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Holocaust Images and Picturing Catastrophe

The Cultural Politics of Seeing

Angi Buettner, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

'At last, an author who is not afraid to examine the politics of the use of Holocaust imagery. Buettner's ground-breaking study enables us to understand not only why these images, rather than other catastrophes, have come to hold such tremendous power but also how their use evokes affect in a wide range of recent catastrophes and causes. I highly recommend it.' – Jon Stratton, Curtin University, Australia

'This is an exceptionally intelligent, brave and perceptive work of cultural criticism, which deals with a genre of traumatic visual imagery that helped define the last century, in order to demonstrate why we need to better understand the "politics of seeing" that shapes the production and cultural reception of images in the news.' – Graeme Turner, University of Queensland, Australia

Holocaust Images and Picturing Catastrophe explores the phenomenon of Holocaust transfer, analysing the widespread practice of using the Holocaust and its imagery for the representation and recording of other historical events in various media sites. Richly illustrated with concrete examples, this book traces the visual rhetoric of Holocaust imagery and its application to events other than the genocide of Jewish people.

Contents: Introduction: aftermaths and the afterlife of images; Aftermaths and the Holocaust; Holocaust into Holocausts; Never again: Rwanda, genocide, and the Holocaust; Leaving history behind: memorials and the dead of genocide; Leaving victims behind: animal rights, environmental catastrophe, and the limits of the Holocaust; The Holocaust as master theory; The act of looking: suffering the search for explanations, and the image as accusation; References; Index.

Includes 5 b&w illustrations

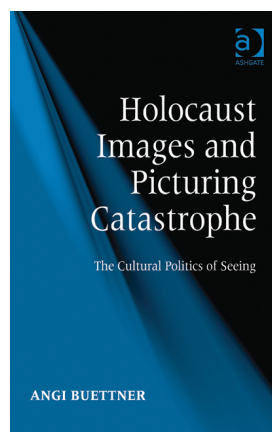
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