

Éditions Terre Urbaine

Rights List
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Land of Childhood

Thierry Paquot

January 2022

250 pp

A philosopher of human habitats, THIERRY PAQUOT has been contributing to debates on urbanization for some thirty years, as evidenced by his numerous publications, including *L'espace public* (La Découverte, 2009), *Le Dicorue: Vocabulaire ordinaire et extraordinaire des lieux urbains* (CNRS-éditions, 2017), *Désastres urbains. Les villes meurent aussi* (La Découverte, 2015) and *Mesures et démesures des villes* (CNRS-éditions, 2020). His books have been translated into English, German, Italian, Spanish, Turkish and Portuguese.

Thierry Paquot invokes the analyses of "innovative" pedagogues (Geddes, Montessori, Decroly, Dewey, Freinet...) and blends writers' stories with his own memories to give shape to this childhood kingdom that we all carry within us without ever really laying claim to it...

Children's needs have mostly been forgotten by urbanism and architecture. The "all-car" approach makes any public space dangerous, the school yard is just a place to let off steam, and the pitiful standardized playgrounds are like lots where children are being parked. Are they sentenced to confinement in the family home with the only horizon the screen of their video games or their smartphones?

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PAYS DE L'ENFANCE THIERRY PAQUOT

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For Gaston Bachelard, childhood is not only a moment of life, it is a country that we will always feel nostalgic about. A land full of real and imaginary places hosting the games that children constantly invent. They will feed the memories that each of us stores in a corner of his memory, as moments of wellbeing, happy encounters, welcoming landscapes, animal buddies, friends and coconspirators. It is in and through these territories that a child grows into itself. They are essential to it, like the earth to the flower, the sea to the fish, love to the human. A child is a seeker of something beyond itself, always in search of somewhere else... This is how it becomes a world builder who borrows from these territories (its mother's womb, its room, the classroom, the school yard, the playground, the streets of its neighborhood, its grandparents' garden, its cousins' town, the forest surrounding the summer camp, the beauty of the world...) sustenance to feed its emotional geography.

A Walker's Philosophy

Jérémy Gaubert

February 2021

192 pp

Architect and holder of a PhD in architecture, JÉRÉMY GAUBERT is the author of several articles on the body and its movements. He is interested in walking as a revelation of the urban dweller. This essay is a contribution to an aesthetic of the pedestrian city...

"A text of abundant erudition that addresses many aspects of the pedestrian's or walker's relationship to the world. One feels at the same time the happiness of walking, but also the jubilation of thinking, reading, debating with the authors." **Esprit magazine**

Walking is an exploration of the city, but it is also a discovery of both others and ourselves. This experience is unique and singular each time, depending on our route, our encounters, our mood, the state of the traffic and the interest or banality of the urban landscapes we cross. "One never walks the same way twice in the same street", as Heraclitus might say. To examine this experience is to explore one's own body, one's five senses, one's capacity to allow contact with others as well as with the places one walks through, their architecture, their atmosphere, their vegetation, what is there or what is lacking...

Through walking, we better understand who we are, as sensitive beings, in good physical shape or suffering, inclined to appreciate a place or ready to flee it... Initiating this path of understanding requires us to examine the urban

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PHILOSOPHIE DU MARCHEUR

JÉRÉMY GAUBERT

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walk and its invention in the fruitful dialogue between the walker and the city.

Indeed, through the "figures" of the walker, the flâneur, the surrealist wanderer and the situationists' drifting, we see the contours of the meaning of pedestrian wanderings that manufacture and reveal urbanity. The experience of urban walking this magnifies this relational logic, this intertwining of the walker with his environment, knowing that both shape each other.

It is therefore essential for everyone to participate in the elaboration of a walkable urban public space. Walkability is to urbanity what vocabulary is to language.

Free-wheeling

A Sentimental Anthropology of Cycling

David Le Breton

October 2020

216 pp

DAVID LE BRETON is a French anthropologist and sociologist. He teaches at the University of Strasbourg and is a member of the Institut Universitaire de France and a researcher at the Laboratoire des Cultures et Sociétés d'Europe. He has published numerous works about the sociology of sensations and space that have been widely translated.

Like walking, the bicycle is one in the eye for the ultraliberal values of our contemporary societies. It is an invitation to calmly experience the world, to take one's time, to feel alive. It permanently engages you in the sensoriality of your surroundings, in the smells, the landscapes, the sounds. Biking is also a gentle way of reconnecting with time and space. It takes the cyclist where he wants to go, at his own pace, without fear of delays, without having to drive for hours looking for a parking spot.

The bicycle has a rich history that goes back more than a century. It has accompanied social movements and fueled sociability in different ways from one generation to the next. While the first cyclists were among the wealthier classes, enthusiasm grew in popular circles until the fifties, when cycling was largely neglected due to the saturation of cities and roads by automobile traffic.

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EN ROUE LIBRE

DAVID LE BRETON

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In recent years, the bicycle has been used by an increasingly wide and diverse population that demands bicycle paths, repair shops, and peaceful sharing of the road. Bicycles have become an emblem of political ecology, combining physical activity, the pleasure of quickly cutting through traffic, and joyful roaming. The monopolization of urban space by cars is increasingly being questioned.

A cycling revolution, a promise of a more hospitable city, is underway and pedaling boldly.

**RIGHTS SOLD: ITALY
(CORTINA)**

Breakfast Under Fire!

Gilles Fumey

September 2020

130 pp

GILLES FUMEY, a cultural historian and geographer, teaches at Sorbonne University. He is the author of numerous books on gastronomic culture and its relationship with the territory (Atlas des cuisines et gastronomies, Atlas de l'Alimentation, Géopolitique de l'alimentation).

"Breakfast is a contemporary social construction. Gilles Fumey invites us to rethink the perception we have today of meals and food organization by exploring that of our ancestors since Antiquity."
France Inter

What if breakfast wasn't necessary? Almost everywhere on the planet, with certain exceptions like Italy, it is promoted as the most important meal of the day.

In olden times, peasants waited several hours before breaking bread. Construction workers, miners and bourgeois ate a snack with a glass of wine or a bowl of soup. More refined people drank a cup of coffee, tea or chocolate. Only when schooling became more widely spread was the rhythm of our meals divided into breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack and supper.

Every meal is rooted in a given culture and possesses its own rituals that have evolved over the centuries. The Athenians broke their fast with a simple piece of bread dipped in a cup of pure wine. Nowadays, we ingest products of unknown origins, and disrupted seasonality.

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FEU SUR LE BREAKFAST! GILLES FUMEY

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The cultural geography of breakfast sheds new light on this morning meal, which is perhaps not as essential as claimed. Unlike the Germans and the French, Italians today continue to skip breakfast. In fact, doctors have suggested that we experience a cortisol peak in the morning which prepares our bodies for the day's tasks, and which occurs without our needing to eat.

Gilles Fumey takes us on a wonderful journey through different cultures and historical periods, shattering several myths that our over-urbanized civilization has conceived around breakfast.

Urban Mesology

Augustin Berque

April 2021

142 pp

Born in 1942 in Rabat, AUGUSTIN BERQUE is a geographer and orientalist. He has been director of studies at the École des hautes études in social sciences (Paris). Member of the Academia Europaea, he is the first Westerner to receive the Fukuoka Grand Prize for Asian Cultures cultures in 2009. He is the author of numerous books, including: *Ecumene: Introduction à l'étude des milieux humains* (Belin, 2000), *Poétique de la Terre: Histoire naturelle et histoire humaine, essai de mésologie* (Belin, 2014) and *Glossaire de mésologie* (Éditions Éoliennes, 2018).

While the word "mesology" dates back to 1848 and designates the study of environments, it has since acquired another methodological dimension thanks to Augustin Berque. Berque, going beyond the subject/object dualism, does not make it a discipline, but a perspective that intersects with both the human and natural sciences.

His knowledge of Greek, German, Chinese, and Japanese philosophies allows him to considerably enrich our appreciation of the interactions between the constituent elements of a same whole, which is what ecology aims at, in order to understand how similar situations are not identical. In these articles, Berque manifests his developments around the notions of "mediation", "trajection", "ecumene", and "milieu", constituting a theoretical advancement in the field.

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MÉSOLOGIE URBAINE

AUGUSTIN BERQUE

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The author invites us to follow him in his reflections on the private, the public, the common in the era of the Anthropocene in a generalized urban environment. On this point, the comparative analysis that he conducts between East and West is as illuminating with regards to his conceptual description as it is when deciphering existential situations where individuals attempt to inscribe their destiny in a place which welcomes without judgement. Thus, the reader learns how the ecumene is indeed a possibility on Earth.

"A erudite and polyglot presentation (Japanese, Chinese, German, English, Greek...), this book plunges us into the heart of the mesological paradigm. It can be read in a single sitting, and offers a journey through a teeming web, some of whose threads have been organized with pedagogy by the editor (...) constituting both an introduction to mesology and an exploration of urban worlds, understood here as inhabited spaces. (...) A powerful deconstruction." **Le Topophile**

Earthly Abodes

Thierry Paquot

May 2020

250 pp

A philosopher of human habitats, THIERRY PAQUOT has been contributing to debates on urbanization for some thirty years, as evidenced by his numerous publications, including *L'espace public* (La Découverte, 2009), *Le Dicorue: Vocabulaire ordinaire et extraordinaire des lieux urbains* (CNRS-éditions, 2017), *Désastres urbains. Les villes meurent aussi* (La Découverte, 2015) and *Mesures et démesures des villes* (CNRS-éditions, 2020). His books have been translated into English, German, Italian, Spanish, Turkish and Portuguese.

"The author exhibits his pedagogical talent, trying to initiate the reader to what it means to inhabit one's surroundings: not to appropriate a place, but to become one with it, because it is the place which accommodates us and that we accomodate in our turn. An initiation into the urban phenomenon as a human phenomenon." **Etudes. Revue de culture contemporaine**

To inhabit a space is a human characteristic, but many people do not inhabit their surroundings and cannot, therefore, fully realize their potential. To inhabit is to be present-in-the-world-and-to-others, which is not self-evident, cannot be learned and is not related to the quality of one's housing, the beauty of the area where one lives, the level of one's income... To inhabit is to be at one with the place that welcomes us as much as we respect it, to weave innumerable relationships with the other inhabitants, human or not, to preserve the things that participate in our activities, our dreams and our desires.

DEMEURE TERRESTRE THIERRY PAQUOT

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Intermingling personal memories of places and philosophical analyses of the territorialities and the temporalities of our existence, Thierry Paquot strives to reveal the existential richness of what inhabiting means. In the vein of Martin Heidegger, as well as Gaston Bachelard, Henri Maldiney or Ivan Illich, he tells the chaotic history of how, in the early sixties, the idea of the habitat started to be taken into account, at first by psychologists, then by architects, sociologists, anthropologists and geographers.

Paquot exposes his own vision of this idea, discussing how we inhabit our language like a country that we carry with us wherever we go.

This book is a roaming meditation on ways to be in the world that every person must cultivate in order to inhabit the places that, in turn, inhabit them...

America the Green

Thierry Paquot

October 2020

248 pp

A philosopher of human habitats, THIERRY PAQUOT has been contributing to debates on urbanization for some thirty years, as evidenced by his numerous publications, including *L'espace public* (La Découverte, 2009), *Le Dicorue: Vocabulaire ordinaire et extraordinaire des lieux urbains* (CNRS-éditions, 2017), *Désastres urbains. Les villes meurent aussi* (La Découverte, 2015) and *Mesures et démesures des villes* (CNRS-éditions, 2020). His books have been translated into English, German, Italian, Spanish, Turkish and Portuguese.

"Thierry Paquot puts some order into our scattered knowledge while enlightening us on the diversity of the temperaments, the initiatives and the filiations. (...) Covering nearly a century and a half of his "portraits of nature lovers", the author leads us on their successive, sometimes tangled, tracks with precision and humor."

Topophile

The United States was among the first countries to pass laws protecting nature, air and water quality, banning certain toxic products and creating national parks, including Yellowstone, which opened in 1872.

Yet the history of American environmentalism is like a game of ping-pong, with each legislative advancement followed by a regression, and no president can claim an innovative and courageous environmental policy. Nevertheless, it is in the United States that ecological thinking took root even before the word "ecology" appeared.

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L'AMÉRIQUE VERTE

THIERRY PAQUOT

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This essay is an invitation to get to know those early "amateur naturalists", "walkers and observers", "landscape and nature lovers" who could be called early ecologists, such as Emerson, Fuller, Thoreau, Downing, Marsh, Olmsted, Muir, Burroughs, Leopold, MacKaye, Mumford and a few others. Their works, mainly from the nineteenth century, are not only described and analyzed but also linked to each other.

Because these men often read and appreciated each other, Thierry Paquot discovers filiations and interactions which add up to a legacy without testament for the current militants who still hope to put environmental question into the political agenda. There is still time and, as this book proves, they will not have to start from scratch!

Better with Less

Philippe Madec

October 2021

202 pp

An architect and urban planner as well as lecturer, PHILIPPE MADEC is one of the pioneers of ecoresponsibility in France who has received numerous national and international awards for his work. He has written several books on architecture and is one of the initiators of the "Movement for a happy and creative frugality", which he launched in 2018, together with engineer Alain Bornarel and architect and author Dominique Gauzin-Müller.

(The author) delivers a discourse that is both radical and humanistic, uncompromising without being desperate about the madness of a world stupefied by concrete, when the climate emergency requires us to explore new avenues or to rediscover others that have been unjustly forgotten." **Reporterre**

It's a well-known and terrible fact: our world, smothered in concrete, has become nigh inhabitable. Builders (in the largest sense) know very well that one ton of concrete generates one ton of CO₂, that sand is running out everywhere, that high-rise buildings consume a lot of energy, that "passive" housing (which consumes less than 15 kWh/m²/year) is not encouraged, that the building and public works sector in France produces each year the equivalent of 3,400 kilograms of waste per inhabitant, i.e. 70% of the total, that know-how is being lost, that the building trades are increasingly becoming "de-skilled", that hectares of land are being turned into artificial landscapes, that shapeless, unstructured megacities are spreading out, devouring more and more of their surroundings...

MIEUX AVEC MOINS

PHILIPPE MADEC

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Faced with these disasters, for more than a century ecologists have come up with analyses, alternative solutions, other ways of building and theorizing "human settlements" that repair the planet and offer each inhabitant the possibility of establishing his or her home in harmony with the living world and respect for nature. So all is not lost...

While remaining aware of the dark side of "damage wreaked by progress", Philippe Madec also sees some progress: the increasing reuse of material, a new value put on shorter supply chains, the choice of renewable energies, a renewed respect for nature and natural resources, in order to do better with less...

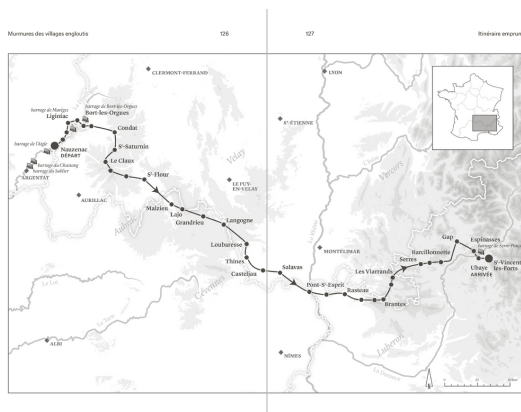
Murmurs of Submerged Villages

Carolina E. Santo

May 2021

142 pp

CAROLINA E. SANTO is an artist with a PhD in scenography with a particular interest in the notions of place, space and territory. Walking is part of her creative process and allows her to deepen the idea of a "geoscenography".



During the summer of 2015, the author walked from Nauzenac in Haute-Corrèze to Ubaye in Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, two villages swallowed by the waters of the reservoirs created by the massive dams of Aigle and Serre-Ponçon. During a month and a half, Carolina E. Santo walked more than 600 kilometers to fully immerse herself in the surrounding landscape. Along the way, she photographed the landscape and listened to the hundred or so testimonies recorded in the Dordogne valley by anthropologist Armelle Faure, in order to understand the lives of the women, men and children who grew up in this valley where five dams built between 1932 and 1957 submerged many villages and displaced hundreds of families.

MURMURES DES VILLAGES ENGLOUTIS

CAROLINA E. SANTO

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Linked by their destiny, the two villages still share a common ceremony. The elders of Nauzenac and those of Ubaye meet every July 22 at the edge of the dams, at the location closest to their submerged village, to celebrate Marie-Madeleine, patron saint of both villages whose chapels were also flooded when the dams were erected in 1945 and 1960.

This book retraces the experiment of a "sensitive territorialization", which, through the intimate relationship woven between memory, space and walking, gave substance to the words of the former inhabitants of the place, thus inscribing them in the landscape traversed.

Contact Us



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