

COMPARE & CONTRAST: Kevin Lynch and Tim Edensor

Kevin Lynch's "The Image of the City" and Tim Edensor's "Performing Tourism, Staging Tourism" both share some notable similarities. For instance, they both talk about the importance of tourists and the performance space they participate in. They tell us that people are not merely observers, but are themselves "a part of it, on the stage with the other participants" (Lynch), and that tourism is "a series of staged events and spaces, and as an array of performative techniques and dispositions" (Edensor). Another way that these two are similar is that they both talk about legibility. Lynch states that parts of a mental image can be easily recognized and put together into a pattern that people can understand. For example, a legible city would have easily identifiable districts, landmarks, and/or pathways that can be easily grouped into an overall pattern. In comparison, Edensor mentions that the tourists movements are aided and regulated by the people who guide them and choreograph their movements. Such tourists choreographies are easily recognizable.

Both articles also display notable differences. One of those differences is that Lynch mentions that the environmental image is a two-way process between one who observes the environment and the objects observed in such environment. He also mentions that a particular image of a given reality may vary between different people who observe such image. Additionally, Lynch states that city planners can manipulate the physical environment, so they can shape and organize what the environment around them looks like. In contrast, Edensor states that tourism is an unplanned and contingent process. He also quotes that tourism is a performance art in itself, where people of different backgrounds take part in different roles. Another difference is that Lynch talks about the three components of an environmental image: identity, structure, and meaning. Although they are separate entities, they always appear together in reality. This contrast with Edensor's outlines of staging tourism: production, regulation, representation, and maintenance. However, Edensor doesn't state that these components exist together.