

To conclude, Büscher's book on the digitalization of conservation efforts offers fascinating insights into the challenges and pitfalls of engaging with the contemporary crisis of environmentalism in Southern Africa and beyond. He dissects the mechanisms of how this form of activism, on the one hand, is producing narratives to counter post-truth politics but, on the other hand, also is strengthening new forms of platform capitalism. The repeated emphasis of the latter is owed to Büscher's own normative positionality ("structural change is necessary", p. 169). Nevertheless, he certainly has developed a critical argument about the embeddedness of conservation politics in Southern Africa in a very particular history and context. The way in which he relates these dynamics to a discussion of Foucauldian truth, power, and change policies certainly makes it worth reading this book.

Notes:

- 1 N. Srnicek, *Platform Capitalism*, London 2016.
- 2 Sh. Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power*, London 2019.
- 3 In der anglophonen Rezeption meist mit Bezug auf Hannah Arendt (H. Arendt, *Essays in Understanding 1930–1954*, New York 1994).

Richard Němec (ed.): Raumkonstruktionen: Digital Humanities und die "Messbarkeit" des NS-Regimes, Berlin: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2021, 175 pp.

Reviewed by
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Eastern Europe always held a special place in Nazi ideology. It was an arena for implementation of different crucial Nazi policies such as *Lebensraum*, *Generalplan Ost*, *Blood and Soil*, and so on. An essential role in all these plans and policies was dedicated to the spatial practices that were used to measure, to describe, and in the end to colonize the new occupied territories. The book *Spatial Constructions: The Digital Humanities and the "Measurability" of the Nazi Regime* demonstrates how modern interdisciplinary methods of digital humanities can offer new perspectives and bring new insights into the question of, basically, how the Nazis dealt with space in Eastern Europe.

The book consists of seven chapters, each dealing with different aspect of the spatial constructions of the Nazi regime. For instance, in the introduction, "The Digital Humanities and the 'Measurability' of the Nazi Regime", the author, Richard Němec, describes the challenges of tracing Nazi history through architecture. He argues that standardized planning data for different regions can be traced within the extensive territory of the National Socialist sphere of rule – from occupied

territories in the East to those in Luxembourg. One of the studies he proposes is the usage of machine learning techniques to extract particular patterns in the Nazi architecture to answer the question about the meaning of certain terms in art at a certain time. In the chapter “The Digital Historiography of the NS regime”, the authors, Frederike Buda, Julia Timpe, and Christiane Charlotte Weber, explain how the historians can work with digital and digitized data sources in research on National Socialism; what the new perspectives are in relation to analogue data; what new methods emerge from using-digital and digitized sources; and, finally, how these sources in libraries, memorials, and museums can be used. In the chapter “All Quiet on the Western Front”, Stefan Heinz demonstrates through the example of the project Luxatlas the possibilities and risks of including Nazi city maps and plans – some of which were never implemented – into a digital city atlas. Miloš Hořejš has a similar purpose but different realization, in this case through specialized maps, in his research “Relics of Nazi Architecture in the Czech Republic”. He uncovers through geographical information system (GIS) and three-dimensional (3D) modelling the spatial concepts and ideas implemented by the Nazis on the Czech lands. Katharina Steudtner covers the topic of data-based modelling in National Socialist research in her chapter “Survey? Sondage? Excavation?” She describes which methods are used to collect historical data sources in form of photographs; how they and their metadata can be stored in a database; and, in the end, how they can be evaluated interdisciplinarily, that is to say from different perspectives.

On the one hand, the book demonstrates the use of various types of sources in relation to the shift from traditional humanities to modern digital humanities, beginning with historical acts, documents, plans, and maps and ending with modern statistics such as the Google Ngram Viewer. On the other hand, it intersects different disciplines such as history, architecture, geography, and informatics. Of course, there have been other interdisciplinary works exploring geospatial digital methods in the humanities and also research about the Third Reich.[1] However, this volume provides a completely new look at the question of how the Nazis dealt with space, exploring not only the urban and spatial plans that were realized but also those that were not. Furthermore, the volume provides the opportunity to compare the plans by the Nazis for various occupied territories multitemporally – that is to say, for different areas at different times. In addition, the volume provides multiple application examples of the digital methods discussed, such as artificial intelligence (AI), 3D modelling, GIS, and so on; however, descriptions are only abstract and do not go into detail how to specifically implement such models. There is no provision of specific workflows with detailed explanations to follow or descriptions of the usage of software or programming language, resulting in additional challenges for those who would implement the suggested methods in practice, for example with deep learning in “Introduction: The Digital Humanities and the ‘Measurability’ of the Nazi Regime” and GIS in “Relics of Nazi Architecture in the Czech Republic”.

It should be mentioned that it is typical for interdisciplinary works to provide an overview and explain the design possibilities, while staying on the surface of implementation. Despite that, proceeding not only interdisciplinarily and digitally but also spatiotemporally, the work offers new perspectives and results as well as opens a new chapter in the spatial research on the Nazi regime. The second criticism is the slight bias towards Central European sources while neglecting spatial historians who have worked on the history of the Nazi regime – such as Anne Kelly Knowles, Tim Cole, Paul Jaskot, Alberto Giordano, Todd Presner, and so on[2] – who are mentioned only peripherally, if at all, even though they have (probably) provided some of the most important contributions and foundations for digital collaborative geospatial research on the Nazi regime.

This work would be interesting for both beginner and advanced researchers and students, as well as everyone who is interested in an interdisciplinary historical study that goes far beyond traditional historiography. Despite the lacking step-by-step descriptions of method implementation and references to the world-famous historical geographers dealing with the Nazi regime, I would definitely recommend the work as it reveals new paths in historiographical research that help to create new knowledge by using the same sources but a different set of methods. Although the idea itself to use such technologies in historical research is not new, I definitely consider the questions and answers the work provides as remarkable because it is often difficult in the digital humanities research not to find a tool but to find a right question and, consequently, to answer it.

Notes:

- 1 K. A. Knowles/T. Cole/A. Giordano (eds.), *Geographies of the Holocaust*, Bloomington 2014; P. Giaccaria/C. Minca (eds.), *Hitler's Geographies: The Spatialities of the Third Reich*, Chicago 2016; R. Bavaj/K. Lawson/B. Struck (eds.), *Doing Spatial History*, Abingdon 2021.
- 2 T. Cole, *Holocaust Landscapes*, London 2016; C. Fogu/W. Kansteiner/T. Presner (eds.), *Probing the Ethics of Holocaust Culture: The Roots of Militarism, 1866–1945*, Stanford 2016; A. Garbarini/P. B. Jaskot (eds.), *Lessons and Legacies XIII: New Approaches to an Integrated History of the Holocaust: Social History, Representation, Theory*, Evanston 2018.

**Jörg Goldberg: Ein neuer
Kapitalismus. Grundlagen
historischer Kapitalismusanalyse,
Köln: Papyrossa, 2021, 199 pp.**

Reviewed by
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This is an excellent overview surrounding the history of capitalism since the mid-nineteenth century. It centres upon great crises that have led to structural changes and new phases of capitalist accumulation. As the title indicates, the book is written in order to better evaluate the capacity for surmounting the contemporary crisis of capitalism. The author concludes that an overcoming of capitalism itself is improbable given the flexibility of capitalism in facing new challenges.

The book is organized around the classical argument on the contradictions between relations of production and forces of production. Capitalism is always embedded