Radical Theory/Critical Praxis: Making a Difference Beyond the Academy?
Radical Theory/Critical Praxis: Making a Difference Beyond the Academy?

Edited by Duncan Fuller and Rob Kitchin
## Contents

Contributors vi

1 Radical Theory/Critical Praxis: Academic Geography Beyond the Academy?
   Duncan Fuller and Rob Kitchin 1

2 Radical Scholarship: A Polemic on Making a Difference Outside the Academy
   Don Mitchell 21

3 Why Poststructuralism is a Live Wire for the Left
   Jessica Dempsey and James K. Rowe 32

4 On Being Disengaged
   David Sibley 52

5 ‘Say Something Constructive or Say Nothing at All’: Being Relevant and Irrelevant in and Beyond the Academy Today
   Chris Wilbert and Teresa Hoskyns 57

6 ‘I Could Only do Wrong’: Academic Research and DIY Culture
   Keith Halfacree 68

7 Relational Ethics of Struggle
   Paul Routledge 79
8 Exploring Boundaries of Professional/Personal Practice and Action: Being and Becoming in Khayelitsha Township, Cape Town
Paul Cloke

9 A ‘Politics of Local Politics’: Praxis in Places that Matter
Pamela Moss

10 Keeping Your Distance: Balancing Political Engagement and Scientific Autonomy with a Psychiatric Consumer/Survivor Group
Robert D. Wilton

11 Activism as a Collective Cultural Praxis: Challenging the Barcelona Urban Model
Perla Zusman

12 Feminist Praxis in University Community Partnerships: Reflections on Ethical Crises and Turning Points in Temple-North Philadelphia IT Partnerships
Melissa Gilbert and Michele Masucci

13 Moving Beyond from Within: Reflexive Activism and Critical Geographies
Larch Juckes Maxey
Contributors

PAUL CLOKE is Professor in the School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, UK. He has research and teaching interests in rural geographies, nature-society relations, social geographies of poverty and homelessness, and ethical and spiritual spaces. Recent publications include: Envisioning Human Geographies (Arnold, with Philip Crang and Mark Goodwin); Country Visions (Pearson); Tree Cultures (Berg, with Owain Jones); and Rural Homelessness (Policy Press, with Paul Milbourne and Rebekah Widdowfield).

JESSICA DEMPSEY is a Geography graduate student at the University of British Columbia, and JAMES ROWE is a Politics graduate student at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Both have worked variously as organizers of social justice youth camps, campaigns against utility deregulation, International Community Forest Events, Street Newspaper conferences, street parties, and some good dinner parties.

DUNCAN FULLER is a Lecturer in Human Geography at Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. His research interests have focused around the emerging new economic geographies of social and financial exclusion and inclusion, credit union development, alternative economic spaces and ‘proliferative economies’, graffiti, participatory appraisal and participatory methodologies. He is co-author of Social Geography: An Introduction to Society and Space (Arnold, 2001) and Thinking Geographically: Space, Theory and Contemporary Human Geography (Continuum, 2002), co-owner of geo-publishing.org, and is Director of the ‘PEANuT’ (Participatory Evaluation and Appraisal in Newcastle upon Tyne) project based at Northumbria University.

MELISSA GILBERT is Associate Professor of Geography and Urban Studies at Temple University. Her current research interests are in the areas of theoretical and policy debates concerning urban poverty; labor and community organizing; the social and
economic causes and consequences of the ‘digital divide’ and university-community partnerships. She has published chapters in various edited volumes as well as journals including the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Urban Geography* and the *Professional Geographer*

**KEITH HALFACREE** is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geography at the University of Wales Swansea, UK. His principal teaching focuses on contemporary rural Britain, geographical research methods, theory in geography, sustainability, and ‘alternative’ geographies. Recent publications include *Exploring Contemporary Migration* (Longman), with Paul Boyle and Vaughan Robinson, and the edited volumes *Migration into Rural Areas* (Wiley) and *Migration and Gender in the Developed World* (Routledge), both with Paul Boyle, and *Leadership and Local Power in European Rural Development* (Ashgate), with Imre Kovach and Rachel Woodward. He has an active interest in radical environmentalism, anti-capitalism and reclaiming space.

**TERESA HOSKYNNS** is a Doctoral student at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College, London. She is working on a project focusing on architecture and democracy. She also does consultancy work for the West Euston Single Regeneration Budget project in London, and is an activist with the London Social Forum. Recent publications include ‘The empty place of power: public space and radical democracy’ in *SCROOPE: Cambridge Architecture Journal*, 14 (2002).

**ROB KITCHIN** is Director of the National Institute of Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) and Senior Lecturer in Geography at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. His research interests centre on disability, sexuality and cyberspace. He is a disability advocate and campaigns on issues of access. Along with Duncan Fuller he is the co-owner of geo-publishing.org which seeks to make the ‘black box’ of academic publishing transparent. He is the author or editor of nine books and is the Managing Editor of *Social and Cultural Geography*.

**MICHELE MASUCCI** is an Associate Professor of Geography and Urban Studies and the Director of the Information Technology and Society Research Group at Temple University. Her current research focuses on the impacts of digital divide barriers on
access to health and educational services among inner city populations in North Philadelphia. Her prior research examined the use of geographic information technologies among environmental non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and in Brazil for environmental quality monitoring. Publications include ‘Institutional Partnerships in Using and Developing Information Technology for Community Environmental Monitoring.’ In: Viadana, I. and M. Lombardo (eds.), *Universidade e Comunidade na Gestão do Meio Ambiente.* (UNESP), and *Human Environmental Interchange: Managing the Effects of Recent Droughts in the Southeastern U.S* (with Richard Perritt, Harcourt).

**LARCH JUCKES MAXEY** has been negotiating critical geographies since returning to academic geography from a year ‘out’ on a non-violent direct action anti-road camp from 1994-5. His research and teaching interests include sustainability within both rural and urban contexts, alternative/marginal geographies and geographies of childhood and youth. Working within the University of Wales, Swansea, where he completed a Ph.D. on sustainable communities in 2002, he has co-initiated and run a Certificate of Higher Education in Sustainability and is currently working to establish a Joint Honours Degree on Sustainable Development. He lives in a low impact chalet community with his partner and their two children.

**DON MITCHELL** is Professor and Chair of the Geography Department in the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. After receiving his PhD in Geography from Rutgers University in 1992, he taught at the University of Colorado before moving to Syracuse. He is the author of *The Lie of the Land: Migrant Workers and the California Landscape* (1996); *Cultural Geography: A Critical Introduction* (2000); and *The Right to the City: Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space* (2003) as well as numerous articles on the geography of homelessness, labor, urban public space, and contemporary theories of culture. He is currently at work on a book called: *The Bill of Rights: A Radical Geography*. He is the founder and director of the People’s Geography Project (www.peoplesgeography.org).

**PAMELA MOSS** is Professor in the Faculty of Human and Social Development at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. She teaches in Studies in Policy and
Practice, an interdisciplinary graduate program aimed at producing critical interpretations and analyses of policies and practices. Recent publications include *Placing Autobiography in Geography* (Syracuse), *Feminist Geography in Practice* (Blackwell), and, with Isabel Dyck, *Women, Body, Illness* (Rowman & Littlefield). She is also active in local movements around women’s housing, health, and invisible disabilities.

**PAUL ROUTLEDGE** is Reader in Human Geography in the Department of Geography and Geomatics at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. He teaches in Geographies of Resistance, Cultural Geography, Globalisation, and the Cultural Politics of Development in India. Recent publications include *Entanglements of Power: Geographies of Domination/Resistance* (Routledge; co-edited with Joanne Sharp, Chris Philo and Ronan Paddison). He is active in local autonomist initiatives and People’s Global Action, an international network of grassroots social movements resisting, and constructing alternatives to, neoliberalism.

**DAVID SIBLEY** taught at the University of Hull until 2003. He is currently Visiting Fellow at the National Institute of Spatial and Regional Analysis, National University of Ireland, Maynooth. His principal research interests are in applications of psychoanalysis to spatial problems, the social production of knowledges, and the state’s response to nomadic and semi-nomadic groups. His recent writing includes contributions to architectural theory (in Jonathan Hill, ed., *Architecture: the subject is matter*, Routledge, 2001) and to studies on the social and political geographies of rural space (Paul Cloke, ed., *Country Visions*, Pearson, in press). He is joint editor of *Social and Cultural Geography*.

**CHRIS WILBERT** is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Planning at Anglia Polytechnic University, England. He is co-editor of *Animal Spaces Beastly Places: New Geographies of Human-Animal Interactions* (2000, Routledge) with Chris Philo, along with several other articles on animal geographies, and tourism geographies. He is a member of the Animal Studies Group who promote research on animals in social and cultural disciplines.
ROB WILTON is Assistant Professor in the School of Geography and Geology at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. His research focuses on the social geographies of disability. He is currently working on barriers to paid employment for people with disabilities, as well as the challenges psychiatric consumer/survivors face in accessing decent housing and adequate income. Recent articles can be found in *Social Science and Medicine*, *Social and Cultural Geography* and *Social Problems*. Since 2000, he has been working with a psychiatric survivor organization on issues of poverty, housing and political participation.

PERLA ZUSMAN is a researcher from the National Research Council for Science and Technology of Argentina. She works at the Institute of Geography of the University of Buenos Aires. Her themes of research are the epistemology and history of geography, historical and new cultural geography. Her recent publications deal with subjects such as frontiers in the territorial formation of Argentina and Catalan travelers in Africa. Up to April 2003 she was involved in the *madeinbarcelona* collective group in Catalunya.