

British captivity...US tourism



- ✧ *Othello* (slavery and redemption)
- ✧ *Robinson Crusoe* (Moorish slave episode)
- ✧ Edith Wharton, *In Morocco* (almost a guide book)
- ✧ Paul Bowles, 1993 interview: writing novels about tourists
“They get involved in situations they have no right to be involved in. They go to countries they should stay out of and about which they are completely ignorant. They don’t even bother to find out about them before they go. They don’t really know where they’re going, or where they are. Of course, it’s their fault.”

Early captivity...late tourism

False dichotomies



- ✦ Barbary captivity narratives played an important role in early United States (literary) history
- ✦ Early captivity narratives were also stories of travel and travail (Joe Snader, *Caught between Worlds*)
- ✦ Tourism can replicate or invert power struggles and economic inequalities of captivity narratives: plus que ça change...

Tourism & ugly Americans



Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place* (1988: Antigua)

- ✧ The thing you always suspected about yourself the minute you become a tourist is true: a tourist is an ugly human being... pausing here and there to gaze at this and taste that, and it will never occur to you that the people who inhabit the place in which you have just paused cannot stand you, that behind their closed doors they laugh at your strangeness.

Travelers v. tourists



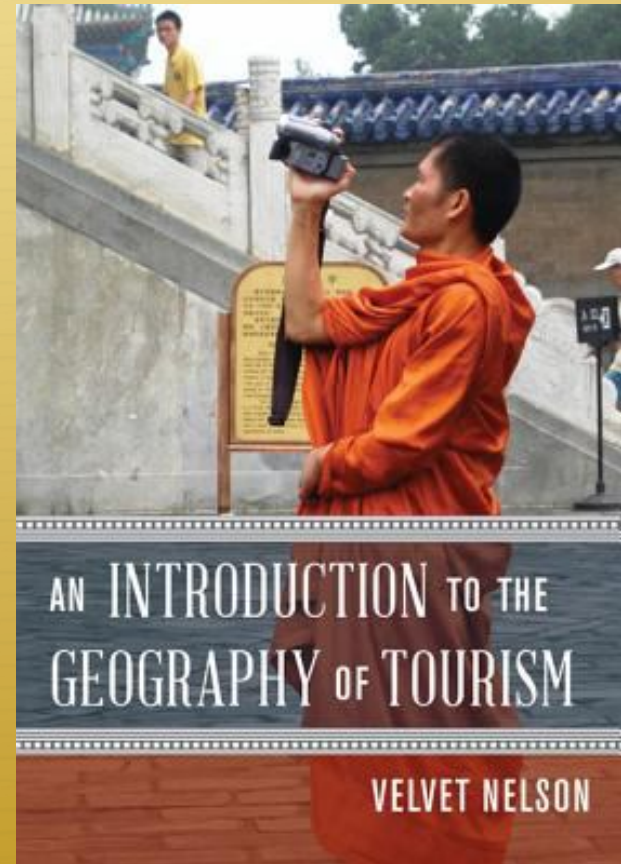
- ✧ G.K. Chesterton: “The traveler sees what he sees, the tourist sees what he has come to see.”
- ✧ Daniel Boorstin: “The traveler was active: he went strenuously in search of people, of adventure, of experience. The tourist is passive; he expects interesting things to happen to him. He goes “sight-seeing.”
- ✧ Paul Fussell: “the explorer seeks the undiscovered, the traveller that which has been discovered by the mind working in history, the tourist that which has been discovered by entrepreneurship and prepared for him by the arts of mass publicity.”

21 Signs you're a traveler, not a tourist (Huffington Post)



“You wouldn’t be caught dead doing this, like ever!”

Categorical error?



Anthropologists as tourists?



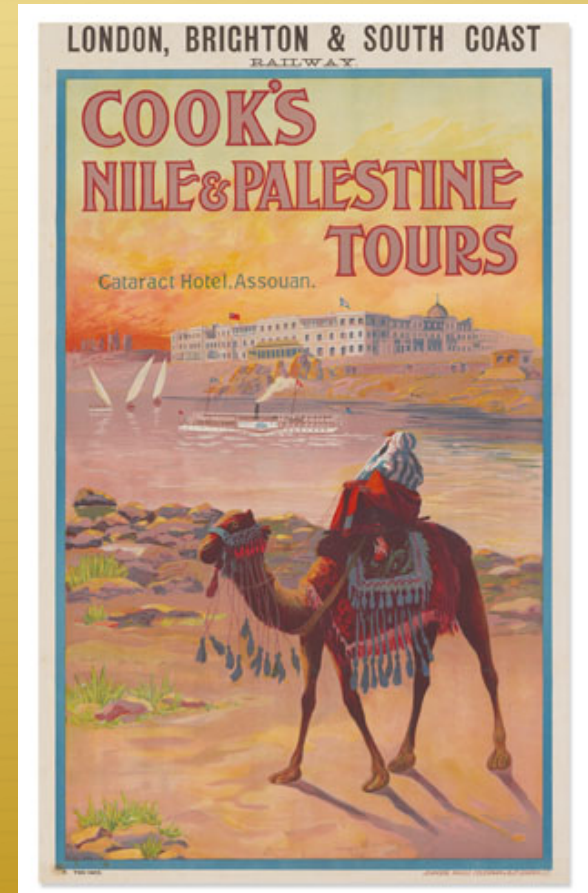
- ✧ Both are seeking to create symbolic capital from travel and both work by translating foreign experience into domestic categories.
- ✧ The ideological structure whereby academic travel is seen as good and tourist travel as inauthentic still remains within a game of taste and distinction internal to the field of tourism.

Simon Coleman, “Grounded tourists, traveling theory”

drawing on Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction*

A brief history of tourism

- ✦ British grand tour, c1550-c1850
 - ✦ Richard Lassels,
The Voyage of Italy (1670)
 - ✦ 4 areas of development:
intellectual, social, ethical, political
 - ✦ Liberal education (*liber*: free man);
rite of passage providing
 - ✦ broad knowledge, transferable skills,
civic engagement (Assoc. Amer. Univ.)
- ✦ Thomas Cook, package tour, c1870s on
 - ✦ Democratizing, mass-public access



A liberal education...



Hannah Cowley, *The Belle's Stratagem* (1780)

Doricourt, “lately arrived from Rome”

describes Frenchwomen, Italian seductresses

“Englishmen make the best soldiers, citizens, artisans, and philosophers in the world, but the very worst footmen.”

...in jingoism and national clichés

Nation states use tourism



- ✧ To create a sense of citizenship and social solidarity in a modern world
- ✧ To create national shrines, sites of pilgrimage
- ✧ To shape international policy and international relations
- ✧ As a major means of income generation

--Adrian Franklin, *Tourism: An Introduction*

Notes on travel and theory



- ✧ The Greek term *theorein* : a practice of travel and observation, a man sent by the polis to another city to witness a religious ceremony. "Theory" is a product of displacement, comparison, a certain distance. To theorize, one leaves home.

--James Clifford

The “contact zone”



- ✦ “a social space where disparate cultures meet, clash, and grapple with each other, often in highly asymmetrical relations of domination and subordination”

--Mary Louise Pratt

The contact zone: a modern version

“The Challenge to Identity”

- ✧ The subject-matter of the best travel books is the conflict between writer and place. It is not important which of them carries the day, so long as the struggle is faithfully recorded. [...] Any conscious distortion is equivalent to cheating at solitaire; the purpose of the game is nullified.

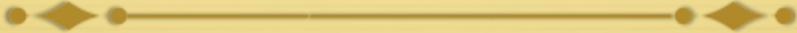
--Paul Bowles

Unconscious distortion?



- ✧ Not disparate cultures, but writer vs. place
(people tend to be seen as elements of landscape)
- ✧ No obvious asymmetry of domination and subordination: either writer or place can win
(color-blind, empire-blind)

Bowles, “Challenge”



- ✧ A reader can get an idea of what a place is really like only if he knows what its effects were upon someone of whose character he has some idea, of whose preferences he is aware. Thus it seems essential that the writer place a certain insistence upon the objective presentation of his own personality; it provides an interpretative gauge with which the reader can measure for himself the relative importance of each detail, like the scale of miles in the corner of a map.

The Power of Maps



- ✧ Maps work by serving interests
- ✧ Maps are embedded in a history they help construct
- ✧ Every map shows this... but not that
- ✧ The interest the map serves is masked
- ✧ The interest is embodied in the map in signs and myths
- ✧ Each sign has a history

--Denis Wood

Activity: Map your year

- ✧ Draw a map of Morocco or your home city and add signs (make them up!) that serve your particular interests



A different approach to travel/tourism

William Cronon, 10 qualities of liberally educated people

- ✧ They listen and they hear. [This requires learning at least a little of the local language.]
- ✧ They read and they understand. [“Reading” can mean literacy in a wide range of fields, such as (in Morocco) rugs, art, architecture, music.]
- ✧ They can talk with anyone. [Again, language is required here, but so too is a willingness to talk to people outside the normal purview of tourists and guides.]

10 qualities of liberally educated people, cont.

- ✧ They write clearly and persuasively and movingly.
- ✧ They can solve a wide variety of puzzles and problems.
- ✧ They respect rigor not so much for its own sake but as a way of seeking truth.
- ✧ They practice humility, tolerance, and self-criticism.
- ✧ They understand how to get things done in the world.
- ✧ They nurture and empower the people around them. the people around them.
- ✧ They follow E.M. Forster's injunction from *Howard's End*: "Only connect..."