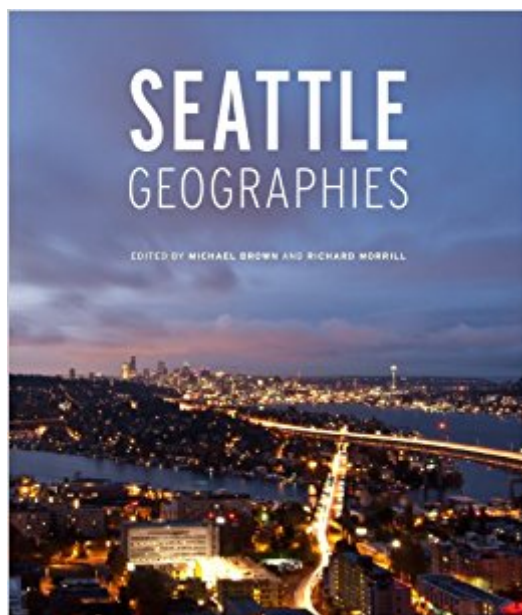


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# Seattle Geographies (Samuel And Althea Stroum Books)



## Synopsis

Seattle is located on the northwest edge of the continental United States, flanked by two mountain ranges and set on the calm shores of Puget Sound. It is remote from the country's hub but a portal to Alaska and Asia. It is widely considered liberal and green, but such a characterization oversimplifies a city of many idiosyncrasies and contradictions. *Seattle Geographies* explores the human geography of the city and region to examine why Seattle is Seattle. The contributors to this volume look into Seattle's social, economic, political, and cultural geographies across a range of scales from neighborhoods to the world. They tackle issues as diverse as economic restructuring, gay space, trade with China, skateboarding, and P-patches. They apply a geographic perspective to uniquely Seattle events and movements such as the WTO protests and grunge. They also look at homelessness, poverty, and segregation. Guided by a strong sense of accountability to place, these geographers offer a wide, multifaceted portrayal of the city and its region. For more information go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eQXCQoqIKU>

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Seattle Geographies, the brainchild of University of Washington professors, aims to decode what makes Seattle seem so simple and transparent on the surface, but so complex and contradictory when viewed over time and across political and social divides." *—* [Seattle Times](#) "A fascinating book, a sort of fact-based, Whitman-esque grab bag with some nice photographs of the city and maps of racial distribution, voting patterns, same-sex-couple densities, poverty pockets, income

levels and, yes, even skate parks." — Capitol Hill Times

"Seattle Geographies provides an excellent study of the economic, social, and political forces that shape life in our city. It shows not only what Seattle has done well, but also what challenges remain for us to solve together as a community."

— Mike McGinn, Mayor of Seattle

"A great contribution to understanding how Seattle has become the city we love."

— Nick Licata, Seattle City Councilmember

"This wide-ranging book uses beautiful photography, revealing maps, and multi-disciplinary analyses to explore the relationships that make Seattle such a dynamic city, regional center, and global player. Readers will be left to ponder Seattle's future: a money-driven pursuit of privatization, growth, and world-class status, or a community-driven commitment to social justice and care for one another and the place we share?"

— Jim Diers, author of *Neighbor Power: Building Community the Seattle Way*

This is a fun book on all sorts of things about Seattle- population mixes, transportation patterns, and regional and historic facts which may or may not interest everyone but if you are looking for a book that explains why Seattle is Seattle this is one you can start with.

I read this book after having lived in Seattle for over a decade and found it presented King and Snohomish counties (the 2 counties was most familiar with) better than any other book I'd read on the area including those written by Knute Berger, Fred Moody, and Tim Egan. "Seattle Geographies" presents a wide swath of facts that allows readers to synthesize various aspects of the demographics and come to their own conclusions as to the underlying cultural norm of what makes up the culture of the Puget Sound area. After I moved to Seattle, I read everything I could get my hands on for years about its culture because even after several years of living there, I still couldn't understand some of the deep underlying customs and beliefs that seemed to dominate people's thinking and actions, and I wanted very much to understand. Although the books written by the 3 authors mentioned above were excellent and certainly contributed to my understanding, it wasn't until I read "Seattle Geographies" that everything came together. It's a book that includes a lot of data that is easy to decipher. It's not a "kick back by the fire and lose yourself" type of read, so be prepared to think a bit. However, it's not a hard read by any means; it's well written and interesting, not just a bunch of compiled data, so expect to enjoy the book. I certainly did. There are about 40 different contributors, so at least 40 different views and writing styles, almost all very accessible. The book has a good index as well. I highly recommend this book if you're interested in

understanding more about the people that make up the Puget Sound area. The chapters include: 1: Introducing Seattle Geographies 2. Economic Geographies 3. Global Geographies 4. Rural Geographies 5. Political Geographies 6. Social Geographies 7. Cultural Geographies

There is a lot of interesting material in this book. But as is often the case with such collections of essays, the contributions are uneven, and sometimes overlap. Most of this book appears to be factual, but other parts read like activist blog posts. Some contributions could also do with simpler language. For example, we are told that "automobility is the dominant discourse in transport planning", and that there is "denationalized global opportunity" for Seattle (a "curative global city"). Surprisingly, there isn't a single good map of Seattle in this book--though small maps are used throughout to show various data...

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