Jacob Alspaw

USSY 227-Ehrlich

Travel Writing on Screen

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Travel’s Alienation of Socially Defined Male Gender Roles

***Summary***

The Road Movie Book has proven, so far, to be a challenging read which often times requires an intense amount of critical thought to finalize any concrete conclusion. Chapter 16 of this book, Disassociated Masculinities and Geographies of the Road, explores the ways that “masculinity is liberated through the space and scale of the road movie genre.” The reader will notice a focus on sexuality, gender roles, community, family, and home—all major concepts of identity—and their dissolution from social norms when on the road. The readers will note many recurring themes throughout the chapter, such as the sense of confinement during travel, suppression by the patriarchy, hysteria, space and distances effect on the mind, and, of course, the social expectations of gender roles. From the chapter, we can conclude that road movies bring about the idea of hysteria because the social expectation of masculinity is a tad deranged, yet the expectation still persists. In the case of male hysteria, there are two “spaces” of subjectivity: external and internal. The internal subjectivity allows for growth, and the external gaze redefines a sense of self. Dissociated masculinity will come about when the external reevaluates the internal. Essentially, our surroundings change who we are, the road being no exception.

***Quotes***

“The mobile male subject becomes hysterical because he is disassociated from a local scale and/or vehicle and, hence, his own adequacy.”

“Despite conceptual problems and a certain amount of uncritical use in film studies, the gaze seems to hold out promise for describing the limits of road movie subjects, delimiting their boundaries and indicating possibilities for their reconstruction.”

“Human subjectivity was derived from activities and interpersonal relations, and was determined in part by how we identified with places.”

***Questions***

How can I incorporate this chapter of the Road movie book into my final group presentation, regarding sexuality and gender during travel?

After reading this chapter, I would like to know the extent to which different geographies impact the external subjectivity to reevaluate the internal? Is anyone more impactful for any given situation? Which geography formations are used most in road movies?