Review: Media, modernity and technology: the geography of the new. By David Morley. New York: Routledge 2007. ISBN 0415333423

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Clarke has shown that the city's population has increasingly become coloured and black (97%) due to out migration of whites. As such, colour and race segregation seen in the late colonial period has declined significantly. However, he provides proof that class (based on occupation) and culture (analyzed through the surrogates of 'religion, family, and kinship and education') have remained key aspects of social stratification and spatial polarization within Kingston. He suggests that such polarization may be partially responsible for the high levels of violence, also seen in other developing cities such as Sao Paulo and Johannesburg. His discussion of the slum/ghetto and the wealth of creativity that has emerged from the depths of deprivation add value to the understanding of Kingston's current culture and social representations. Clarke's explanation of plural stratification contrasts with other widely accepted academic ideological perspectives of Jamaican cultural creolization.

This book has done justice in adequately representing the changes in the socio-economic and political climate of Kingston. However, although mentioned partly in relation to political tribalism and patron-client relationships, a detailed chronological discussion of party politics from the 1940s to the present day early in the text would have been valuable in engaging the reader's understanding of the influence of political processes on the city. In addition, the limited use of qualitative research in this volume indirectly challenges other researchers for their contributions in providing a more holistic understanding of social and cultural processes and outcomes that shape post-colonial cities. However, after reading this new publication one merely needs to tour Kingston to experience what Clarke has substantially captured and put to paper; for it is remarkable that social legacies of colonialism are still vibrant, yet spatial transformations are apparent.

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Media, modernity and technology: the geography of the new. By David Morley. New York: Routledge. 2007. x + 346 pp. £18.99 paper. ISBN 0415333423.

A new book by David Morley (over half the chapters in *Media, modernity and technology* comprise original material) should always bear serious consideration from cultural geographers. Not only has Morley been one of the leading figures within British cultural studies over the past two decades, but in influential publications such as *Spaces of identity* (1995, with Kevin Robins) and *Home territories* (2000) he has consistently emphasized and worked through his conviction that – as he reaffirms here – 'geography does indeed matter' (p. 63). Trained as a sociologist, Morley remarks now that if, in the 1980s, the discipline from which he learned most was anthropology, in the 1990s it was cultural geography. The fact that *The geography of the new* was in fact his preferred book title – 'marketing considerations' ultimately putting paid to this preference (p. 11) – merely reinforces the centrality of matters spatial to his scholarly vista.

Nonetheless, Morley's new book is, for this reader at least, slightly disappointing. It is not that it is a bad book. Rather, it is that Morley does not appear to be telling us much that is particularly original. The book, as he explains in the Introduction, develops two main, linked

premises. The first is that the West has typically been seen as modern, rational and dynamic, in contrast to a 'traditional' non-West. The second is that technology in general, and '*new* media' in particular, tend to be pegged to the future while 'old media' and ritualized practices are relegated to the past. His headline argument, then (his 'geography of the new'), is to argue against such false binaries, demonstrating continuities and overlaps between East and West, tradition and modernity, and magic and technology (although not, for the most part, economy and culture – but see pp. 322–3 on gift economies). This is all very well, yet as Morley himself notes (p. 175), ironically, of one such binary (the conflation of the West with modernity), it is also very well-established ground.

Media, modernity and technology should, however, prove of interest in a number of regards. It provides a good historical introduction to British cultural studies (particularly insofar as cultural studies has been concerned with the media), to Morley's relationship with key figures in that tradition (e.g. Stuart Hall), and to the trajectory of Morley's own work. In relation to the last of these, it recalls his seminal work on the ways in which 'local' spaces and technologies (the sitting room, home, family television) are bound up with the constitution of much wider cultural identities (e.g. 'nation'). Indeed, some of the book's most insightful passages occur where he nudges this work forward, as in Chapter 7 on identity and the 'mediated home'. Unfortunately, such passages are somewhat peripheral, the main thrust of the book predicated largely – and self-consciously (p. 327) – on reviews of what other writers have had to say on historical geographies of modernity.

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Cities of pleasure: sex and the urban socialscape. Edited by Alan Collins. London: Routledge. 2006. 248 pp. £70.00 Cloth. ISBN 0415360129.

Cities of pleasure draws together economists, geographers and other social scientists to consider the growth of sex-based businesses and markets in contemporary cities. This book, which began life as a special issue of *Urban studies*, is attempting to offer something new to the study of urban sexual geographies – namely a focus on economic processes and a theoretical perspective that is not solely reliant on queer theory. These are both important and much needed developments, but neither theme is necessarily explored in ways that will inspire cultural geographers.

Many of the arguments offered in the book by contributors from geography (Bell and Binnie; Hubbard) and sociology (Skeggs et al.) are fascinating and insightful, but they will be familiar to many readers. However, this work sits a little uneasily beside the work of the editor and other contributors writing from a more traditionally economic perspective. Collins attempts to apply a rational choice economic framework to the search for marriage and sexual pleasure in contrasting urban and rural settings. Similarly, Cameron applies a 'club goods model' in his ideal-typical modelling of the evolution of sexual markets in 'tolerant' cities. In pursuing these theoretical explorations, both authors rely on sociobiological perspectives on