

New Section: Country reports

Editorial

Social & Cultural Geography is pleased to launch its new regular section, 'Country reports', opened with the report for Denmark written by Kirsten Simonsen.

'Country reports' is both an intellectual and political project. On the one hand, it aims to bring into dialogue social and cultural geographers from around the world acting as conduit through which they can share empirical research, theory and knowledge. On the other, it seeks to disrupt and destabilize the prevalent trend towards English-language and Anglo-American hegemony in the international production of geographic knowledge (Berg and Kearns 1998; Gregson, Simonsen and Vaiou 2001; Gutiérrez and López-Nieva 2001; Kitchin, forthcoming; Minca 2000; Short, Boniche, Kim and Li Li 2001).

In relation to the latter point, 'Country reports' is not designed to bring the work of 'geographers at the margins' to the 'Anglo-American centre' so that their ideas can be surveyed and pillaged in some kind of imperialistic fashion. Nor is it designed to 'reel-in' non-Anglo-American geographers to what is still a largely Anglo-American journal in order to co-opt them into Anglo-American ways of knowing, interpreting and writing.

Instead it is an attempt to recognize and respect the diverse ways in which social and cultural geography is theorized and practised, and to acknowledge that, for the most part, the majority of geographical accounts from around

the world are often unknown beyond national borders, whether that be due to language, tradition or the power geometries that exist with regard to how journals, publishing houses and conferences operate.

It is also an attempt on behalf of the editors to try to create a journal that is international in scope and audience. In this regard, this is one of a number of strategies already employed by *Social & Cultural Geography* including the formation of a diverse editorial board, publishing abstracts in French and Spanish, and trying to recruit papers beyond Anglo-American geography.

As a commitment to ensure the reports serve *both* a national and international audience, every country report will be published in English and the contributors' own first language. Our intention is that each report will be updated every five to seven years, so an institutional record of development is maintained over time.

So far we have commissioned reports concerning social and cultural geography in France, South Africa, Israel, Japan, Greece, India, Ireland, Spain, Italy, South-East Asia, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Mexico, Hungary, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Germany and the Netherlands. This list inevitably reflects the networks of the editors and we are open to offers of other contributions. If you are working outside of those countries and would like to write a report

detailing the social and cultural geographic research within your nation please contact one of the editors. We are particularly eager to commission reports from Central and South America, Africa and Asia to ensure as representative coverage from around the globe as possible.

We hope that you as readers will engage with the country reports in the spirit in which they have been commissioned, taking the time to read about empirical research and theorization in other countries and to use them to start to form truly international dialogue between social and cultural geographers from around the globe

Rob Kitchin
National University of Ireland, Maynooth

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