

Book Notice

Hutten, Tuomas, Kaisa Ilmonen, Janne Korkka and Elina Valovirta (eds.). 2008. *Seeking the Self—Encountering the Other*: Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

The present volume is the result of four research projects funded by the Academy of Finland. As stated in the Acknowledgements the aim of the book is to promote ethical inquiry and postcolonial thought focusing on the concept of “diaspora”, referring to “the migrations and movements, both forced and voluntary, that result from shifting global power structures” (xi) in connection with the themes of encounter, identity, alterity, gender, and sexuality.

The issues interrogated are how scattered nations and identities are represented in the diaspora. Another significant issue is how notions of ethics approach the myriad forms of identities represented “outside the logic of nation-building” (xii).

It is with great ambition that the 21 contributors from different parts of the world and from different academic disciplines and institutions inquire into the points above. The book is divided into 4 parts, each part consisting of 4 to 6 chapters. The first part deals with the ethics of encounter, the second with strategies for representing the self and the nation, the third part with bodies as borders, and the fourth part re-writes the home in the diaspora. The book contains a variety of critical articles about novels from many parts of the world, from North America, the Caribbean, India, and Europe. All of them focus on the consequences of migration. The arguments of the contributors frequently rest on Emmanuel Levinas’ and Jacques Derrida’s ideas. Another authority frequently referred to is Homi Bhabha.

Admirable for its ambitious aim and scope, *Seeking the Self—Encountering the Other* will appeal to those readers interested in literary testimonies from the diaspora mostly in a contemporary context.

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