

Urban atmospheres of terror: towards an urban geopolitics of experience

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How do cities respond emotively to terror threats and attacks? How do sensory and emotive reactions of residents in cities reeling from terrorist violence impact on everyday urban space? What is the role of cities in coping with and absorbing shocks that have international and geopolitical ramifications stretching well beyond the boundaries of the city? How do we study the urban geographies of the terrorized city, and the new spaces of grief, healing, and dealing with pain emerging from terrorist violence?

This project explores the formation of affective atmospheres in the aftermath of terrorism and its security responses in European cities. Looking beyond the physical and infrastructural security implications, it accounts for the intangible elements of threat, violence and the reaction to it. In so doing, it purports affective atmospheres as an important and underexplored level of the everyday urban experience of terrorism. It asks what affective atmospheres propagate in urban public space in the aftermath of terrorism? How do these affective atmospheres interact with, negotiate or resist antiterrorism urban security agendas? Linking literature in studies of urban conflict with literature on geographies of affect, the project expands geographical research of the politics of affect beyond the government of single emergency events, and into a wider urban geopolitics that studies the quotidian and longer term experiences of the aftermath of terrorism, and how this everyday experiential realm is implicated in the shaping of urban security agendas.

The current research stems originally from the following project:

Violent emergencies and the urban geopolitics of affect. Exploring the emotional mechanisms of urban lockdown in Paris and Brussels. University of Birmingham Gees pump-priming fund.

And is currently being developed within the context of the following project (Investigateur principal : Damien Masson)

Initiative d'Excellence Paris/Seine: *Vivre en ville avec la terreur : quels effets du terrorisme diffus sur les ambiances urbaines?*