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**Reviews in brief: Home. By Alison Blunt and Robyn Dowling. London/New York: Routledge. 2006. xvi + 304 pp. 125.00*cloth*, 35.95 paper. ISBN 0415332753**

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**Home.** By Alison Blunt and Robyn Dowling. London/New York: Routledge. 2006. xvi + 304 pp. \$125.00 cloth, \$35.95 paper. ISBN 0415332753.

In *Home* (2006), Blunt and Dowling creatively argue that home must be considered as both a spatial imaginary (the relations between feelings, attachment, and dwelling) as well as a political space of negotiation and contestation. The book begins with a contemporary, largely western conceptualization of the home and moves to outline multiple avenues for exploring a critical geography where home is conceptualized as the multi-scalar, material and imaginative site in and through which power and identity intersect with, disrupt, and extend common understandings of home. While comparative cultural geographies of home are limited here, the resulting book is a solid reference piece that persistently requires a flexible reader willing to extend their own imaginations of home along the journey. As such, reading it becomes a series of engaged moments between authors and reader in which a truly critical geography finds expression.

The historical dimensions of home, through which we have come to understand what home does, should, and could mean, is best found in Chapter 2: Representing Home; and Chapter 4: Home, Nation and Empire. Missing, however, is a temporal dimension more closely connected to the everyday lived enactments, experiences, and expressions of home: the time-specific particularities of the meanings of home. While space is critical to appreciating the 'fluidity of home as a concept, metaphor and lived experience' (p. 21), I suggest that political, social, and cultural processes are disrupting the linearity of home as well. That is, the meanings and attachments of home for single couples; young families; families with teens; empty-nesters; and returnees – home across the life course – suggest that home is indeed dynamic, but both flexible and durable. While a sense of time is introduced in a section on ethnographic research, it is not developed more substantially (pp. 43–4). Thinking about the home across the life course is one approach to incorporate social processes and rites of passage that reorient the material and imaginary home. Rethinking home across the course of one day, the differences in social relations and expectations during the week compared to the weekend, or between the everyday and the celebratory moments might further disrupt the normative and static notions of home. In these temporal frameworks, a deeper understanding of parental control, boundaries and territories of 'adult' space versus 'child' spaces, and the constant renegotiation of norms, expectations, and power relations might be more critically analyzed.

That I can pose these questions without undermining the integrity of the book's argument suggests that Blunt and Dowling have succeeded in producing, not only a geography of the home, but also a framework and approach for a sustained critical geography of the home.

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**Geographies of modernism: literatures, cultures and spaces.** Edited by Peter Brooker and Andrew Thacker. London and New York: Routledge. 2005. 181 pp. £19.99 paperback. ISBN 0 415 33116 1.