

# Performance and the Cultural Politics of Space: Unraveling Power Dynamics in Contemporary Performance



Contemporary performance has emerged as a potent force in shaping cultural narratives and exploring the complexities of human existence.

Beyond its aesthetic value, performance often serves as a lens through which we can examine the intricate interplay between space, power, and identity. This captivating book, "Performance and the Cultural Politics of Space: Contemporary Performance," delves into these thought-provoking intersections, shedding light on the ways in which performance can illuminate and challenge the power dynamics embedded within our physical and social environments.



## Theatre's Heterotopias: Performance and the Cultural Politics of Space (Contemporary Performance

**InterActions)** by Paris Fury

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1200 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 246 pages



### Chapter 1: The Spatial Politics of Embodiment

## Building a Social Materiality: Spatial and Embodied Politics in Organizational Control

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**Abstract.** *The purpose of this article is to explore the relevance of 'materiality' to understanding changing modes of control in organizational life. In doing this, materiality is set placed in a broader relationship with social relations. Rather a conceptualization of 'social materiality' is developed, whereby social processes and structures and material processes and structures are seen as mutually enacting. In developing this concept of social materiality, I have drawn upon insights from three areas of social theory. These are studies of material culture, Lefebvre's work on the 'social production of space', and sociological and phenomenological approaches to embodiment. The final section of the article explores how control and materiality are linked through spatial politics in one organizational case.*

**Key words:** architecture; embodiment; organizational control; social materiality

Power is no longer linked to space, and architectural forms have little control over human behaviour. (Sassen, 2000: 169-80)

The emphasis on hypermobility, global communications and the new location of place and influence in the mainstream account about economic globalisation needs to be balanced with a focus on the work behind command functions, on the actual production process in the leading information industries, finance and specialised services, and on global marketplaces. ... We [need to] recover the material conditions, production sites and place boundedness. (Sassen, 2000: 168-9)

The purpose of this article is to explore the relevance of 'materiality' to understanding changing modes of control in organizational life. However, as the two quotations above demonstrate, the relationship between materiality and organizations is one that is contested in recent accounts. On the one hand, processes of 'globalization', along with new information and communication technologies, and the emphasis on organizational capabilities, brand and image, seem to indicate that organizations are no longer dependent on particular places nor material assets, but that the world of electronic flows and intangible representations is much more central to organizational success. On the other hand, a corrective position is the growing realization that growth in services, culture industries and brand dominance in some areas still depends upon quite different material conditions of production, construction and reproduction in other areas (Witens, for example, 2004; reception of Klein's (2000, 2000). Some analyses manage to avoid both 'types' and dilemmas. For example, Holtz (2004) provides a convincing account of how the very nature of global, technologically-mediated finance and capitalism simultaneously generates a greater need for face-to-face meetings, personal contacts and networks. In this, he shows the importance both of strategic flows and embodied experience, of the integration of social and material forces.

One aspect of changing organizational life that has drawn much attention is the shifting forms of organizational control. Many accounts of changing organizational control suggest a move from more 'vertical' hierarchical authority structures to 'horizontal' forms of control involving team and peer

The opening chapter explores the concept of embodiment in performance, examining how bodies navigate and are shaped by the spaces they inhabit. Drawing from diverse case studies, the authors uncover how performers use their bodies as sites of resistance, agency, and cultural critique. This chapter highlights the ways in which the body becomes a potent tool for challenging dominant narratives and creating alternative perspectives.

## Chapter 2: Space and the Construction of Identity



This chapter shifts the focus to the role of space in constructing and negotiating identity. The authors examine how performers use space as a means of self-expression, storytelling, and cultural dialogue. They explore how performance can create safe spaces for marginalized voices, enabling them to reclaim their identities and challenge societal norms.

## Chapter 3: Performing the City



Moving beyond traditional performance venues, the third chapter delves into the concept of "performing the city." The authors investigate how artists use urban spaces as their stage, transforming public environments into sites of artistic intervention and social critique. This chapter examines the ways in which performance can activate and reimagine the city, fostering new connections and transforming urban landscapes.

#### **Chapter 4: Digital Performance and the Politics of Space**



With the advent of digital technologies, the final chapter explores the emerging field of digital performance. The authors examine how virtual spaces and online platforms are redefining the relationship between performance and space. They discuss the unique challenges and opportunities presented by digital performance, highlighting its potential for inclusivity, accessibility, and social change.

"Performance and the Cultural Politics of Space: Contemporary Performance" offers a comprehensive analysis of the ways in which performance intersects with space, power, and identity. Through engaging case studies and insightful theoretical frameworks, the authors illuminate the complex dynamics that shape contemporary performance. This groundbreaking work is a must-read for scholars, artists, practitioners, and anyone interested in understanding the transformative power of performance in shaping our cultural landscapes. It is a testament to the

enduring relevance of performance as a means of exploring, challenging, and reconfiguring the world around us.



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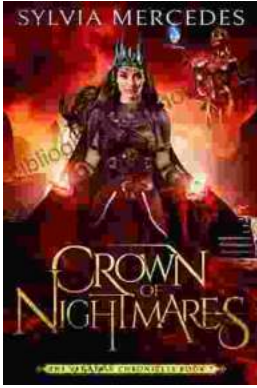
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