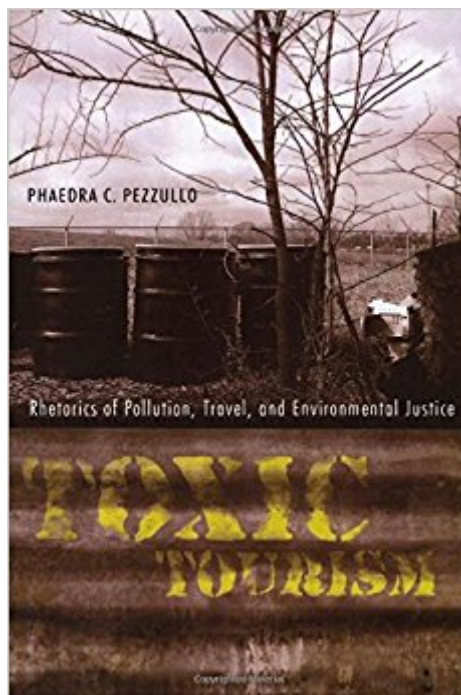


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Toxic Tourism: Rhetorics Of Pollution, Travel, And Environmental Justice (Albma Rhetoric Cult & Soc Crit)



Synopsis

Tourism is at once both a beloved pastime and a denigrated form of popular culture. Romanticized for its promise of pleasure, tourism is also potentially toxic, enabling the deadly exploitation of the cultures and environments visited. For many decades, the environmental justice movement has offered a "toxic tours," non-commercial trips intended to highlight people and locales polluted by poisonous chemicals. Out of these efforts and their popular reception, a new understanding of democratic participation in environmental decision-making has begun to arise. Phaedra C. Pezzullo examines these tours as a tactic of resistance and for their potential in reducing the cultural and physical distance between hosts and visitors. Pezzullo begins by establishing the ambiguous roles tourism and the toxic have played in the U.S. cultural imagination since the mid-20th century in a range of spheres, including Hollywood films, women's magazines, comic books, and scholarly writings. Next, drawing on participant observation, interviews, documentaries, and secondary accounts in popular media, she identifies and examines a range of tourist performances enabled by toxic tours. Extended illustrations of the racial, class, and gender politics involved include Louisiana's "Cancer Alley," California's San Francisco Bay Area, and the Mexican border town of Matamoros. Weaving together social critiques of tourism and community responses to toxic chemicals, this critical, rhetorical, and cultural analysis brings into focus the tragedy of ongoing patterns of toxification and our assumptions about travel, democracy, and pollution.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book provides excellent insight into the nature of the tourism industry as it relates to ecological awareness. Specifically, this book explores toxic tourism, or the traveling to areas that have been heavily polluted, as a form of advocacy tourism that also engages perspective, learning, and understanding about environmental pollution and its effect on various communities and the environment. In addition, this book is grounded theoretically in understanding tourism through the visual, but also other senses: the feeling of presence through smell, touch, bodily movement, and emotion. Pezzullo explains that the toxic tour often provides the embodiment of counterexperience to our everyday lives, which shapes our process of becoming. However, as Pezzullo observes in the conclusion, we also must remember that tourism, and especially toxic tourism, provides a learning experience, but does not necessarily clean up communities, nor does one actually know the experience of everyday life in toxic areas. In short, this book is insightful for not only those interested in environmental protection, but also those who are interested in tourism studies, advocacy tourism, environmental communication, and an understanding of how our experiences shape what we learn and know about the world.

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