

The Ideologies of Lived Space in Literary Texts, Ancient and Modern

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- Inspired by the spatial turn in the humanities, this volume presents a number of essays on the ideological role of space in literary texts
- By bringing together ancient and modern, mostly post-colonial texts, this volume hopes to stimulate discussion among disciplines and across continents

In a brief essay called Des espaces autres (1984) Michel Foucault announced that after the nineteenth century, which was dominated by a historical outlook, the current century might rather be the century of space. His prophecy has been fulfilled: the end of the twentieth century witnessed a 'spatial turn' in humanities which was perhaps partly due to the globalization of our modern world. Inspired by this 'spatial turn' in the humanities, this volume presents a number of essays on the ideological role of space in literary texts. The individual articles analyze ancient and modern literary texts from the angle of the most recent theoretical conceptualizations of space. The focus throughout is on how the experience of space is determined by dominant political, philosophical or religious ideologies and how, in turn, the description of spaces in literature is employed to express, broadcast or deconstruct this experience. By bringing together ancient and modern, mostly postcolonial texts, this volume hopes to stimulate discussion among disciplines and across continents. Among the authors discussed are: Homer, Nonnus, Alcaeus of Lesbos, Apollonius of Rhodes, Vergil, Herodotus, Panagiotis Soutsos, Assia Djebar, Tahar Djaout, Olive Senior, Jamaica Kincaid, Stefan Heym, Benoit Dutuertre, Henrik Stangerup and David Malouf.

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