

Conceptualizing Comics: Studies on the Nature of Spatiality

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Abstract

This thesis attempts to conceptualize a certain problem of spatiality from the formal specificity of the medium of comics. The thesis is not a historical or taxonomic study of comics, that is, it does not seek to provide a historical account of the development of comics as media, nor is it focused on a classification of the genres and movements of comics. Neither does it go into a close reading of a variety of comic books – furnishing a plethora of empirical instances of the medium of comics. Rather, what this thesis aims at, is to articulate and conceptually investigate an aporia relating to spatiality that is inherent to comics as a medium, and argues that this spatial problem is not restricted to comics, but is rather a *general ontological problem* that refers to an aporia of our most general suppositions regarding space and time – and also, along with it, to our suppositions regarding being. And further, this thesis holds that this ontological aporia – this spatial problem that we find in the specificity of the medium of comics – holds a conceptual relevance for the theoretical discourse of decoloniality. Consequently, this thesis is divided into two parts – the first relating the problem of spatiality that it derives from comics to general ontological problems of time, space, and being; and the second relating this ontological conceptualization of spatiality to decolonial theory and also the thinking of decolonization in general.