Place, Mobility and the iPhone

Andy Bullock spoke with Tim Cresswell who used an iPhone to look into the geographies of place and mobility.

Place is a location that we attach meaning to; it’s not just a dot on the map. Mobility is its mobile equivalent. It is movement that is given meaning.

Tim is studying a place that used to exist in Chicago called Maxwell Street Market. His work focuses on the many things that flowed through and interconnected in this space, to make it a ‘place’.

Like with Tim’s book, many Cultural Geographers are increasingly looking for creative ways to present their work – in things like writing, art, and photography. This can be accessible but also exclusionary and risks being seen as pretentious.

The iPhone has an impact on the shape of places and movement in many ways. iPhones might damage interactions between people in places, but they could also make places more placey and richer.

Tim wants to encourage people to think about the world in meaningful ways and question and understand how the world works in order to make the world a better place.

References


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