



Conclusions: Critical Political Geographies

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In a very short conclusion, I draw this collection of interventions together by taking up four aspects that the series as a whole highlights. Substantially, all papers discuss issues related to mobility, borders, place attachments and spatial belonging. Joining in with the scholars who find the national–global dichotomy outdated as an analytic premise, we propose that these established areas of geographical inquiry require re-politicization on transnational grounds. Scale-wise, all pieces set out to bridge the gap between formal and mundane politics, focusing on the political realities that people confront and experience in their everyday lives, and the individual, collective and institutional administrative and policy-making practices that also always involve people. We thus appreciate the political world as relational and multi-scalar, and inevitably conditioned and challenged by human activities. With regard to this, the significance of human agency in differently located and developing political dynamics, events and practices forms yet another connective to the essays. By paying explicit attention to the actors of politics, rather than merely noticing their acts and the following corollaries, keeps us alert to the constant potential for change. And last, another common concern stems from the situated particularity of human political agency. All authors emphasize the importance of noticing difference and promoting equality but, like Arendt (2005, 96), find these



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as relational elements in political geographical realities. Instead of categorical identities and thus based imagined communities, future research hence ought to build on the intertwining of particularity and plurality, which are characteristic of all political communities and societies.

Finally, a word of invitation. We challenge all scholars working in the field of critical political geography to rethink the meanings that ‘critical’, ‘political’ and ‘geographical’ together imply. What should they cover, what has been forgotten, what is yet to be noticed, what is outdated—what is missing in the present debate? Our sincere wish is to see new (and old) themes, agendas and approaches introduced in the future, and the discussion truly enlivened.

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References

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