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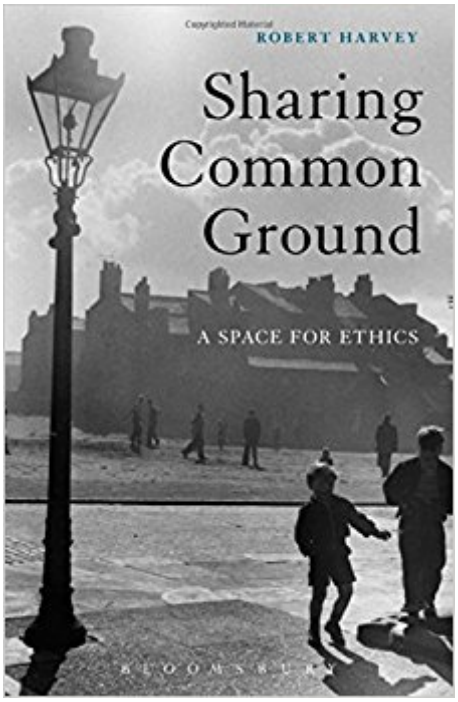
Sharing Common Ground: A Space For Ethics



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Synopsis

Sharing Common Ground makes a compelling contribution to an important emerging field that affects a broad swath of humanities. It uses historical, photographic, and literary examples, including an entirely new translation of a little known work by Marguerite Duras, presented here in full, to showcase the ethical capacity of art. Robert Harvey deploys critical tools borrowed from literature, aesthetics, and philosophy to mobilize the thought of several seminal figures in literature and theory including Michel Foucault, Marguerite Duras, Georges Didi-Huberman, and Giorgio Agamben, among a host of others.Construction sites, concentration camps, cemeteries, slums-such are only a few of the spaces that impel our imagination naturally toward what we commonly call Ã¢â ¬Å“cultural memory.Ã¢â ¬Â• Sharing Common Ground reveals how the endeavor to think and imagine in common, and especially about the spaces we inhabit together, is critically important to human beings, artistically, culturally, and ethically.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With extraordinary philological precision and philosophical acumen, Robert Harvey triangulates Marguerite Duras, Michel Foucault and Rene Char, the three major surveyors of modern and contemporary zones of exclusion. The intermediary space of the urban Zone, so often sung by poets and novelists after Apollinaire and Celine, becomes a watershed dividing all subsequent economical, political and ethical shares. Sharing Common Ground makes us see the abyssal and foundational hiatus of ethics. Harvey reshapes today’s ethics as a "herethics," both a salutary

clearing and a paradoxical cleaving. Jean-Michel Rabate, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania, USA, and author of The Pathos of Distance In his deep engagement with 20th-century history, philosophy and ethics, Harvey takes literature utterly seriously. Imaginative and painstaking, Sharing Common Ground calls on critical thinking to catch up with literature's weird insights, with the counterintuitive possibilities-the 'spaces otherwise'-that literature offers to thought. A most original, absorbing book. Thangam Ravindranathan, Associate Professor of French Studies, Brown University, USA

Robert Harvey is Distinguished Professor in the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature at Stony Brook University, USA. He is the author of Witnessness: Beckett, Dante, Levi and the Foundations of Responsibility (2010).

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