

## RPS Lecture 4

Photography, Power and the Ethics of Representation: An Antidote to  
~~Performance~~ Performative Activism

1/10/20.

Another discussion on the BLM, and the way to White indies photograph black lives.

RPS lecture looking to the Present looking to the Past Series 1 lecture 4:  
Travel

1/10/20.

1. Ideal View
2. Exotic People
3. History
4. Dysfunctional.

1. Claude Lorraine - perfect view/position  
- Way of seeing. Instagram view of the 1800s.

- The Grand Tour

↳ Urban, experience classical architecture

- Canaletto - painting, removed/added items into his paintings  
Idealized view.

- Cities became replicated images to 'sell' the place. ⇒ travel

- Rural landscapes

- Urban space - leisure time

### 2. Exotic People

- National Geographic

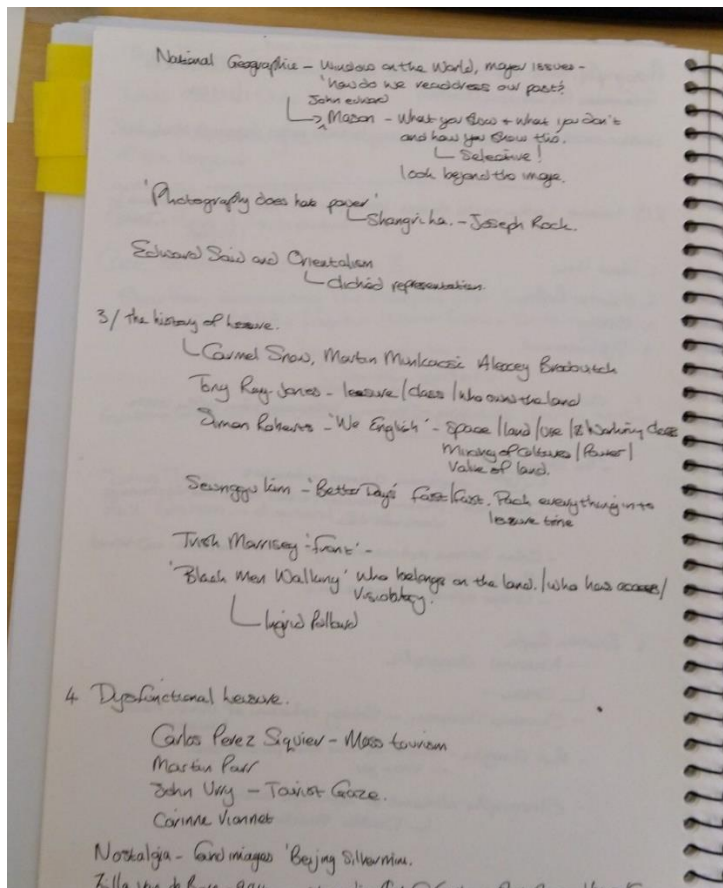
↳ Email -

- Christina Thompson. - Robley collection of Maori heads.  
↳ Curiosity

- Paul Gauguin - Showed the area as a paradise (and).  
↳ What you

- Ethnographic elements to legitimize nudity.

↳ Double Standards



## Looking to the present, looking to the past

### Series 1 – lecture 4: Travel

with Colin Pantall

## Lecture 4 – Travel and Tourism



1. Ideal Views
2. Exotic People
3. The History of Leisure
4. Dysfunctional Leisure

# 1. Ideal Views

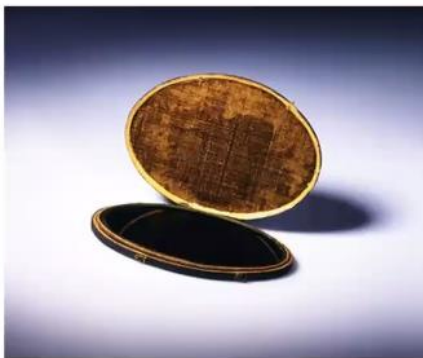
Claude Glass

The Grand Tour

Domestic Leisure

Escaping the cities

## Claude Glass



# The Grand Tour

An 18<sup>th</sup> century gap year?

Learn French

See great artworks

Experience classical architecture

Visit the picturesque 'south'

Climb a volcano!

## Canaletto – Venice,



The Bacino di San Marco on Ascension Day, 1733 -1734, purchased by George III  
(via agent Joseph Smith)



# Domestic Getaway Spots

Bath – the Royal Crescent



# Agricultural space to...



Gainsborough, Wooded Landscape with Peasant Resting (1740)

---

## ...Urban space



Monet, Hyde Park (1871)

## Edouard Manet Dejeuner sur L'Herbe, 1862





## Henri Cartier Bresson, 1938



## 2. Exotic People

European age of 'Discovery'

Western Fantasies

National Geographic

Orientalism

# Omai



Omai, Sir Joshua Reynolds 1775

Family killed on Bora Bora  
Wounded by British cannon on Tahiti  
Wanted to go to Britain to get guns  
Pantomimes were made about him  
(OMAI: Or, a trip round the world)  
Set designer for this was Philippe de  
Loutherbourg.  
In the pantomime Omai came to London  
to woo an English maid

Other pantomimes used Pacific culture to  
mock English culture.

The robes are 'authentic'

<http://www.nla.gov.au/pub/ebooks/pdf/Omai%20catalogue.pdf>

## Christina Thompson: Come Ashore and We Will Kill and Eat You All



Charles Darwin said this is what the locals  
shouted out as the boat he was on approached  
Maori land.

What was actually said was, according to  
Thompson...

"Come on shore and we will kill you all"

General Horatio Gordon Robley, a collector of Maori heads.

## Paul Gauguin, Ahura aged 15, 1897



## The Albatross Nudes, 1899–1900



Tongan Women, From the Albatross Nudes

Use of ethnographic elements to legitimize nudity

Shown in USA where 2-dimensional nudity was taboo until 1870s

highly sexualized, images depicting nude subjects of non-European descent often circulated without suppression, under the auspices that they represented “science” or “culture.”

‘Figure 3 alludes at once to a tradition of Orientalist nude painting (such as that of Ingres, who also frequently employed the reclining position for his odalisques), erotic Orientalist popular photography, and stereotypical Orientalist fantasies of the Pacific.’

Photographs from an American Album: The Albatross Nudes, 1899–1900  
Heather Waldroup  
2015





# National Geographic



In a full-issue article on Australia that ran in 1916, Aboriginal Australians were called "savages" who "rank lowest in intelligence of all human beings."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY P. SCOTT (MAN); H.E. GREGORY (WOMAN); NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CREATIVE (BOTH)

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/04/from-the-editor-race-racism-history/>

In a full-issue article on Australia that ran in 1916, Aboriginal Australians were called “savages” who “rank lowest in intelligence of all human beings.”

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/04/from-the-editor-race-racism-history/>



‘What Mason found in short was that until the 1970s National Geographic all but ignored people of color who lived in the United States, rarely acknowledging them beyond laborers or domestic workers. Meanwhile it pictured “natives” elsewhere as exotics, famously and frequently unclothed, happy hunters, noble savages—every type of cliché.’

## A short time later...



Social media accounts

It's complicated.

<https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/11/1/18036682/national-geographic-november-cover-racist-cowboy-indian-liche>

## National Geographic has power

- Joseph Rock and the Myth of Shangri La
- Photographer, botanist, explorer
- Lived near the town of Lijiang, Yunnan
- Ethnically diverse area of China on edge of the Himalaya
- Images captured the imaginations of the US public
- Later they captured the imaginations of the Chinese public



Picture by Joseph Rock for National Geographic



Picture by Joseph Rock  
for National Geographic



THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY EXPEDITION  
Behind their tents, open groves of Yunnan pines reach to the lower slopes of the mountains. The snow-capped peak at the right is 19,000-foot Mount Djina-Lo-Ko.



© National Geographic Society



Natural Color Photographs by Joseph P. Rock

#### NASHI TRIBESMEN, COURAGEOUS AND HELPFUL ASSOCIATES

The leader of the National Geographic Society Expedition attributed much of the success of his explorations to these intrepid mountain men who could be trusted to remain loyal in time of danger. Behind the Nashi boys are robes made of the skins of leopards (*felis pardus*), fierce arboreal animals which range over most of Asia.

#### KONKA RISUMGONGBA, HOLY MOUNTAIN OF THE OUTLAWS

61

around image. Outside, not in posts, were all kinds of offerings, left there by perambulating pilgrims—bracelets, rings, beads, feathers, bells—even hair. There was nothing beautiful whatever, only filth and evil smells. The few praying lamas were dressed in rags shiny from yak butter, for their robes serve as towels as well as handkerchiefs.

##### A CONSTANT STREAM OF BANDIT PILGRIMS

Next to my quarters stood a small square building containing a large prayer wheel and a fresco portraying the trinity. Risumgongba. An ever-moving stream of evil-looking pilgrims entered the little house, gave the prayer cylinder a complete turn, and then moved on, continuously circumambulating the old and, to them, sacred buildings.

Tsengu Gomba is a combination of monastery and nunnery, for here are housed both monks and nuns, even in the same room. The nuns were lean and lanky old creatures, six feet or even taller, and wore high Tibetan boots. Their mouths were toothless, their heads shaven, and trousers covered their limbs. Only when they spoke was it possible to distinguish them from men.

My nights here were most disagreeable. The smoke from the open fires in the center of the rooms below found its way into my quarters and made my eyes smart; my nose and throat were irritated by ammonia-like odors from the surrounding stables, which are never cleaned. I decided to leave sooner than I had expected, much to the



A MEMBER OF THE AUTHOR'S ESCORT ON THE SECOND KONKALING EXPEDITION

He is a Huiian, or Chirane, from Kala, and wears the skin of blue sheep which roam the mountains of the Bonka system.

delight of my lama guide, who felt the responsibility of his charge most heavily.

##### TOOTHLESS JAMBHYANG

We left on the final lap for a pass up Shindee Valley. There we camped at 15,800 feet, where we could view both Jambhyang and Shenzie to the best advantage should weather conditions permit. We spent two nights at this high camp, called Baye. The second morning, with a temperature of 40° Fahrenheit, on June 26, my lama awakened me at 4:30 a. m., calling into my tent. "Behold the glory of Jambhyang and Shenzie—your luck indeed is great!"

#### THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE



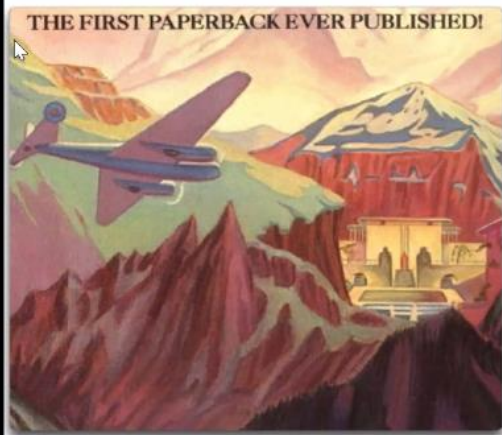
ROYALTY RESIDES HERE ON OCCASION

The ruler of Muli (see, also, Color Plate I) maintains this palace near the La Kang Monastery. Window glass is conspicuous by its absence, while heat and light come from yakfags. Flint and steel have not yet been superseded by matches.



THE MULI KING AND HIS RETINUE  
At the seated monarch's left is the Menkong, highest lama official of the kingdom, who for the ruler in his absence. The party is in front of a group of sacrificial chimneys opposite the king's Kulu palace.



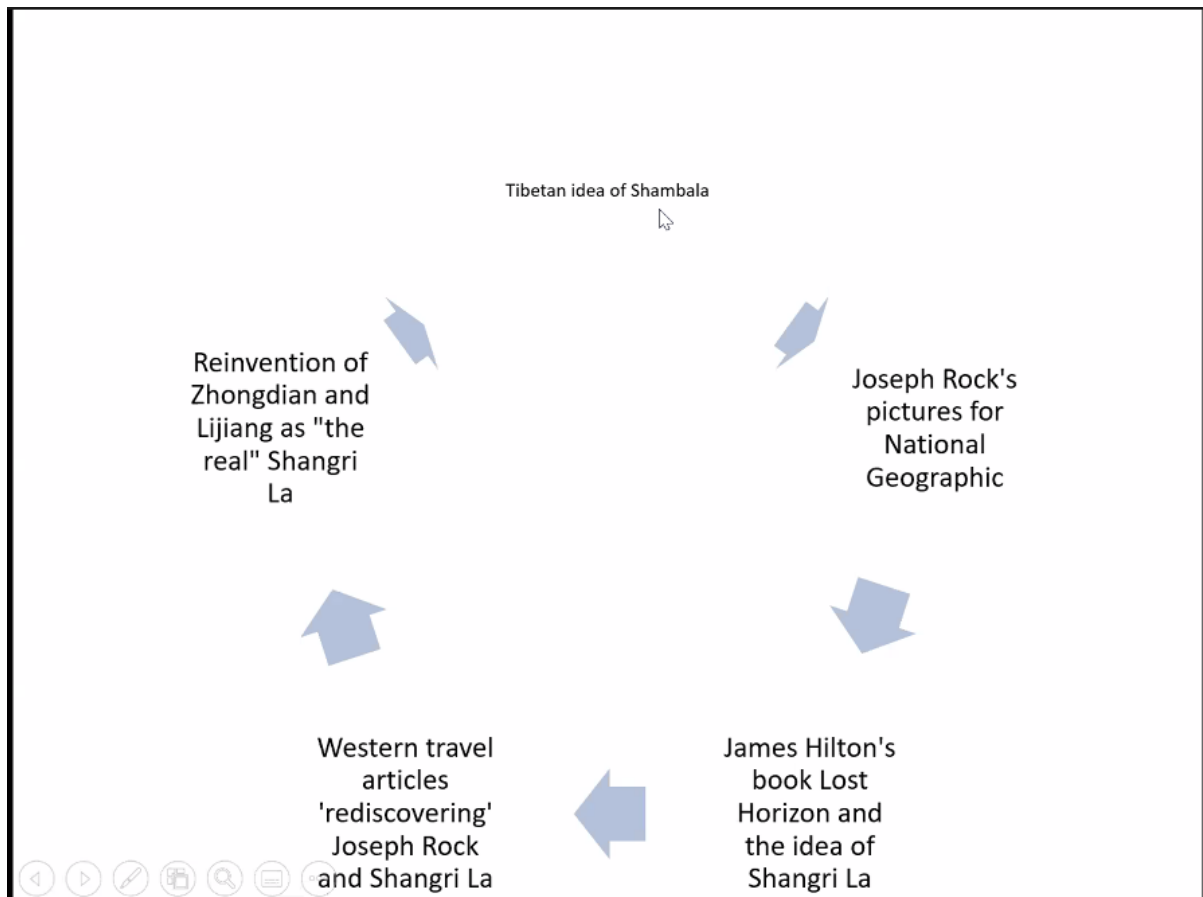












## Lutz and Collins – The Photograph as an intersection of Gazes: The Example of National Geographic, 1991

1. The Photographer's Gaze
2. The Institutional Magazine Gaze
3. The Reader's Gaze
4. The non-Western Gaze
5. The looking of Westerners in the picture Gaze
6. The camera/mirror in hand return Gaze
7. The Academic Gaze

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/The-Photograph-as-an-Intersection-of-Gazes%3A-The-of-Lutz-Collins/534bff85df6f77c77f670e6467adf6a9a72af514>







# Edward Said and Orientalism

Published in 1978

Orientalism is a way of controlling cultures through clichéd representation

It opposes East/West in an oppositional manner – with western perceptions coming from a position of power

Middle Eastern representations: sexually voracious, the harem, corrupt sultan/leader, the lustful and greedy, the wantonly cruel, the fanatic, non-individual, exotic and disgusting food

But these ideas may also be internalised by non-European cultures – there may be an Asian version of this opposition of East and West – re-Orientalism

Re-Orientalism: The Perpetration and Development of Orientalism by Orientals Author(s): Lisa Lau  
Source: Modern Asian Studies, Vol. 43, No. 2 (Mar., 2009), pp. 571-590 Published by: Cambridge University Press  
Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20488093>



## Ingres: Grand Odalisque, 1814





# Guerrilla Girls



## 3. The History of Leisure

Urbanisation

Lack of space

Expanded wealth

Workers' Rights

Transport

# UK Timeline

18<sup>th</sup> C: The Agricultural Revolution

18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> C: The Industrial Revolution – people move to the cities

19<sup>th</sup> Century development of urban parks

19<sup>th</sup> Century Workers' Rights and Holidays created

19<sup>th</sup> Century Transport links established

1890s: The seaside as a place of leisure established

1970s/1980s: Decay as overseas holiday expand

( 2020 - ? : Rise as overseas holidays contract)

Walter Beasant, 1884: 'The great natural law that men and women, as well as boys and girls, must have play. At the present moment, we have just arrived at a state of acknowledging that law.'

‘The desire for outdoor recreation in more open, greener surroundings is, perhaps, an understandable response to the confinement and pressure of living in an urban environment.’  
(Aitchison, 2000)

## My German Family Album









## Carmel Snow, Martin Munkacsi and Alexey Brodovitch



Martin Munkacsi - Lucile Brokaw running along a beach on New York's Long Island Sound, photographed for the December 1933 issue of Harpers Bazaar



Leni Riefenstahl by Martin  
Munckasi, 1931

## Louise Dahl-Wolfe



Louise Dahl-Wolfe, 1949

## Tony Ray-Jones – A Day Off, An English Journal, 1974



'My aim is to communicate something of the spirit and the mentality of the English, their habits and their way of life, the ironies that exist in the way they do things, partly through tradition and daily anachronisms in an honest and descriptive manner, the visual aspect being directed by the content. For me there is something very special and rather humorous about the "English way of life" and I wish to record it from my particular point of view before it becomes more Americanized. We are at an important stage in our history, having in a sense just been reduced to an island or defrocked and, as De Gaulle remarked, left naked. Nudity is perhaps more revealing of personality than a heavily clothed figure.'

(Tony Ray-Jones the foreword to the book)





# Simon Roberts: We English







‘Recreation is a key motif, yet it is the location of people in the landscape that is the focus for Roberts’ multi-figure compositions; the elevated viewpoint and distant perspective...

Each narrative of leisure reveals something of what it means to be English and how this is tied to the specificity of the surrounding landscape, and its increasing commodification.’

<http://we-english.co.uk/>



# Seunggu Kim – Better Days



<https://www.seunggukim.com/betterdays>



- “People try their best to enjoy themselves in the “Compressed Time and Space” during their time off work,” says Kim. “They do this because we have very short vacations that come after long working hours. There’s a strong nostalgia for the natural environment we used to live in. This nostalgia is a side-effect of growth, overcrowding and urbanization.”









## Trish Morrissey - Front



[http://www.trishmorrissey.com/works\\_pages/work-front/statement.html](http://www.trishmorrissey.com/works_pages/work-front/statement.html)

‘She approached families and groups of friends who had made temporary encampments, or marked out territories and asked if she could be part of their family temporarily. Morrissey then took over the role or position of a woman within that group - usually the mother figure. She asked to take her place, and to borrow her clothes.’

Hayley Coles, June 17th, 2006





Title: Sylvia Westbrook, August 2nd, 2005

## Black Men Walking



<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2018/jan/23/black-men-walking-royal-exchange-manchester-testament>

# Ingrid Pollard



<http://www.ingridpollard.com/wordsworths-heritage.html>

## 4. Dysfunctional Leisure

Over-development

Decay

Over-touristed

Repeated imagery

Flawed Nostalgia



# Carlos Perez Siquier



4

Marbella, 1974





## Martin Parr – The Last Resort/Small World





## John Urry – The Tourist Gaze

‘Photography gives shape to travel. It is the reason for stopping, to take (snap) a photograph, and then to move on. Photography involves obligations. People feel that they must not miss seeing particular scenes since otherwise the photo-opportunities will be missed.’



‘While the tourist is away, this then moves on to a tracking down and capturing of those images for oneself. And it ends up with travellers demonstrating that they really have been there by showing their version of the images that they had seen before they set off.’







# China - 'The Fetishisation of the Foreign'

'In 2007, a brand new estate in Hangzhou was launched for the market....

The estate contains over ten theme parks or squares and up to thirty bridges of all shapes and sizes... each somehow reflecting and reproducing the city of Venice in Italy.'

A little bit like Bath/Poundsbury/Las Vegas then...?

Jang Jiehong – An Era without Memories



Zhang Peili, City of Water Venice, Hangzhou no 1. 2007

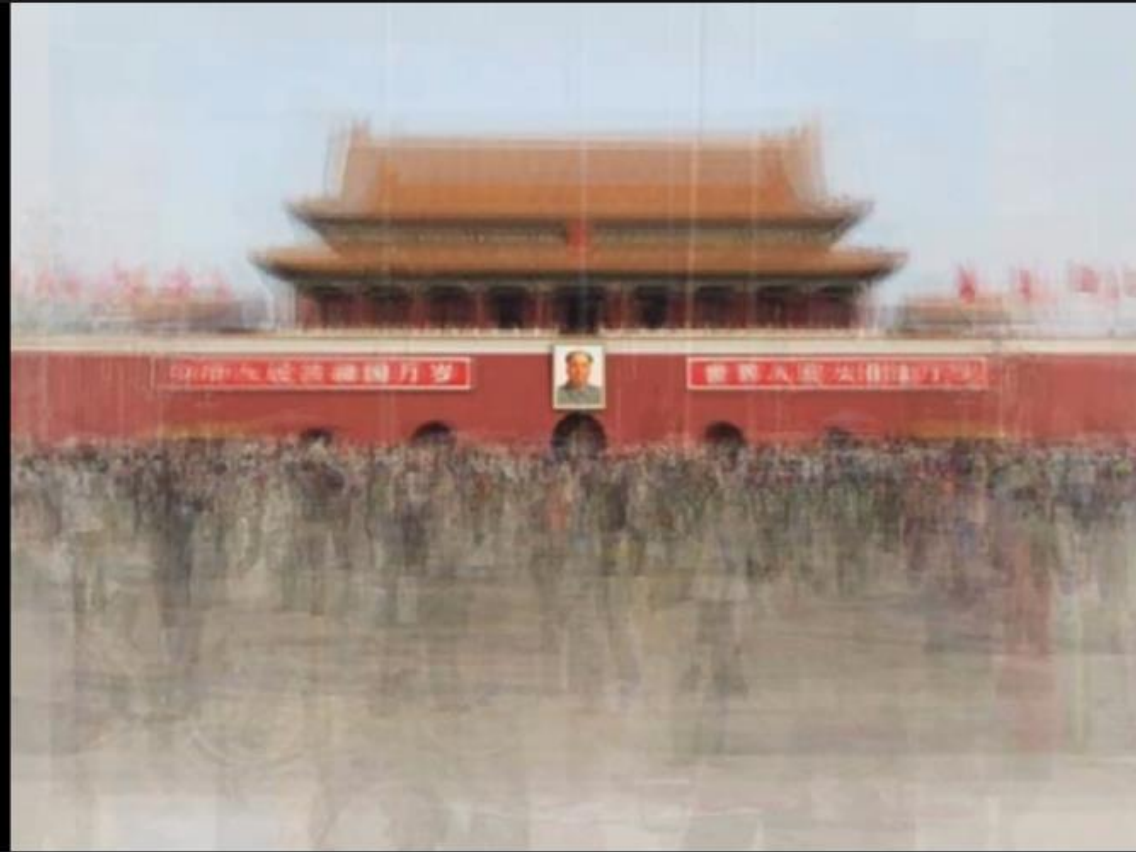




## Corinne Vionnet







## Nostalgia – Beijing Silvermine





## Zilla van den Born - 2014



- Told family and friends she was off to Southeast Asia for a holiday
- Stayed at her flat in the Netherlands
- Photographed symbols of the 'exotic' east
- Photoshopped herself into pictures
- Friends and family believed she was in SE Asia
  
- They were upset when she wasn't

## Disney, Simulacrum and Hyperreality

Jean Baudrillard talked of hyperreality

A photograph is a sign and it has become its own reality

Hyperreality is 'the generation by models of a real without origin or reality'



# Banksy - Dismaland



Aitchison, C., MacLeod, N. E. and Shaw, S. J. (2000) Leisure and tourism landscapes : social and cultural geographies. London: Routledge

Collins and Lutz (1991) The Photograph as an Intersection of Gazes: The Example of National Geographic

Hoskins, W.G. (1955) The Making of the English Landscape. London: Hodder & Stoughton

Pryor, F. (2011) The Making of the British Landscape. London: Penguin Books

Urry, J. (2002) The Tourist Gaze: Leisure and Travel in Contemporary Societies. London: Sage Publications