era. The difference of the Nazi era was the strict racial prohibitions and the particular emphasis on anti-Semitism—what appeared as sexual conservatism was directed explicitly against Jews, who were blamed for brothels and pimping. According to Herzog, however, within youth organizations the Nazis encouraged premarital sex and children out of wedlock, especially during the war. On the other hand, as is well known, homosexuality was severely punished. While Herzog emphasizes the permissiveness within heterosexual "Aryan" relationships, she points out that the major legal prohibitions against homosexuality were not ended in West Germany until the late 1970s. In East Germany, these were put to rest in the 1950s.

Beyond what has already been noted, Herzog's main point is that the "sexual revolution" in Germany was not a reaction to the authoritarian anti-pleasure campaigns of Nazism, but rather "a reaction to the reaction" of post-war, 1950s-era sexual conservatism. The German churches and the political establishment, particularly the Christian Democratic Party (CDU) in West Germany, had tried to distance themselves from the Nazi era by arguing the Nazis had been too permissive. They legally enforced laws against activities such as pimping, which included parents who allowed a daughter's boyfriend to stay overnight with her at their house.

In the end, Herzog asks whether the '68 generation had, in fact, succeeded in combining sex and politics or whether it had just made capitalism more pleasurable. Her brief section on sex in the GDR is enlightening, and it also raises further questions about the true impact of actually existing socialism on everyday pleasure.

Finally, the reader wonders about the international dimensions of Herzog's analysis. Beyond occupying troops in the various allied zones within East and West Germany, how did international desires and representations play in the aftermath of the 1950s? What new transnational spaces did the '68 sexual revolution open up? What were the limits of these transnational liaisons? Furthermore, while Herzog demonstrates some continuity between sexual liberalization in the Weimar-era, the Nazi-era, and amongst the '68 generation, what were the particular post-fascist social effects that resulted from the particular resistance to the Nazis' racialized prohibitions?

———Damani J. Partridge, University of Michigan

Gary S. Cross and John K. Walton, *The Playful Crowd. Pleasure Places in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2005, $37.50/£22, 352 pp.

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In this book Cross and Walton employ four major "pleasure places" to discuss developments in the amusement industry and the evolution of western leisure

preferences. They compare Coney Island and Disneyland in the United States and the seaside resort Blackpool and the Beamish Open Air Museum in England to trace ways in which the middle and lower classes have sought entertainment, release, thrill, and contact in a mass environment. In doing so, they have formed "playful crowds," which exhibit particular characters in terms of their compositions, behaviors, and moods.

Most of the book is devoted to the golden age of Coney Island and Blackpool, two seaside resorts sporting hotels, rides, and curiosities and providing "industrial saturnalia" for the working classes. The authors offer a minute description of the infrastructural development of these pleasure places, focusing on the challenges of reconciling playfulness and respectability. While the authors acknowledge that "American commitment to novelty and mobility, and British tradition and class stability" (55) may have shaped the pursuit of pleasure in the two countries, they carefully consider the influence of location, climate, means of transport, length of season, land holding patterns, political alliances, and more distinctive factors. The analysis thus extends well beyond amusement parks to examine wider social networks, familial relations, and political arrangements, as well as the interplay between leisure traditions and cultural aspirations.

While Coney Island and Blackpool are obvious counterparts, less self-explanatory is the authors' juxtaposition of the world-famous Disneyland with the Beamish Open Air Museum, which even many British people will not have heard of. In the second half of the book Cross and Walton argue that the emergence of a middle-class crowd focused on children and child fantasies gave rise to amusement parks catering to nostalgia for innocence and wonder. In a persuasive and astute chapter, the authors show ways in which Disneyland has borrowed selectively from the "industrial saturnalia" at Coney Island, adopting its playful architecture but shunning its freak shows. It thus creates a "commercial saturnalia" that satisfies the crowd's appetite for the "cute" and the "innocent" while seemingly offering a family learning experience about scientific progress and a virtuous past. The Beamish Museum similarly couples enjoyment and enrichment, the educational and the commercial, in a family-centered environment. Both Disneyland and the Beamish are presented as separate but cognate responses to the challenge of controlling the playful crowd and rendering pleasure places suitable for the swelling middle classes.

Yet if this stimulating and detailed text (with its beautiful period photographs) presents an admirable comparative analysis, several questions remain unanswered, particularly regarding the character and causes of the claimed transformation from "industrial" to "commercial saturnalia." While the authors are convincing in their presentation of Disneyland as a response to and improvement upon Coney Island, the same cannot be said of the Beamish Museum's relationship to Blackpool, with which it hardly seems

commensurate. Disney may have superseded Coney Island, but the answer to Blackpool seems to have been the Costa Brava rather than the Beamish. Further, the authors describe the playful crowd as pursuing, by turns, the "exotic," the "cute," the "nostalgic," the "innocent," and the "cool," without investigating the formation of and transitions between these categories of taste. What will most elude readers as they are captivated by the playful crowd and the pleasure places it populates are the movers in the development of amusement parks across the century and the Atlantic

———Roberta Pergher, University of Kansas

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