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Highland and other haunts: Ghosts in Scottish Tourism

David Inglis ^a ... Mary Holmes ^a

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Abstract

Ghosts and other paranormal entities exist neither in this world or the next, nor in one particular spatial and temporal location. However, ghostly qualities have been used within, and to create, particular sociospatial contexts. This paper traces the history of the parts played by spooks in constructing Scotland as a prime tourism location. Its landscapes, cityscapes, and habitations have been interpretatively re-created over the last two centuries producing conceptions of Scottish history which privilege the mysteriousness of a Highland and Celtic past. By interrogating the shifting relations between ghosts/haunted spaces and tourism, this paper reveals some of the mechanisms developed to stimulate the industry.

RÃ©sumÃ©

Les fantÃ´mes et les autres phÃ©nomÃ¨nes paranormaux n'existent ni en ce monde ni au prochain, ni dans aucun temps ni dans aucune espace en particulier. On a

pourtant utilisÃ© des caractÃ©ristiques spectrales afin de crÃ©er certains contextes socio-spatiaux. Cet article suit la trace historique des rÃªles jouÃ©s par des revenants dans la construction de l'Ã©cosse comme un lieu touristique de premier choix. On a recrÃ©Ã© l'interprÃ©tation de ses paysages, de ses panoramas urbains et de ses demeures dans le but de produire des conceptions de l'histoire Ã©cossaise qui privilÃ©gent le mystÃ©rieux du passÃ© celte des Highlands. En interrogeant les relations changeantes entre les fantÃªmes, les lieux hantÃ©s et le tourisme, l'article rÃ©vÃ©le quelques-uns des mÃ©canismes qu'on a dÃ©veloppÃ©s pour stimuler l'industrie.



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Keywords

Scotland; ghosts; ghost walks; Sir Walter Scott; heritage

Mots-clÃ©

Ã©cosse; fantÃªmes; promenades de fantÃªmes; Sir Walter Scott; patrimoine

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David Inglis and Mary Holmes are Lecturers in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Aberdeen (Aberdeen AB24 3QY, United Kingdom. Email <d.inglis@abdn.ac.uk>). They share interests in the sociology of the body and in cultural representations and have previously collaborated on "Toiletory Time: Defecation, temporal strategies and the dilemmas of modernity" for the journal *Time & Society*.

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