

Notes

1 Introduction

1. The Bullingdon Club is an exclusive University of Oxford dining club, renowned for drunken behaviour, including the destruction of restaurants, vandalism of college property and fighting. Within the conservative press, however, such 'antics' are referred to as 'playful joshing' while the violence is recontextualised as taking on a 'polite, skittish guise' (see Atkinson, 2006).
2. I have referred to the city as 'Vikton' in this book rather than using its real name, partly to protect the identity of the people profiled in the case studies, and to emphasise that it stands for life and leisure in any number of cities across Britain.
3. A particular kind of bar, sometimes located in a former commercial or retail building, where customers are encouraged through its design to stand rather than sit which in turn facilitates rapid consumption of alcohol.
4. Exceptions to this do of course exist (see Gofton, 1990; Tomsen, 1997; Hobbs et al., 2003; Winlow and Hall, 2006).
5. Happily, on this occasion I was right, and a later chance meeting with Louise revealed that she was in a new relationship and had moved back out of her parents' home, news of which served to somewhat assuage my feelings of guilt.

3 Binge Britain and the NTE

1. The issue of celebrity is an interesting one, which unfortunately must remain unexplored here. Suffice to say we can position the objects of contemporary fetishisation of celebrity as having transcended traditional morality. They are able to fornicate, drink, take drugs in ways that are completely inaccessible to much of society. And while we may believe that celebrity lives reflect some element of the Real, in fact it is more accurate to say that they do not exist – trapped between the 'real' them and their mediatised image, an existential gulf in which they are unable to recognise themselves.
2. Although the direct translation of 'jouissance' is 'pleasure', it is more useful to utilise this term in the psychoanalytic sense, pertaining to an excess of pleasure, that takes on a traumatic, painful element. Therefore, a good meal is pleasurable, but to keep eating beyond the point at which our hunger is satiated becomes uncomfortable to the point of traumatic intrusion, perhaps most aptly illustrated by the Monty Python character Mr Creosote, whose consumption graphically pushes beyond the pleasure principle.
3. The term given to the highly acquisitive pub estate companies who sought large profits by buying up premises and installing tenant landlords who, while ostensibly 'business partners', are tied to buying stock from the pubco itself, and are vulnerable to substantial rent increases.

4 Consuming the City

1. The hyperreality surrounding nostalgia for decades past that is so neatly characterised within the Reflex brand is taken to its logical conclusion by TV chef Heston Blumenthal in his recent show Feasts, in which he creates a 1980s themed meal for a group of minor celebrities. Introducing the viewer to the decade in question from the dance floor of a Reflex bar, pointing out hyperreal fixtures and fittings as genuine representations of the period, he proceeds to cook versions of 1980s food that has lost all semblance of its original form – for example, Blumenthal makes a cheese and ham toasted sandwich, using meat that goes beyond ham, sourced from acorn-fed pigs in the south of Spain, utilising fine black truffles, and cheese that he has subjected to a number of pseudo-scientific processes in his kitchen in order to make it stringy enough to be stretched to incredible lengths.

5 Youth, Adulthood and the NTE

1. Even government attempts to control this market, such as 2013's 'Help to Buy' scheme, are likely to help those who are already relatively wealthy, rather than those struggling to afford a deposit (Collinson, 2013).

6 Drinking Biographies

1. Slang for a lower second class honours degree – Desmond Tutu = 2:2.

7 Desire, Motivation and the NTE

1. Interestingly, many participants within the night-time leisure economy will find themselves at once transgressing government health guidelines while abiding faithfully to the ethic of compulsory indulgence discussed elsewhere.
2. 'Pass out', 'green card' and 'beer licence' are all terms that relate in simple terms to 'permission', usually from their partner, to go out drinking.

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