Inclusion, Identity and the Capacity to Act

This issue of the Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Journal brings together papers which focus on involvement in civil societies in different locations, from Brazil to Papua New Guinea, from cyberspace to Australia, and which are concerned with inclusion, identity and the capacity to act. Baird and Henninger use the metaphor of serious play to show how digital technologies can prevent those with visual impairments from developing the literacy skills which are fundamental to contemporary life and propose the need for developers of applications for digital technologies to adopt a set of heuristic principles so that the digital playground is accessible to all. Maranhao and Knijnik explore Gilberto Freyre's ideas from the 1930s about futebol mulato and the way these ideas have spread around the world the notion of the Brazilian mulatto as a symbol of a 'racial democracy', unique in Brazil. They argue that Freyre's ideas, which are as applicable now as they were when they were first published, were useful in constructing the Brazilian identity, a nation of harmony in all its aspects, including the area of race, and how the idea of the mulatto has been used to minimise social disparities within Brazilian society. Bott, Grabowski and Wearing are concerned with complexity of developing a case for World Heritage listing in developing countries and in facilitating stakeholder collaboration in this process. They present a case study of Kokoda and the Owen Stanley Ranges which demonstrates that stakeholders exhibit differing levels of power, legitimacy, urgency and proximity and that collaboration is essential for the best outcome. In the context of tourism, Wearing and Darcy explore the question of the other in tourism, in this case, host communities, which are often seen as removed from the neoliberal business foundation of tourism. They present an overview of how the engagement of host communities can expand the market for tourism and lead to more satisfying visitor experiences, enhance the sustainability of these experiences and, thus, be considered good management practice within the industry. They argue that, if sustainability is to move beyond economic and environmental Western constructs to embrace social sustainability, changing global values require tourism management to adopt more inclusive ways of practice and management principles. Finally, Arvanitakis is concerned with notions of citizenship and explores how the political moment, signalled by the anti-war protests in Sydney, Australia in 2003 which brought more than half a million people onto the streets, was displaced into the everyday. He proposes that this displacement has led to a re-definition of 'political action' and the emergence of a different type of everyday politics.

Hilary Yerbury