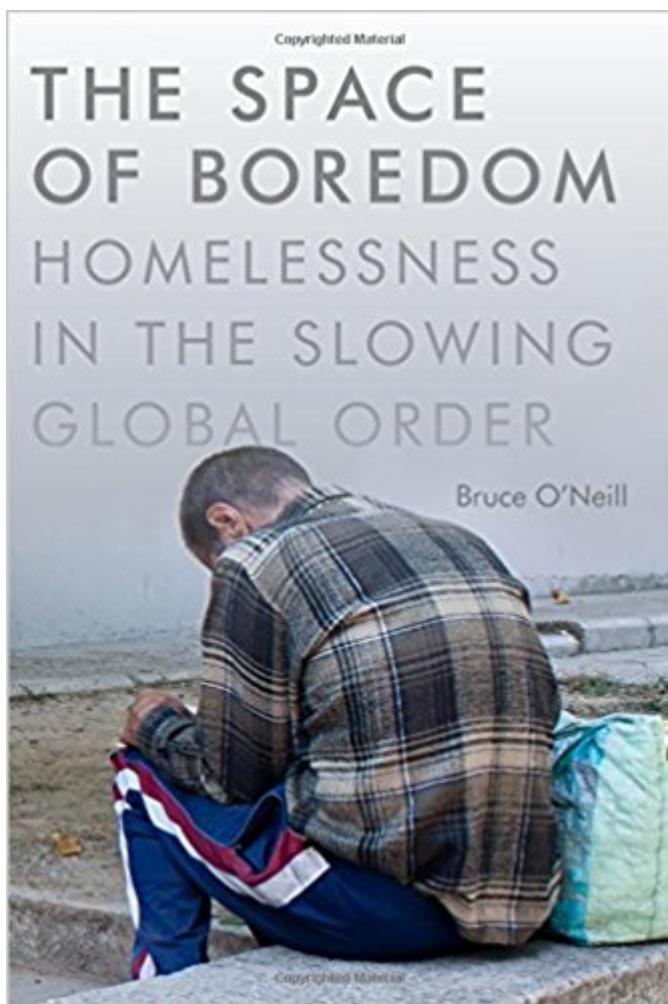


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The Space Of Boredom: Homelessness In The Slowing Global Order



Synopsis

In *The Space of Boredom* Bruce O'Neill explores how people cast aside by globalism deal with an intractable symptom of downward mobility: an unshakeable and immense boredom. Focusing on Bucharest, Romania, where the 2008 financial crisis compounded the failures of the postsocialist state to deliver on the promises of liberalism, O'Neill shows how the city's homeless are unable to fully participate in a society that is increasingly organized around practices of consumption. Without a job to work, a home to make, or money to spend, the homeless—who include pensioners abandoned by their families and the state—struggle daily with the slow deterioration of their lives. O'Neill moves between homeless shelters and squatter camps, black labor markets and transit stations, detailing the lives of men and women who manage boredom by seeking stimulation, from conversation and coffee to sex in public restrooms or going to the mall or IKEA. Showing how boredom correlates with the downward mobility of Bucharest's homeless, O'Neill theorizes boredom as an enduring affect of globalization in order to provide a foundation from which to rethink the politics of alienation and displacement.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Bruce O'Neill's empirically rich, analytically sophisticated, and sumptuously written ethnography transports the reader into the lives of Bucharest's homeless population, clearly articulating their relentless sense of boredom and the daily tedium of being cast aside. Of great interest to scholars of postsocialism and critics of neoliberalism, *The Space of Boredom* should be

required reading for all the World Bank and IMF staff in Romania as well as the market fundamentalists celebrating globalization." (Kristen Ghodsee, author of *The Left Side of History: World War II and the Unfulfilled Promise of Communism in Eastern Europe*) "Bruce O'Neill's treatment of a kind of social deprivation that is unfamiliar to most readers renders the painful economic depression of much of Eastern Europe with a remarkable human voice. Revealing disarming insights as to how boredom finds its way into the corners of disenfranchised lives, *The Space of Boredom* produces some of the best of what anthropology has to offer." (Bruce Grant, author of *The Captive and the Gift: Cultural Histories of Sovereignty in Russia and the Caucasus*)

Bruce O'Neill is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Saint Louis University.

Very interesting study of homelessness in the post communist Romania and the problem of alienation and being disenfranchised in society in general due to exclusion from the global economy. Many times from forces beyond one's control. The topic of boredom due to living on the fringes is well explored.

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Charlaine Harris Schulz Books 2017 Checklist: The Aurora Teagarden Series in Order, Cemetery Girl Series in Order, Harper Connelly Series in Order, Lily Bard Series in Order and more! Stephen King Series Reading Order: Series List - In Order: The Dark Tower series, Shining series, Talisman series, The Green Mile series, stand-alone novels, ... (Listastik Series Reading Order Book 30)
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