

Session proposal for the Fourth International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Emotional Geographies

Session title:

The Hometown in the Everyday: Geographies of Nostalgia within Diasporic Populations.

Organisers:

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Abstract

While the act of mobility can itself be agential or forced, empowering or debilitating, the hometown occupies an important place in the memories of diasporic populations.

Though multiple belongings eventually become part of the everyday life, the home town its smells, sounds, feel, memories and food enter the realm of nostalgia. By re-situating the smells, sounds and texture of hometown in the diasporic space (public and private) we make places in everyday settings which through time can change meanings.

We are interested in manners in which the hometown continues to be inscribed into the geographies of everyday life, through innocuous acts, artifacts and in everyday spaces. We invite papers on the theme of:

- Hometown as stories: Intergenerational stories narrativising the hometown,
- Hometown in the everyday: materializing memories of the home town through food cultures, dressing styles and other everyday acts and artifacts.
- Hometown as community: memorializing hometown culture through community activities,
- Hometown on Facebook: spatialising the hometown in cyberspace.
- Hometown as prison: the constricting geographies of the hometown.
- Hometown as journeys: materializing hometown through journeys on real and imagined.

This list is not exhaustive but only indicative. Selected papers will be taken forward for publication in an appropriate format. Please send short abstracts (250 to 300 words) to Anindita Datta (anindita.dse@gmail.com) and Ajay Bailey (A.Bailey@rug.nl) by 10th December 2012.