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Encountering the Other

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Propositions accompanying the PhD dissertation

Encountering the Other by Reza Shaker

1. Othering is a process through which difference is translated into inferiority drawing a line between ‘us’ and ‘them’ based on a particular self and body. (Chapter one)
2. (Auto)ethnography provides an approach for the understanding of the Otherness of Muslim(-looking) people through their own eyes within their own everyday life. (Chapter two)
3. The Muslim Other is (re)produced through a set of multisensorial encounters based on smell, touch, hearing, and look. (Chapter three)
4. Experiences of Othering differ between places and situations and challenge Muslims’ sense of national belonging, cultural citizenship, sense of belonging in public space, and access to and movement through the city. (Chapter four)
5. Othering affectively charges the atmospheres of everyday urban life to the point that even the objects that Muslims carry with them may cause anxiety to wider white society. (Chapter five)
6. Intense encounters within the confined and mobile spaces of public transport carry a range of Othering processes, racial and class tensions and confrontations, (tacit/explicit) negotiations of difference, symbolic power struggle, and protests over space. (Chapter five)
7. Individual young Muslims respond to Othering through a set of (micro-)practices of managing the impression, movement, and communication of the body to deal with multiple Othering encounters. (Chapter six)
8. De-Othering of Muslims demands a radical rethinking of the place of Muslims in society, challenging the assumptions about the religious Other, the dangerous Other, and the ethnonational Other accompanied by changing the nature of media coverage. (Chapter seven)
9. Hopelessness is perhaps one of the most severe forms of Othering. Possibilities of hope within the everyday spaces of encounter propose alternative futures and activate potentials of change and justice. (Chapter seven)
10. “They laugh at me because I’m different. I laugh at them because they’re all the same.” (The Joker)