

Cultural Studies and Transdisciplinarity in Education

Series Editors

Aaron Koh

National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Singapore

Victoria Carrington

School of Education & Lifelong Learning University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom

We live in a time where the complex nature and implications of social, political and cultural issues for individuals and groups is increasingly clear. While this may lead some to focus on smaller and smaller units of analysis in the hope that by understanding the parts we may begin to understand the whole, this book series is premised on the strongly held view that researchers, practitioners and policy makers interested in education will increasingly need to integrate knowledge gained from a range of disciplinary and theoretical sources in order to frame and address these complex issues. A transdisciplinary approach takes account the uncertainty of knowledge and the complexity of social and cultural issues relevant to education. It acknowledges that there will be unresolved tensions and that these should be seen as productive. With this in mind, the reflexive and critical nature of cultural studies and its focus on the processes and currents that construct our daily lives has made it a central point of reference for many working in the contemporary social sciences and education.

This book series seeks to foreground transdisciplinary and cultural studies influenced scholarship with a view to building conversations, ideas and sustainable networks of knowledge that may prove crucial to the ongoing development and relevance of the field of educational studies. The series will place a premium on manuscripts that critically engage with key educational issues from a position that draws from cultural studies or demonstrates a transdisciplinary approach. This can take the form of reports of new empirical research, critical discussions and/or theoretical pieces. In addition, the series editors are particularly keen to accept work that takes as its focus issues that draw from the wider Asia Pacific region but that may have relevance more globally, however all proposals that reflect the diversity of contemporary educational research will be considered.

Series Editors:

Aaron Koh (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

Victoria Carrington (University of East Anglia)

Editorial Board:

Angel Lin (University of Hong Kong, China), Angelia Poon (National Institute of Education, Singapore), Anna Hickey-Moody (Goldsmith College, University of London, UK), Barbara Comber (Queensland Technological University, Australia), Catherine Beavis (Griffith University, Australia), Cameron McCarthy (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA), Chen Kuan-Hsing (National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan), C. J. W.-L. Wee (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore), Daniel Goh (National University of Singapore, Singapore), Jackie Marsh (University of Sheffield, UK), Jane Kenway (Monash University, Australia) Jennifer A Sandlin (Arizona State University, Tempe, USA), Jennifer Rowsell (Brock University, Canada), Jo-Anne Dillabough, (University of Cambridge, UK) Mary Lou Rasmussen (Monash University, Australia), Megan Watkins (University of Western Sydney, Australia), Terence Chong (Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore)

Book proposals for this series may be submitted to the Publishing Editor: **Lawrence Liu**
E-mail: Lawrence.Liu@springer.com

More information about this series at <http://www.springer.com/series/11200>

Johannah Fahey • Howard Prosser • Matthew Shaw
Editors

In the Realm of the Senses

Social Aesthetics and the Sensory Dynamics
of Privilege

 Springer

Editors

Johannah Fahey
Faculty of Education
Monash University
Melbourne
Victoria
Australia

Matthew Shaw
Faculty of Education
Monash University
Melbourne
Victoria
Australia

Howard Prosser
Faculty of Education
Monash University
Melbourne
Victoria
Australia

ISSN 2345-7708

ISSN 2345-7716 (electronic)

Cultural Studies and Transdisciplinarity in Education

ISBN 978-981-287-349-1

ISBN 978-981-287-350-7 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-981-287-350-7

Library of Congress Control Number: 2015933508

Springer Singapore Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London

© Springer Science+Business Media Singapore 2015

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are reserved by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made.

Printed on acid-free paper

Springer is a brand of Springer Singapore

Springer is part of Springer Science+Business Media (www.springer.com)

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our gratitude to the Australian Research Council, which funded the 5 year Discovery-Project *Elite independent schools in globalising circumstances: a multi-sited global ethnography* (2010–2014). This book stems from that project. We would also like to thank the Faculty of Education, Monash University for providing the institutional base within which to write. Thanks to our contributing authors who worked tirelessly to produce chapters aimed at interrogating and developing our understandings of social aesthetics, and who all contributed immensely to the final product through their feedback, support and encouragement. We would also like to thank our publishing editor Lawrence Lui and our series editors Aaron Koh and Victoria Carrington, who facilitated the rigorous peer review process that greatly improved the overall quality of this book. We are also grateful to all the people who participated in our interviews and posed for our photos. We thank Hugh McLean for introducing us to David MacDougall's films, and David MacDougall for his generous involvement during our writing process. Tina 'swami' Inserra provided her valuable Photoshop skills and we express our sincere appreciation to her. The photograph of the Khayelitsha township in South Africa is courtesy of Chell Hill and we thank him for allowing us to use his image. Last, but not least, we offer enormous gratitude to our families for providing us with love and support during the process of assembling this book.

Contents

Introduction: Local Classes, Global Influences—Considerations on the Social Aesthetics of Elite Schools	1
Johannah Fahey, Howard Prosser and Matthew Shaw	
Vignette: The Fullness of Taste	27
Jane Kenway	
Distinguished Spaces: Elite Schools as Cartographers of Privilege	31
Jane Kenway and Howard Prosser	
Visual Essay: Space	57
Johannah Fahey	
The (Semiotics of) Social Aesthetics in an Elite School in Singapore: An Ethnographic Study	67
Aaron Koh	
Visual Essay: Semiotic Ecology	87
Johannah Fahey	
Vignette: Sound	99
Johannah Fahey	
Cultivating Students’ Bodies: Producing Physical, Poetic and Sociopolitical Subjectivities in Elite Schools	101
Johannah Fahey and Matthew Shaw	
Visual Essay: Bodies	129
Johannah Fahey	

**The Visual Field of Barbadian Elite Schooling:
Towards Postcolonial Social Aesthetics** 137
Cameron McCarthy, Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer, Koeli Goel, Chunfeng Lin,
Michelle Castro, Brenda Sanya and Ergin Bulut

Vignette: Sight 171
Matthew Shaw

Looking Inside and Out: Social Aesthetics of an Elite School in India..... 173
Fazal Rizvi

Visual Essay: Histories 191
Johannah Fahey

Vignette: The Touch of Class 203
Howard Prosser

Afterword..... 205
David MacDougall

Index 209

Contributors

- Ergin Bulut** University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Champaign, USA
- Michelle Castro** University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Champaign, USA
- Johannah Fahey** Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
- Koeli Goel** University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Champaign, USA
- Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer** Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, USA
- Jane Kenway** Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
- Aaron Koh** Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Singapore
- Chunfeng Lin** University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Champaign, USA
- David MacDougall** Australian National University, Canberra, Australia
- Cameron McCarthy** University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Champaign, USA
- Howard Prosser** Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
- Fazal Rizvi** The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia
- Brenda Sanya** University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Champaign, USA
- Matthew Shaw** Monash University, Melbourne, Australia