

**Book Review – *Memory, Mobility, and Material Culture*, edited by Chiara Giuliani and Kate Hodgson.
Routledge, 2022. 258 pp. €136.00**

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The central argument of *Memory, Mobility, and Material Culture* is that objects profoundly influence the shaping of cultural identity. This volume, featuring contributions from fifteen authors with diverse backgrounds in the field of social sciences and the arts is an excellent reference guide for material culture, memory and mobility in the field of social and cultural history, as well as in cultural studies. The book delves into historical and ongoing debates that have an impact on the present. Each part of the book has a set of case studies, and through thorough investigation, meticulous fieldwork data collection and direct communication with the people involved, the book serves as a pathway to a better future by addressing present-day challenges. Edited by Chiara Giuliani and Kate Hodgson, this volume represents a collaborative effort, with the contributors exploring various dimensions of the intersection between memory, mobility and material culture.

The book is a testament to the authors' combined expertise, making it valuable for those looking to expand their knowledge on tangible memory. While memory is often abstract, perceived as an intangible concept associated with the past and nostalgia, the twelve chapters explore the variety and alternative mechanics of the notion of memory. Readers are afforded the opportunity to identify its importance through mobile and tangible material in the form of objects. Drawing from different disciplines, including art history, architecture, heritage studies, language, literature and design the chapters provide diverse insights. This range of perspectives is reflected in the structure of *Memory, Mobility, and Material Culture*, which is divided into four parts that each focus on four distinct angles of the subject matter.

The first part, 'Moving Testimonies', analyses how resistance and personal beliefs can be destructive to local social norms and political circumstances. The authors' critical approach demonstrates how material objects, such as suitcases, maps, and shirts, can be a means of activism and protest. Furthermore, they act as relics not only of personal memory but also cultural memory and identity. In this section, it is evident that solidarity, civil conflicts, and violence can be expressed through the performing arts. Notably, Johanna Carvajal González, in her chapter entitled 'Why Is a Museum a Place to Rest in Peace? Relicarios by Colombian Artist Erika Diettes', discusses how a museum can be the ideal location for fostering peace and

examines how materiality and physicality can create a safe space for social memory and mourning through artistic installations. Specifically, she recognises how objects like clothing and accessories can assist in the process of grief in times of civil conflict (González, pp. 57–75).

The second part of the book, 'Moving Homes', discusses the harsh reality of the twenty-first century and the challenges faced by those who have been forced to leave their homes. In this section the authors explore the concept of nostalgia and how tangible objects such as jewellery, crafts and statues can hold sentimental value. It is evident that memory is intensified in diasporic populations, and the presence of certain objects can provide comfort to the displaced. Mastoureh Fathi, in 'Memories of Material Home: Refugee Women's Depiction of Absent Objects', focuses on continuity rather than the past (p. 100). The author advocates for artistic interventions in situations where people are forced to flee their homes. According to Fathi, one must concentrate on the links between memory and home, which must constantly be re-evaluated.

The book's third part, titled 'Moving Designs', stands out as an exceptional section that merges the arts and social sciences in a very alluring way. The authors in this part bring to life the ways in which design and architecture can contribute to the sustainability of memory, nostalgia, and belonging in a society. They paint a vivid picture of the ways in which the design of objects such as jewellery can be incorporated into cultural identity. In particular, Ombretta Frau's persuasive and engaging chapter examines the intricate symbolic value of pieces of jewellery possessed by Italian writers Contessa Lara (1849–1896) and Marchesa Colombi (1840–1920), who had different social backgrounds, but both struggled to find their identities in society. Through a detailed analysis, Frau sheds light on the societal pressure women face to feel involved in their community.

The final and fourth part of the book, 'Moving Histories', reminds the reader that objects, along with sensory experiences, have a vital involvement in history. The authors present an insightful view of how material culture and its associated practices can contribute to the protection of the past. Emma Bond and Mona Bozdog in 'The Smells and Tastes of Memory: Accessing Transitional Pasts through Material Culture' offer a fascinating interpretation of the role of sensory memory in accessing past experiences. The authors of this chapter explore how an object, such as sugar, can evoke non-visual senses, such as smell and taste, which then recreate and bring to life bitter and sweet recollections and re-imaginings of the past. Furthermore, the chapter creates additional possibilities for the consideration of nostalgia as a means of both safeguarding and challenging colonial legacies.

Memory, Mobility, and Material Culture is a core resource for researchers across the social sciences and arts disciplines. It provides a wealth of knowledge and insight that can help deepen scholars' understanding of the field. However, while the book focuses on material culture and objects, illustrations are lacking. Nevertheless, the plethora of case studies and fieldwork data, as well as the strength of the arguments presented in each chapter, support the overall quality of the discussions. By delving into the complexities of memory, mobility and material culture, the authors of this book offer enriching and constructive data that can aid researchers from all angles of the fields of arts and social sciences.

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