

Non-Representational Theory: Key Ideas in Geography

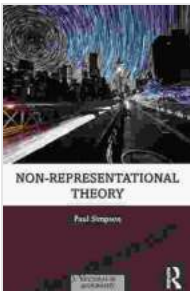
Non-representational theory (NRT) is a theoretical approach in geography that challenges the traditional view that maps and other representations of space are objective and neutral. NRT theorists argue that all representations of space are inherently subjective and partial, and that they can never fully capture the complexity of the real world. Instead, NRT theorists focus on the ways that space is experienced and imagined, and on the ways that these experiences and imaginations shape our understanding of the world.

NRT is based on a number of key ideas, including:

- **The idea that all representations of space are subjective and partial.** NRT theorists argue that there is no such thing as an objective or neutral representation of space. All representations of space are created from a particular perspective and for a particular purpose, and they will always reflect the biases and values of their creators.
- **The idea that space is experienced and imagined.** NRT theorists argue that space is not simply a physical entity, but also a social and cultural construct. We experience and imagine space in different ways depending on our individual and collective experiences, and these experiences and imaginations shape our understanding of the world.
- **The idea that space is performative.** NRT theorists argue that space is not simply a passive backdrop to human activity, but rather an active force that shapes our behavior. The way that we use and interact with

space can have a profound impact on our lives and on the world around us.

NRT has been used to critique a wide range of geographical practices, including cartography, GIS, and remote sensing. NRT theorists have argued that these practices often rely on simplistic and unrealistic representations of space, and that they can lead to misleading and harmful outcomes. For example, NRT theorists have criticized the use of maps to justify colonialism and imperialism, and they have argued that GIS can be used to create spatial databases that reinforce social and economic inequalities.



Non-representational Theory (Key Ideas in Geography)

by Paul Simpson

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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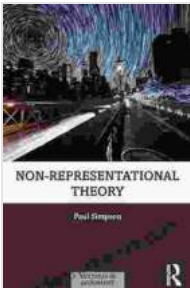
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NRT has also been used to develop new ways of thinking about space and place. NRT theorists have proposed that we think about space as a process, rather than a static entity, and that we focus on the ways that space is experienced and imagined by different people. This approach has led to new insights into the relationship between space and power, and it has helped to open up new possibilities for geographical research.

NRT is a challenging and provocative approach to geography that has the potential to revolutionize our understanding of space and place. By challenging the traditional view that maps and other representations of space are objective and neutral, NRT opens up new possibilities for thinking about the relationship between space and power, and for developing new ways of representing and understanding the world.



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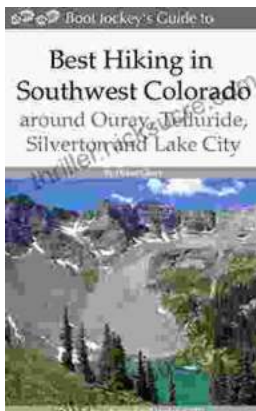
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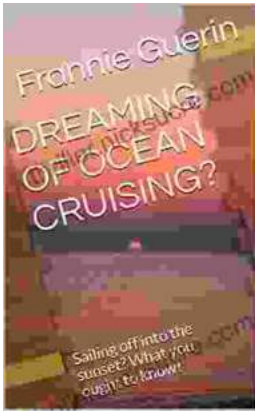
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