaining the status of global city. Among those, the realization of mega-transportation projects is explored, since it has accidentally contributed to the discovery of great treasures of cultural legacy.

As it might be presumed, the next chapter tackles industrialization. Here many relevant information about 18th and 19th-century technological and transport innovations, industrial architecture and later industrial decline are included. However, the most absorbing parts refer to the impact that industry had on peoples' lives (working and living conditions, struggle for social reforms, progressing polarization of wealth and poverty, etc.), adequately illustrated with maps and suggestive graphs.

In the following chapter, 'The Rational City', the evolution of planning thought in Paris is examined in detail. The analysis reveals subsequent layers of built development which reflected the changing attitude towards 'social engineering' since the Roman times, especially in the 19th century. Much attention is paid to the improvement of urban dwellers' quality of life due to the advancement in sanitary infrastructure as well as the development of culture and recreational areas.

The next part of the book again refers to globalization, but in contrast to the previous chapters, only to its nowadays observed form. The emphasis is put on global infrastructural networks and entrepreneurship linkages, migrations and social inequality, forms of regional and local economic activity, as well as on tourism. Apart from that, the authors referred to global cities' skylines – assessing their visual impact and unveiling their relation to urban land rent.

Compared to a rather unsurprising chapter about global cities, the next one – 'The Celebrity City', may be found very interesting. It contributes to a deeper understanding of the social, economic and spatial impact of celebrity phenomena that many people are generally familiar with because of mass media. This chapter has a very 'fresh' approach, which makes it so engaging. However, it was largely based on methodology that on the one hand is innovative, but on the other – a little controversial.

The following two chapters – 'The Megacity' and 'The Instant City', allow the reader to finally leave Europe and Northern America in order to learn more about Indian, Chinese and Brazilian cities. Mumbai, supported with some cases from east China, is cited to explain the complexity of urban growth and the challenges its rapidity brings. This is followed by the case of Brasilia, which illustrates the unpredictable results of confronting utopian ideas with the reality.

The next chapter, 'The Transnational City', again tackles international relations, but this time the forms and the outcome of mixing different people and their cultures are

emphasized. Miami serves here as an example of an urban ‘router’ and a magnet, helping to understand what corporate linkages may mean and how illegal activities may be related to other economic sectors. Another issue addressed is spatial segregation of migrants and their influence on urban iconography. The following, quite startling part of this chapter, raises the problem of death in transnational cities and the complications it causes.

The last three parts of the book take the reader to Europe again, where the role and the impact of creativity are examined, implementation cases of sustainable development ideas are presented, and the possibilities for smart urban development are discussed. All those chapters illustrate the recent acceleration in pursuit of a better tomorrow.

Although *Atlas of Cities* offers the reader much more than an ordinary collection of cartographic images, there is no doubt they are its essence and deserve a wider comment. Maps, together with plenty of other colorful images, make the content of the book more approachable and easier to remember. The graphic design and the overall publishing quality of the atlas are certainly worth appreciating, starting from the front cover till the last printed page. A few images require more detailed keys or the correction of town names (e.g. pp. 58, 59, 225), however, this is just a slight deficiency that does not depreciate the excellent quality of the whole work.

Atlas of Cities is certainly worth recommendation – it is stimulating and inspiring. Its content is very complex, however, some more information from outside Europe and the USA would be very welcome. Anyway, those who do not know much about urban geography and planning should be pleased with its simplicity, clarity and approachability. On the other hand, among its target readers might be people who scientifically or professionally deal with urban issues, as well as students of various academic fields (urban planning, geography, urban sociology etc.) and those at lower levels of education. In hands of a creative teacher, such a book might also become a useful supplementing tool for geography and history courses. Apart from that, “Atlas of Cities” ought to be interesting to all others who want to find out more about the underpinning values that affected cities in the past and determine their shape and performance nowadays. This publication certainly deserves landing up on a home bookshelf – it is the type of reading that no one will be bored with.

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Till DUPPE and E. Roy WEINTRAUB, *Finding Equilibrium*, Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford 2014, 276 pp.

Finding Equilibrium by Till Duppe and E. Roy Weintraub is a masterpiece story that revolves around one of the most important discoveries in economics – general equilibrium theory, which states that under certain conditions, there is a set of prices which result in

the aggregate supply equalling the aggregate demand. The book covers various aspects associated with this model starting from the general outline of the theory, the background of the scientists responsible for delivering the proof of its existence as well as the sociological aspects and factors that are instrumental when it comes to crediting scientists.

The book reveals the backstage of the life stories of three outstanding scientists – Kenneth Arrow, Debreu and Lionel McKenzie against the background of economics in the second half of 20th century.

It offers a unique view on general equilibrium theory, focusing not on the proof itself, but rather on all factors that were present in the post-war economic reality. The authors combined in an interesting way the scientific material and biographies of remarkable economists as well as enabled a deep insight into history. The book illustrates a passionate race between the Arrow-Debreu team and McKenzie working separately to claim credit for delivering the proof of one of crucial modern economic concepts.

The book uncovers the enormous role of talented men who revolutionized economics in the 1950s and 1960s and increased the importance of economics as an independent field of science, which in 1969 was finally added to the list of categories in which the Nobel Prize is awarded.

The book is well structured, divided into three parts and eight chapters.

It starts from the biographies of Arrow, Debreu and McKenzie. This part provides an overture for the remaining chapters as it reveals the background and conditions that shaped the characters of the protagonists. All three life stories indicate that the heroes struggled through serious difficulties and their success was the result of extremely hard work and remarkable talents.

First, the reader encounters Arrow, who has Romanian Jewish origins. Despite his extraordinary aptitude, maturity and hard work he was unable to enroll at Columbia University due to lack of funding. However his ambition and discipline led him to the top league of economists, which was finally reflected in granting him the Nobel Prize in 1973.

Even more serious difficulties affected another scientist, Debreu, a Frenchman who was orphaned as a young child. However, his superior capabilities, modesty and desire to broaden his knowledge led him to success and in the end he also became a Nobel Prize Winner.

The third protagonist, Lionel McKenzie, experienced a tortuous and bumpy path in his scientific career. Despite all efforts, he was not able to achieve such personal success as Debreu and Arrow who worked in highly prestigious universities. McKenzie, in contrast, was rather anonymous working in second tier universities and not perceived as a high-flyer. And even though he demonstrated the existence of proof for general equilibrium simultaneously with his better known colleagues, he was never granted the Nobel Prize.

The second part of the book portrays the reality in which Arrow, Debreu and McKenzie worked in the post-war period, as well as introduces us to key economic organizations, such as the Cowles Commission, which had an impact on the direction in which economics developed. In this part of the book the authors also give an account of a conference on activity analysis held in June 1949, one of the most important economic events in the

decade. We can conclude that this conference provoked and accelerated efforts which in the following years led, among others, to finding the proof for equilibrium theory.

The third part reports step by step the process of creating papers on an existence of the proof by Arrow-Debreu and independently by McKenzie. Also, in this part of the book the authors examine the years following the publication demonstrating the existence of the proof and the competition between different mathematical and economic communities that were formed according to views represented by each of the three scientists.

The last part contains a sociological conclusion and invokes the Matthew effect, where 'eminent scientists will often get more credit than a comparatively unknown researcher, even if their work is similar'. Both Arrow-Debreu and McKenzie demonstrated the existence of the proof of general equilibrium using similar techniques that led to the same conclusion. However, only Debreu and Arrow were credited and became Nobel Prize laureates, when at the same time McKenzie was overlooked. The main reasons seem to be McKenzie's lower recognition and his lack of membership in the most influential communities of the time which determined the views and direction of development of economics. In contrast, Debreu and Arrow were members of such communities. Thus, the book reveals a social factor independent from factual knowledge that led to the underestimation of McKenzie's achievements.

It is worth noting that in the post-war economy there was a rapid shift from small family businesses towards large corporations, which entirely changed the economy and way of living. It might have resulted in greater interest in macroeconomics and general equilibrium theory itself.

Written in an intelligible way, the book is great reading for scientists, economists, students and all people interested in history of economy. Duppe and Weintraub wrote the book in a very stylish way, depicting the backgrounds of the remarkable protagonists, the atmosphere prevailing among prominent scientists associated with economics as well as organizations determining the direction of the development of economics.

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