

Tours of Non-arrival: The Politics of Escape in Tourist Practices

by

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B.A., University of Victoria, 2007

MASTER OF ARTS

in the Department of Political Science

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Dr. Arthur Kroker, Department of Political Science
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Dr. Rob Walker, Department of Political Science
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Abstract

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The prevalent frame of 'tourism as vacation' explicitly implies that one vacates 'the familiar' and escapes to 'the foreign'. Discourses of escape, therefore, function on the assumption that a rather clean and uncomplicated rupture between the familiar and foreign takes place (an assumption not only informing conventional readings and practices of tourism, but also the modern logic of states and citizenship and modern thought more broadly). A failure to account for the effects of this escapist logic on both the performance and materialization of tourism, as well as the ways in which tourism has come to reflect profound political problematics endemic to modern thought, has produced a serious gap in 'critical tourism' literature. To contest this notion of rupture, or, to *disrupt* escape, requires what Judith Butler terms a 'radical re-articulation' of tourism. In hopes to excite such a disruption, my work draws on Jacques Derrida's texts concerning 'non-arrival' and ultimately re-articulates tourism as a practice of everyday life.

Table of Contents

Title Page.....	i
Supervisory Committee.....	ii
Abstract.....	iii
Table of Contents.....	iv
Acknowledgements.....	v
Dedications.....	vi
 Introduction:	
Down the Rabbit Hole.....	1
Itinerary.....	6
Destination/Destiny of Critique.....	10
Non-sense and Non-arrival.....	11
 Chapter I: A Return to Escape	
Haunting the Boundaries.....	13
Citing Escape.....	17
In the Beginning, There was the Word Citation.....	19
<i>Disrupting</i> Logics of Rupture and Escape.....	27
 Chapter II: Unpresentable Tours	
Site, Sight, Cite.....	32
Out of Place.....	34
Monstrosities.....	41
Knowing by Heart.....	46
 Chapter III: Complicating the Tourist Gaze	
Tourist Gaze.....	50
The Gaze of Absolute Difference.....	51
The Invader's Gaze.....	55
Complicating Consumption.....	61
The Body is Always a Tourist Body; the Tourist Body is Always on Tour.....	64
The Blind Gaze.....	69
Troubling Expectations.....	73
 Inconclusion: Caught in Escape	
Viewing the Unpresentable.....	75
Immanent/Imminent Escape: the Empirico-Transcendental Doublet.....	76
The Tour and Critique.....	79
Circumnavigation.....	83
 Bibliography.....	 84

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Dedication

To mom,

For sharing with me your profound appreciation for life and your unspeakably powerful love.