

CALL FOR PAPERS

Travel and Imagination¹

Edited by: Garth Lean, Russell Staiff and Emma Waterton
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Like so many words associated with tourism, 'imagination' is an accepted though somewhat obdurate notion. We accept it because it is, after all, something that is central to our consciousness and perception, operating almost imperceptibly whether we are awake or asleep. But beyond this, imagination also takes up an endlessly complex form because the term is linked to a constellation of other phenomenon: dreams, make-believe, fantasy, memory and remembering, perception, the 'mind's eye', understanding, world-views, learning, story-telling – in all its many forms – and so forth. It's a shape-changing phenomenon and it's utterly central to the human experience. Given this, we see it as a concept key to both our everyday lives and the idea of travel and tourism, producing both 'imaginative travel' and the 'travel imagination'. Surprisingly, however, there is a dearth of published material focusing upon the links between the two.

This Call for Papers is an attempt to 'plug' the abovementioned gap and open up new and innovative explorations of travel and imagination. It seeks contributions that illustrate how imagination becomes a part of, informs, is informed by and/or is represented as an element of travel. Crucially, travel should not be read here as something that is limited to a conceptualisation centred on the 'experience' itself, but to any temporal and spatial boundaries the writer wishes to set. As an initial, but in no way rigid, guide papers may consider the following themes:

- Travel fantasy, prompted by picture books, fiction, cinema, documentaries, art works, maps, virtual travel and so forth;
- Travel and creativity: artists travelling to create, audiences travelling to see, writers travelling for inspiration, readers reading to 'escape' to imaginative worlds and so forth;
- The itinerary as an imaginative act... imagination, plotting, planning...;
- Science fiction and science fantasy: travelling to places that do not exist – literally places of the imagination;
- Desire and the libidinous in travel/imagination (anticipation, day-dreaming, making dreams/fantasies 'come true', illusions, seduction);
- Travel and imagining the life of...;
- Making places/events/people 'real': travel as a way of anchoring the imagination in physical places, which in turn further feeds the imagination.

In combining these diverse perspectives, this volume will make an important contribution to a concept that has received inadequate attention from the tourism and broader mobility disciplines. It is anticipated that it will include chapters from established figures, but we also encourage expressions of interest from postgraduate students, too. We would also like to see submissions that consider perspectives beyond traditional Western and textual perspectives. A word limit of 6–7,000 is proposed for each chapter (including references).

Writing Schedule

Please submit chapter proposals (abstracts of up to 500 words) to the volume's editors at g.lean@uws.edu.au by 23rd December 2011, with decisions by the editors communicated by the end of January 2012. First drafts of accepted contributions will be due by the end of June 2012, with the full manuscript deliverable by the end of February 2013.

Volume Editors:

Garth Lean is a Postdoctoral fellow with the School of Social Sciences at the University of Western Sydney. His research interests include travel (especially the long-term influences of physical travel upon travellers); tourism; mobilities; cultural heritage; visual methods and alternative ways of presenting travel and travel research.

¹ This book proposal will be submitted as part of **Current Developments in the Geographies of Leisure and Tourism**, a book series of the Geographies of Leisure and Tourism Research Group with the Royal Geographical Society and the Institute of British Geographers (GLTRG) (Series Editors: Jan Mosedale and Caroline Scarles).

Russell Staiff holds a PhD in art history from the University of Melbourne where he was the foundation lecturer in the postgraduate visual arts and tourism program. He began his life in heritage and tourism as a tour guide in Italy. Currently, he teaches in the heritage and tourism program at the University of Western Sydney. He researches the various intersections between cultural heritage, communities and tourism with a particular emphasis on Southeast Asia. He is completing a book *Enchanting the Past/Future: Re-Imagining Heritage Interpretation*.

Emma Waterton is based at the University of Western Sydney in the School of Social Science. Her interests include unpacking the discursive constructions of 'heritage'; explorations of tourism, heritage and affect; thanatourism; visuality; and explorations of innovative methodologies. Publications include *Politics, Policy and the Discourses of Heritage in Britain* (Palgrave Macmillan 2010), the co-authored volume (with Laurajane Smith) *Heritage, Communities and Archaeology* (Duckworth 2009) and the co-edited volumes (with Steve Watson) *Culture, Heritage and Representations* (Ashgate 2010), *Heritage and Community Engagement* (Routledge 2010) and (with Laurajane Smith) *Taking Archaeology out of Heritage* (Cambridge Scholars Press 2009).