

WHY A METACRITIC JOURNAL?

Metacritique, as a means to provoke and to question any methodological use of criticism is an essential requirement in present cultural studies, especially when we often take for granted our own affinities for certain types of discourse. This need to challenge one's own interpretive and reading habits is of particular interest in humanities and social sciences, where method and perspective are intrinsic part of any given analysis. In our cultural era, *meta-* is constantly used (might we say, religiously even) as a means to self-proclaim one's affiliation to a stream of thought characterised by self-awareness, self-consciousness and self-referentiality, so a metacritical point of view is bound to figure prominently in cultural, social and literary analyses. Informally, one could hear the phrase "it's (so) meta" spoken by today's teenagers as a means to signal that a certain cultural trend, TV-show or musical genre has reached a visible degree of self-referentiality and that its connoisseurs have also reached a state of "awareness of the self-aware". But *meta-* is also the crux of all intermediality, since it is the focus of self-reflective discourses, of debates on the crisis of a given discipline or reformulations of another; it makes visible ways of mapping a new research territory or of reorganizing existing ones, paths of communication and web-creation. *Meta-* also has a real deconstructive potential, since focusing on self-referentiality exposes system fallacies and power structures. This reflexive approach in regards to both the subject and the means of examination is a tendency common to all the studies and papers published in the Metacritic Journal of Comparative Studies and Theory and is regarded as a major component of creating a pertinent academic discourse.

This brings us to the comparative dimension of the journal. While it is not uncommon for comparative studies to cross their own disciplinary borders, one might find that the papers presented in this journal will use their comparative perspectives and goals as manifestos in favor of interdisciplinarity and intermediality, which we believe to be more and more important in humanist and social studies. While the first concept has been used increasingly since the eighties, the latter has grown in both frequency and importance within the academic world

after 2006. There is already a consistent corpus of interdisciplinary studies and an archive of intermedial studies is in the making. None of these would be complete without acknowledging the place of metacritique and metareflection among them.

Metacritic Journal for Comparative Studies and Theory is also strongly devoted to free access policies that allow a free flow of excellency through academic work. Peer-review work and intellectual filters should be the only ones limiting publication of good research and academic work. A part of each issue will be devoted to interviews with outstanding academics, to round-tables and collective projects as an attempt to always stress the importance of team work and researching-by-example. Established scholars, early career academics and young researchers are invited to share their metacritic views on this platform.

The Editors