

Interactive comment on “Intercultural interaction and “situational places””: a perspective for urban cultural geography within and beyond the performative turn” by P. Dirksmeier and I. Helbrecht

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The paper has some interesting observations but misses the work on performance in West Africa by Paul Richards, emeritus professor of anthropology at Wageningen and UCL. Richards likens certain farming operations to musical performances.

Richards, P. 1987. Agriculture as a performance. Paper presented at "Farmers and Agricultural Research: Complementary Methods", IDS, University of Sussex, 26-31 July 1987. Shorter version published in Chambers R., A. Pacey & L.A.Thrupp (eds).

1989. Farmer First: farmer innovation and agricultural research. pp39–43. London. Intermediate Technology Publications.

Richards, P. 1989. Doing what comes naturally: ecological inventiveness in African rice farming. In Johannes, R.E.(ed) Traditional Ecological Knowledge: a Collection of Essays. Gland. IUCN.

Richards, P. 1993. Cultivation: knowledge or performance? Pp 61–78 In Hobart, M.(ed). An Anthropological Critique of Development: the Growth of Ignorance. London. Routledge.

The critique is mine

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but the approach was well reasoned and helps us understand farming practices. I t was lined in Richards later work to extensive analysis of Sierra Leone's conflicts.

I remain underwhelmed, as do many people in human geography, with Thrift's 'affect' language. Does work in this area really serve any purpose at all? Does it help us deal with environmental threats and issues, social injustices, etc?

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Discussion Paper

