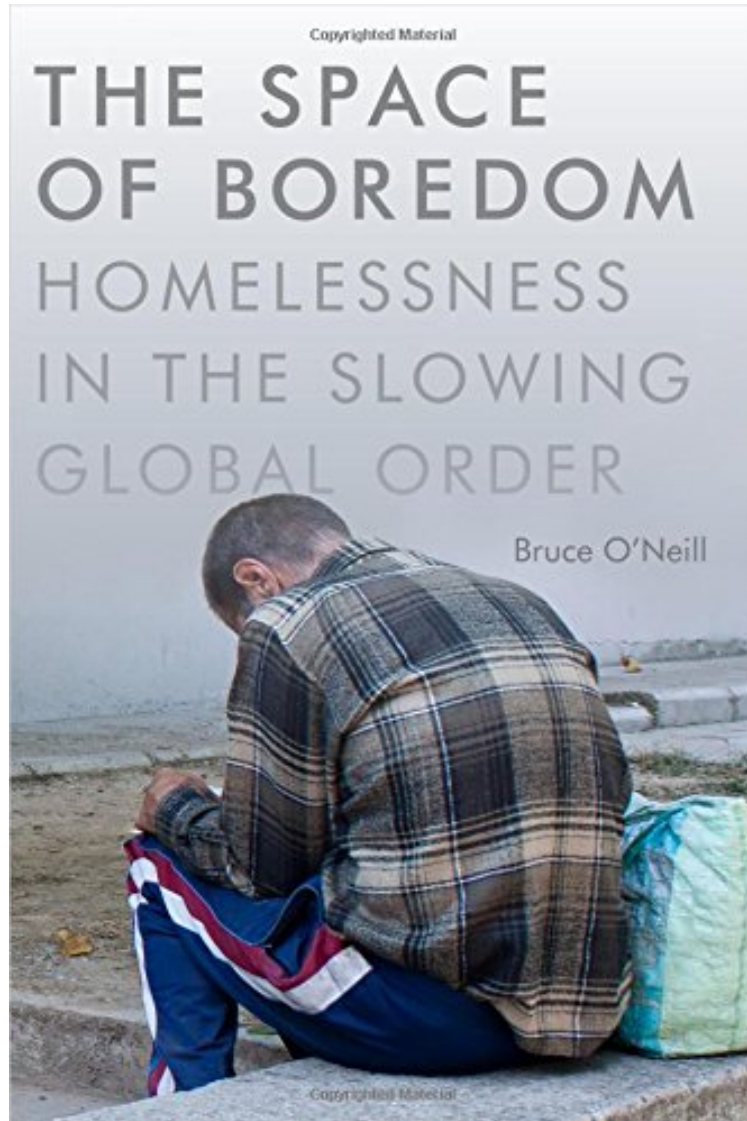


The Space of Boredom: Homelessness in the Slowing Global Order

Bruce O'Neill

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Bruce O'Neill : The Space of Boredom: Homelessness in the Slowing Global Order before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Space of Boredom: Homelessness in the Slowing Global Order:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting study and recommended readingBy Edward O'NeillVery 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.

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.

"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."