Transcultural History
Theories, Methods, Sources

For the 21st century, the often-quoted citation ‘past is prologue’ reads the other way around: The global present lacks a historical narrative for the global past. Focussing on a transcultural history, this book questions the territoriality of historical concepts and offers a narrative, which aims to overcome cultural essentialism by focussing on crossing borders of all kinds. Transcultural History reflects critically on the way history is constructed, asking who formed history in the past and who succeeded in shaping what we call the master narrative. Although trained European historians, the authors aim to present a useful approach to global history, showing first of all how a Eurocentric but universal historiography removed or essentialised certain topics in Asian history. As an empirical discipline, history is based on source material, analysed according to rules resulting from a strong methodological background.

Features
► Questions the territoriality of historical concepts
► Presents a useful approach to global history by focussing on crossing borders of all kinds
► Reflects critically on the way history is constructed

Contents
What is Transcultural History? Methodological Key Elements of Transcultural History.- Combining Culture and Border Crossing.

Fields of interest
History; Regional and Cultural Studies; Energy, general

Target groups
Research

Discount group
P

Complexity Theories of Cities Have Come of Age
An Overview with Implications to Urban Planning and Design

Today, our urban centres are an embodiment of the complex, historical co-evolution of knowledge, desires and technology. Our activities co-evolve with our aspirations, mediated by the existing technologies and social structures. The city represents the accretion and accumulation of successive layers of collective activity, structuring and being structured by other, increasingly distant cities, reaching now right around the globe. This historical and structural evolution cannot therefore be understood or captured by any set of fixed mathematical relations such as simultaneous, or even dynamic, equations. Structural changes imply that the patterns of growth, and their underlying reasons change over time, and therefore that any model attempting to represent changing urban morphology and patterns of flow, must be dynamic, based on the mechanisms that drive the changes occurring at a given moment. This carefully edited post-proceedings volume gathers a snapshot view, by leading researchers in the field, of current complexity theories of cities. In it, the achievements, criticisms and potentials yet to be realized are reviewed and the implications to planning and urban design are assessed.

Contents

Fields of interest
Urbanism; Human Geography; Complexity

Target groups
Research

Discount group
P

The Rise of Post-Hegemonic Regionalism
The Case of Latin America

Contents

Fields of interest
Regional and Cultural Studies; Political Science, general

Target groups
Research

Discount group
P

Available
2012. X, 175 p. 6 illus., 4 in color. (Transcultural Research – Heidelberg Studies on Asia and Europe in a Global Context) Softcover
► $129.00
ISBN 978-3-642-19195-4

Available
2012. Approx. 350 p. Hardcover
► approx. $259.00
ISBN 978-3-642-24543-6

Available
2012. 200 p. (United Nations University Series on Regionalism, Volume 4) Hardcover
► approx. $139.00