

- 2000 Words
- Main primary sources of the proposed research topic

## Critical Source Review Prep

What is the nature/key feature of this source material/body of evidence?

What is its context (authorship, location, provenance, etc).

Have there been controversies surrounding the interpretation of this evidence?

Have any methodological or theoretical approaches been applied to study this material?

Do other sources provide more valuable insights into this main material?

**Research topic** - concrete, roman construction, ideology + identity, urbanism

- Art/architecture focus
- romanization undercurrent
- Spatial theory
- David Harvey
- Edward Soja
- Henri Lefebvre
- Guy Debord
- Manuel Castells
- Doreen Massey
- Neil Brenner

## The Production of Space

- Henri Lefebvre
- 1974 (Trans. 1991)
- Author argues that space is not neutral or purely physical but that it is socially produced. Societies create their own space that is shaped by power, ideology, and economic systems
- Human Geography/Social Theory
- Theoretical/philosophical
- Primarily focuses on capitalism as a major institution of this
- "Spatial Triad" - perceived space, conceived space, lived space
  - ↳ (routines/physical movement/infrastructure), designed space (planners, architects, governments), lived spaces (experienced in art, culture, memory).
- Space is shaped by people in control (states, capitalists)
- Urban planning is a reflection of political + economic interests
- Capitalism produces space to support production + consumption
- Critique of capitalism - space is turned into a commodity, cities are tools for profit instead of human needs, leads to inequality & segregation & alienation

- draws on the works of Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels
- no empirical data - focus is solely on concepts & theory, not data
- influential work across geography, urban studies, sociology, and art history
- "Spatial Triad" framework is still widely used
- can be dense & abstract making the work difficult to read (accessibility concerns)
- lacks concrete case studies or any empirical data
- Manuel Castells argued it lacked clear methods for studying real cities and his "Spatial Triad" was both hard to measure & difficult to apply to concrete research
- David Harvey thought the work was too focused on capitalism & class struggle while reducing the focus on economics. Harvey also argues that things such as culture, race, and gender are not fully accounted for.
- Later scholars would expand on the space notion to include race & gender.
- Edward Soja believed Henri's work left blurry boundaries & was ambiguous
- Post colonial scholars noted this is a Western (especially European) urban experience
- Foucault focused more on discourse in urban systems, knowledge, and power being the main focus instead of production

### Sources to Pair

- Claridge "Rome: Oxford Archaeological Guide"
- Garnsey & Saller "Roman Empire: Economy, Society, Culture"
- Beard "Pompeii Lost & Found"
- Parkins "Roman Urbanism"
- Kostoff "City Shaped"

## Roman Architecture and Urbanism

- Fikret Yegül & Diane Favro • 890 pages (massive tome)
- Cambridge University Press • 2019
- Covers architecture from early Republic to late Antiquity
- good academic authority
- doesn't just catalogue Roman structures but also interprets focusing on built environment shaped by politics, social life, engineering, ritual, and urban experience.
- focuses on innovative approaches instead of Greek imitation
  - ↳ spatial planning, monument sequencing, urban infrastructure, engineering systems, regional adaptation, movement through cities
- architecture as a piece of daily life & imperial governance, not just art
- great geographical breadth - cities, provinces, sacred, secular, etc.
- different methodologies applied throughout - archaeology, literary, visual, comp. design analysis, etc.
- follows a traditional "romanization" narrative without discussing the coercion, inequality, or violence underplaying any conquest trauma, displacement, or resistance to Roman rule that may have taken place.
- most attention paid to monumental structures and significantly less time spent looking at rural poverty or ordinary housing
- Marcello Mogetta notes the book emphasizes the benefits and achievements of the empire without acknowledging the violent side of Roman conquest
- Newer postcolonial scholarship (David Mattingly) say this risks softening imperial violence & uneven power relations

Weekly Task: Reflect on how genre considerations affect the main literary sources in your research, as well as your reading of them. Give specific examples.

## Week 4: Genre

literary texts are never neutral records of the past, they're shaped by conventions, audience expectations, and rhetorical purposes/uses

genre helps distinguish what could be factual information from any shaping, exaggeration, or symbolism.

genre considerations can keep someone from asking the wrong questions of a source. Literary sources should be read in conjunction with archaeological evidence, inscriptions, and visual remains.

