BOOK REVIEW
Shatha Abu-Khafajah


Despite globalisation, urban spaces such as streets continue to influence people's identities, and studies that explore the representative power of urban spaces, and representation of these spaces in different media, are increasing in geographic, architectural and anthropological fields. In these studies, urban spaces are arenas where 'casual interaction, including reaction, conversation, and entertainment' take place (Moughtin 1992, p. 131), and where cultural processes of social interaction and expression happen (Smithson and Smithson 1967, p. 15). Streets, therefore, exhibit socio-spatial processes through which diverse people imagine, express and sustain their identities. This role is also carried out by memory. In Archibald's (2004, p. 20) words: 'memory is a dynamic process of using the past to define and redefine who we are, what we believe, what we like and dislike, and the values we hold dear.' This book explores the cultural politics of belonging and exclusion practices in Kuzguncuk's streets, and their role in the construction of national identity in Istanbul. In this book, streets and memory interweave with each other to create identities. Identities compete and struggle to emphasise their differences and, therefore, produce a disputed urban space. They also blend to produce a homogenous place; an urban space with a distinctive identity such as Kuzguncuk.