

REAL CITIES

Modernity, Space and the Phantasmagorias of City Life

STEVE PILE

r

Publications London • Thousand Oaks • New Delhi

Contents

Acknowledgements		Х
in v	roduction which we explore how to explore the hantasmagorias of city life	1
•	ntroduction: what is real about cities?	1
• [Psychogeographies of London: Sinclair and Keiiler	
1	travel in space and time	4
• F	Psychogeography and the Real City	12
• 7	The City and States of Mind	15
•	Phantasmagoria and the Realness of City Life	19
1	The Dreaming City	25
	in which cities turn into dreams and dreams turn into cities	
1.1	Introduction	25
1.2	A Phantasmagoria of Dreams?	28
1.3	Cities of the Imagination	35
1.4	Dream Analysis and Dream-Work	41
1.5	Dream-Work and the Work of City Space	47
1.6	City Space and the Web of Dreams: Paris and London	50
1.7	Cities are Lived as Dreams: Walter Benjamin on	
	modernity and awakening	53
1.8	Conclusion: phantasmagorias, dream-work	
	and the fulfilment of wishes	56

2	The Magic City	59
	in which we are careful about what we wish for	
2.1	Introduction: the magic of city life	59
2.2	Civilisation and its Discontents: the science of the	
	city versus the powers of magic	61
2.3	New York's Magic: super-natures, spirits and Vodou	66
2.4	Syncretic Cities: New Orleans and the Voodoo Atlantic	73
2.5	Stick it to Them: cities, corporations and Voodoo economics	84
2.6	Singapore and the Fine Art of Placement:	
	building fortunes in the city	87
2.7	London and the Global Trade in Magic: the high cost of healing	91
2.8	Conclusion: cities, careful wishes and the occult	94
3	The Vampiric City	97
	in which blood flows free	
3.1	Introduction: the life-blood of the city	97
3.2	A Plague upon the West: vampire and Empire	102
3.3	London, Dracula and the edges of Empire:	
	circulation, blood, technology	106
3.4	Mortal Cities: Dracula, blood and money	109
3.5	Singapore, Red Lips and Sharp White Teeth: sex and death	112
3.6	To be a Vampire, forever: New Orleans, blood and belonging	117
3.7	New Orleans and Vampire Tours: selling horror	
	and faith in the vampire	123
3.8	Conclusion: blood, life and the undead circulations of city life	128
4	The Ghostly City	131
	in which the city is haunted and haunting	
4.1	Introduction: the haunting quality of city life	131
4.2	Remembrance of Times Past: memories, phantasms	
	and Benjamin's Berlin	137
4.3	Seeing Dead People: childhood, the uncanny and living with loss	140
4.4	Building Sites: sighting ghosts in New Orleans, London, Singapore	143
4.5	New York Dead and Buried: the city and grief-work	148
4.6	Spooks in London: melancholia and anti-colonial struggle	151
4.7	Nightmares of the Living: ghosts versus anti-capitalist	
	protesters in London	156
4.8	Conclusion: bury the dead, not the truth	162

Conclusion

the real dream of city life

Introduction	165
The Work of Modern City Life	166
Occult Specialities and City Life: New York, New Orleans, London	
and Singapore	172
Dreaming New Futures for the City	176
The Real of Cities and the Life of Phantasmagoria	180
Notes	
References	
Index	