



### **Bradley Garrett**

Bradley Garrett describes himself as a 'professional trespasser' who has been exploring many hidden places and spaces 'where we are not supposed to be'. When he agreed to an interview I wondered whether I would be blindfolded, bundled in a car and taken to a remote destination. It wasn't quite like that, although we did travel by car to the outer edges of Southampton, where Brad was then working and then walked amongst motorways to reach a country route that took us to the River Test, in full flood. Whether you judge him as a hero or a villain, there's no way of escaping his infectious enthusiasm for going into places that you or I might think twice about visiting.

Bradley Garrett is a social geographer now based at the University of Sydney in Australia and author of four books. He holds a Masters degree in archaeology and worked as an archaeologist for the US Federal government, he has subsequently completed a PhD looking at 'alternative archeologies' as local people try to get control of their own community histories by trespassing into places they find significant. Brad's interest in archaeology and geography stems from an interest in lost, forgotten and off-limits places.

Notes from the podcast interview by **Andrew Stuck**: Recorded on a walk in the peri-urban motorway strewn region north of Southampton in January 2015 and published in June 2015 on <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

Bradley Garrett's website: <http://www.bradleygarrett.com/>

- *Explore Everything: Place-Hacking the City* (Verso Books 2013), is an account of his adventures trespassing into ruins, tunnels and skyscrapers in eight different countries and has been translated into Korean and Japanese. <http://www.versobooks.com/authors/1820-bradley-l-garrett>
- *Subterranean London: Cracking the Capital* (Prestel Publishing 2014), is a photographic dissection of what lies underneath the streets of London, layer by layer.
- *London Rising* (Prestel Publishing 2016), documents the social, infrastructural and corporate 'verticalities' of the city.

The Shard, abandoned underground stations, a redundant post office railway and many other buildings have become exploratory targets for Brad and fellow Urban Explorers <http://www.urbanexplorers.net/>

Place hacking - 'recreational trespassing' - if its paid for by the public purse shouldn't it be accessible to the public? <http://www.placehacking.co.uk/>

An extreme end of Will Self [https://en.wikipedia.org/?title=Will\\_Self](https://en.wikipedia.org/?title=Will_Self) & Iain Sinclair [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iain\\_Sinclair](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iain_Sinclair) and their psycho-geographic walks

Brad walked around Oxford with Patrick Keiller [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick\\_Keiller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Keiller)

Ordnance Survey <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/> and the politics of what gets on the map

Burlington, an underground city beneath Corsham in Wiltshire <http://www.burlingtonbunker.co.uk/>

The Maze prison - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HM\\_Prison\\_Maze](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HM_Prison_Maze) Bobby Sands hunger striker [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobby\\_Sands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobby_Sands)

### **Walks recommended by Bradley Garrett**

Take an early train to Broxbourne and follow the riverbank of the River Lea, south towards London, stopping for breakfast at the towpath cafe, and continuing on to Finsbury Park - Brad suggests trying to guess where the line is that one crosses from rural to urban. <https://www.visitleevalley.org.uk/en/content/cms/outdoors/walks-walking/walking-routes/ware-to-waltham-abbey/river-lee-trail/>



# TALKING



# WALKING<sup>10</sup>

**What has Brad Garrett been doing since our interview?**

"Since we took our walk together, I've had a big change in my life after winning a 3-year research fellowship at the University of Sydney. This has meant leaving the UK after 10 years in the country, and beginning an entirely new project working with groups and individuals who are preparing for the apocalypse called 'preppers'.

For the next 3 years, I will be following preppers as they build bunkers and stockpile supplies awaiting calamity, and thinking about the bunker as the ultimate private space. So in short, I'll be spending more time digging than walking, just like when I was an archaeologist! My new book, *Bunker: The Architecture of Dread*, will be published by Penguin in the UK and Scribner in the USA in 2019. "