



Monuments and Memory: Galle Face as a Site of Counter Discourse

Monuments can be seen as tangible and material representations of the collective memory of a society. They commemorate historic moments and become part of the urban space they occupy. However, the tangibility associated with the collective memory allows a constant re-evocation of that particular memory. This can be seen as a constant reiteration of the discourse that surrounds it. Thus, a space that contains a monument can be seen as site in which the politics of space is given physical form. The protests held at Galle Face, like many other protests around the world, can be seen as a way in which this collective memory and the resulting discourse is contested. The contestation of the accepted narrative of certain historical processes is carried out through the use of counter monuments. Therefore, it can be seen as a space that offers alternative discourses through the use of spatial practices of occupying, creating and modifying. This will be explored within this presentation using a multimodal discourse analysis approach.

23rd May 2022
2:00 PM via Zoom

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