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Taking up space: waste and waste labor in developing South Korea

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Propositions

Taking up space: Waste and Waste Labor in Developing South Korea

Hyojin Pak

1. The changing value of waste splits waste's materiality (waste's utility) from its sociality (waste labor).
2. State, media and popular discourses reveal associations between waste and waste pickers.
3. The social marginalization of waste pickers outlived the state-regulated waste picker camps.
4. The temporary housing resettlement scheme on Nanjido allowed the state to appropriate the labor of waste pickers without the need to formally recognize it.
5. Studying the material and metaphorical history of waste provides an additional perspective on South Korea's development experience.
6. Contemporary forms of precarious labor find their antecedent in the history of waste pickers.
7. The downside of capitalist development becomes apparent when read through the specter of the politics of waste and its material, social, and demographic discarding practices.
8. Waste management and landfill practices add to the urban palimpsest that translates a city's history into the landscape.
9. The precarity of waste labor is further aggravated by the domestication of recycling practices
10. The structural constraints of Ph.D. labor require one's refusal to be refused.