The promise of non-representational theories.


Abstract

Emerging over the past ten years from a set of post-structuralist theoretical lineages, non-representational theories are having a major impact within Human Geography. Non-representational theorisation and research has opened up new sets of problems around the body, practice and performativity and inspired new ways of doing and writing human geography that aim to engage with the taking-place of everyday life. Drawing together a range of innovative contributions from leading writers, this is the first book to provide an extensive and in-depth overview of non-representational theories and human geography. The work addresses the core themes of this still developing field, demonstrates the implications of non-representational theories for many aspects of human geographic thought and practice, and highlights areas of emergent critical debate. The collection is structured around four thematic sections â€“ Life, Representation, Ethics and Politics - which explore the varied relations between non-representational theories and contemporary human geography.

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Berlant critiques "everyday life theory" because she argues that it "no longer describes how most people live" (8). She situates her work alongside Nigel Thrift's Non-Representational Theory, Marc Auge's Non-Places: Essays on Supermodernity, Michael Taussig's The Nervous System, and Kathleen Stewart's Ordinary Affects because it "turns towards thinking about the ordinary as an impasse shaped by crisis.Â Theory Review: Ahmed's The Promise of Happiness (2 Theory Review: Berlant's Cruel Optimism (2011). Featured Posts. Theory Review: Berlant's Cruel Optimism (2011). Non-representational theory IS interested in representations, even if Thrift did appear to suggest otherwise in certain early moments of over-exuberance (see Thrift 1997). It is important to make clear that although the prefix â€œnonâ€™may imply moving â€œaway from a concern with representations and especially textâ€ (Nash 2000: 655), â€œ[n]on-representational theory takes representations seriously; representations not as a code to be broken or as an illusion to be dispelled rather representations are apprehended as performative in themselves; as doingsâ€ (Dewsbury, et al.Â Finally, non-representational theory aligns itself with a sort of experimentalism which does not shy away from providing an open-ended account of the world. Non-representational theorisation and research has opened up new sets of problematics around the body, practice and performativity and inspired new ways of doing and writing human geography that aim to engage with the taking-place of everyday life. Drawing together a range of innovative contributions from leading writers, this is the first book to provide an extensive and in-depth overview of non-representational theories and human geography.Â Used by permission of the Publishers from 'The promise of non-representational theories, in Taking-place: non-