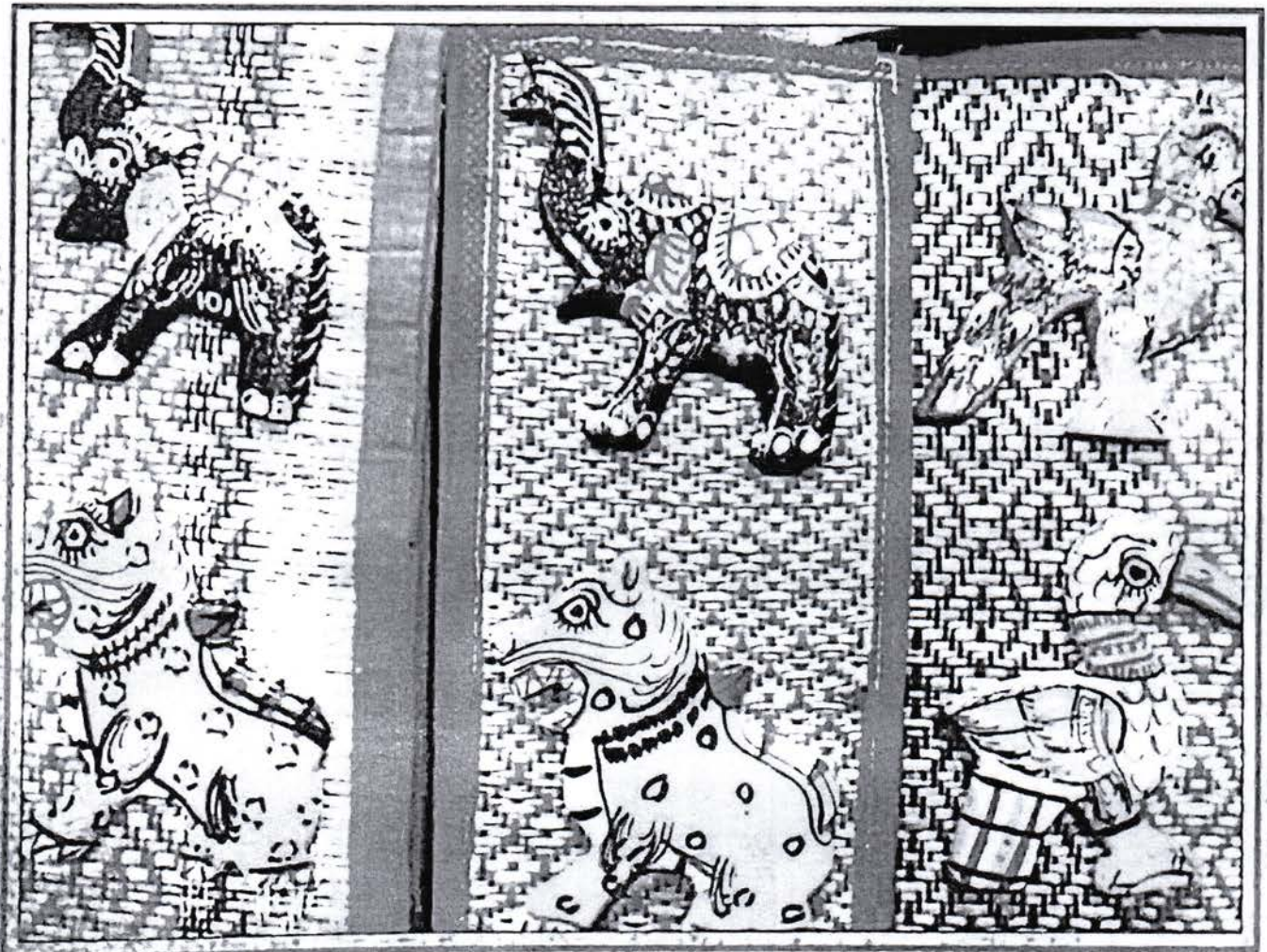



# *Epistemology of* **Visual Geography**



**Bratati Dey**

  
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*South Asian Series IV*

# EPISTEMOLOGY OF VISUAL GEOGRAPHY

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*Dedicated to my parents*

**Their care to be with knowledge**

  
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## PREFACE

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This book is an outcome of thoughts regarding Visual culture in the discipline of Geography. Here Geography has denoted tangible and intangible space in society. This book is the fourth volume of South Asian series for academic study. This book has focused on epistemology of Visual Geography in South Asia. The subject of visual culture and representation of issues its space in society encompasses a variety of layers and reflections. Geographers have proposed how space is a complex web of relations of domination and subordination, a "power-geometry" of difference. While postcolonial theories explore notions of nomad identity, exile, hybridity and marginality, maps of postmodern social space elaborate the politics of representation in terms of the "geopolitics of location" (McDowell). The web of power that constructs everyday life is specialized, and culture are both actively and passively influenced by space in their constructions of identity. Segregated space has been described variously in binary terms of material/social, geographic/cultural, metaphorical/actual, real/symbolic, and real/non real. As Gillian Rose elaborates, the difference between real and non-real



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(x)

spaces is constructed through terms of cultural difference. Thus the coincidence between material, symbolic and discursive constructions of space influence and determine the gendered construction of space versus non-space in social, spatial and metaphoric terms.

This book problematizes concepts of visual cultural epistemology in geographical space. Epistemology is a part of philosophy that seeks to find where the nature and origin of knowledge is being started. Theoretical approaches (as well as the media) in the Western world have focused on the linear cultural space in the society, where regional problem are categorized in same manner.

Scholarship on visual cultural theory and praxis has grown exponentially over the past two decades as the complex and interlocking condition that produce oppression, opportunity and privilege generate new questions, issues and interpretations of social lives. It is now understood that visual culture theorizing grounded in contextual, historical, geo-economic and political forces shaping space differentiated lives is necessary to advance interdisciplinary cultural knowledge and praxis. In this book this (South Asia) dialogue is the interplay between theory praxis and research practice from the perspectives of global South.

Scrutiny of unequal power relations between the 'West' and the 'South' in politics, culture, economy and various aspects of life is the concern of post colonial studies. Foucault's concept of power is

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central in post colonial theory with which Edward Said is celebrated for his dismantling of Oriental views. The main objective of this book is to give brief overviews of different knowledge from South attached to the visual cultural thought. The purpose is to achieve a balanced, reciprocal exchange of perspectives while providing legitimacy for alternative interpretations to the hegemony shown in 'Western' discourse. This book shed light on how space, hybrid experiences of faiths and other social practices operate and get their respective meanings in cultural knowledge across South Asia.

This book has divided into following chapters. **First chapter** the shadow lines draw attention on visual culture and its fields in Geography. **Second chapter** has focused on changing thought and debate within the field of visual culture and geography. **Third chapter** focused on the visual culture and geography in South Asia. **Last chapter** tries to reconstruct methodology and epistemology of visual geography.

Bratati Dey

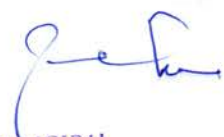


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## The Shadow Lines

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This book provides a window into the world of the visual culture of space. **Geography** is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. Geographers explore both the physical properties of Earth's surface and the human societies spread across it. Geography seeks to understand where things are found, why they are there, and how they develop and change over time. Visual culture is a term that refers to the tangible, or visible, expressions by a people, a state or a civilization, and collectively describes the characteristics of that body as a whole. "Visual culture" describes the collective evidence that overlaps on it. Visual geography refers to a set of tools and techniques supporting the analysis of this expression through the use of interactive visualization. Traditional, static maps have a limited exploratory capability; the graphical representations are inextricably linked to the geographical information beneath. GIS and geo-visualization allow for more interactive maps; including the ability to explore different layers of the map, to zoom in or out, and to change the visual



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