

Dr. Roger Aden

Discussing his Research on Time, Space, and Public Memory

By: Bianca Grim



Dr. Roger Aden is a professor in Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University, specializing in rhetoric, space, and public memory, and the meanings of space and place. His research explores how specific spaces such as museums, and memorials shape how people understand past history.

Aden's research specifically focuses on how public memory can be influenced by several narratives, mentioning history is always shaped by perspective. He discusses how individuals decipher the same place, just in different ways, all dependent upon their own identities and experiences.

Aden examines the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Independence National Historic Park as specific examples of how the design of spaces can create a certain story. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial symbolizes sacrifice, pride, and freedom while leaving out heavy and uncomfortable parts of history. The black granite represents loss and remembrance of the veterans lives who were lost, while celebrating victory.

Aden has elaborated on his research through his book *Childhood Memory Spaces: How Enduring Memories of Childhood Places Shape Our Lives*. He discusses how meaningful spaces from our childhood such as schools, neighborhoods, can be tied to personal identity and memory. Aden discusses how these spaces carry deep emotional meaning in how individuals view themselves and their past. Overall, Dr. Aden's work highlights how the places we grow up in can shape our view of history altogether.

Another significant part of Dr. Aden's research explores how storytelling in media through public history, news, film, etc. all help connect the past to the present. He elaborates on the importance of seeing all different perspectives and telling each story carefully and responsibly.

Overall, Dr. Roger Aden's research examines the importance of understanding time, space, and public memory while highlighting how significant it is to understand history from different perspectives based on public spaces. He encourages everyone to see all sides to the story and consider those who may be left out.

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Link to Book:

<https://www.amazon.com/Childhood-Memory-Spaces-Enduring-Memories-ebook/dp/B0B6N8NM1R>