The Art of Not Being Governed

Mandie Miller - July 16, 2014

• Dr Harriot Beazley
• Prof. Bill Carter

Siem Reap
Angkor Archaeological Park
World Heritage listed 1992

- over 1,000 km$^2$
- hundreds of temples, hydraulic structures
- Khmer Empire 9th to 15th century.
- Angkor Wat, (early 12th century) the world's largest single religious monument.
- Immense national pride

Miller 2013
Ta Prohm: built late 12th & early 13th centuries

“Tomb Raider” (2001) fame

Miller 2013
World Heritage Listing & Tourism

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ARRIVALS
1993: 7,000
2013: 3.58 million. Source: CMOT

100,000 Khmer inhabitants live within the World Heritage area
Source: UNESCO World Heritage Convention
Cambodia, in brief.

Source: CIA World Factbook 2014 & UN

- Population: 1979: 6,500,000
  - 2014: 15,458,332
- 80% rural
- 52% of the population under 24
- Ranked the most corrupt Gov in SE Asia and 160th of 177 countries worldwide (1 the least corrupt) (Source: Transparency International 2013)
- Education - 80% of children start primary school;
  - 25% of Cambodian children start lower secondary school;
- More than 1/3 of Cambodians live below the poverty line of US$1 a day

40,000 landmine amputees
≤ 6,000,000 landmines remain
Cambodia, a Collectivist culture

**UNCRC VALUES (1989)**
- Equality/Participation
- Transparency
- Justice
- Individualism

**CAMBODIAN VALUES**
- Hierarchy
- Honour/Reputation
- Harmony
- Collectivism

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*Gourley, 2009*
The creation of the ‘Public transcript’:

- Cambodia’s ‘Development’ and integration into global economy attempts to avoid ‘negative images’ to outside world
- conforming to the western and globalised construction of childhood that sees street working children as ‘deviant and transgressing’ that they defy moral values, ‘feral & untamed’ (Beazley, 2003, Ansell 2005)
- project an “UNDESIRABLE IMAGE” perceived as parental neglect, or lack of family planning
- Tourists are told not to encourage these ‘deviant families’ by giving them money
- That children should not work is Eurocentric and dominant among International NGO’s
- Should be either in School or at Home!
Social Exclusion

- Nov 2006 government crackdown on ‘begging’ in Siem Reap.
- Children jailed or pushed out of town to ‘clean up’ the streets,
- Typical payment to police US$10pm
- Forced to leave SR and now in south
- Migration – Thailand,

Book sellers
Participants in the study

- Sellers outside Angkor Wat

Their reaction to their alienation by the state and society is a ‘Collective Emotional Response’ and lived political resistance (Beazley, 2003, Scott 2009)
Book sellers - Social and Spatial Exclusion of street children

Strategies to engage with a tourist:

‘Winning Spaces’ to survive
• Survival strategies
• Subculture – collective identity
• Spatial expressions of these subcultures
Acknowledging Children & youth’s Agency in Development.

- Children expressed pride and control.. despite their marginalization – they do go to school
- Should we ignore the reality of children’s lives and the strategies that they employ to survive?
- How do our thoughts on ‘the best interests of the child’ comply with the basic principle of the right to participate and have a voice? (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- Do we know better?