



## Metacritic Journal for Comparative Studies and Theory

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### CFP: SPACE IN LITERATURE AND LITERATURE IN SPACE: GEOCRITICAL PRACTICES

Issue editors: Marius Conkan, Daiana Gârdan

**Deadline proposals** (150-word abstract, 5-7 keywords, 3-5 theoretical references, 150-word bioprofile): 10 January 2020

**Acceptance notice:** 15 January 2020

**Deadline accepted full papers** (5,000-7,000 words for articles, 2,000-3,000 words for book reviews): 1 April 2020

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**Metacritic Journal for Comparative Studies and Theory** is an open-access, peer-review, online publication for academic research, published twice a year by the Faculty of Letters, Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj, Romania. It promotes free-access for academic work and it welcomes authors who want to share their research and resources with their peers. It encourages, recognizes and rewards intellectual excellence in interdisciplinary and intermedial approaches of literary culture, visual culture and theory. The journal welcomes papers in English (or, for regionally oriented topics, Romanian) from the following domains: comparative studies, including digital and posthuman studies; literary studies, cultural studies, including social and gender studies; media and film studies, literary criticism and theory, cultural poetics.

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The 1960s bring a change of paradigm known as the spatial turn, through which the importance of space in exploring socio-cultural contexts is revealed. Henri Lefevbre's and Gilles Deleuze's theoretical approaches on space in the 1970s-1980s shed new light on the phenomenon. These multiple perspectives enjoy diverse methodologies in exploring literary practices through space, place, geography and cartography. In other words, investigating the polymorphism of space and place opens numerous theoretical pathways. Such endeavours confirm the relevance of geography in the study of literature. The latter, not seen as an autonomous domain in relation to the socio-political, becomes an essential component of the global context. Literature is a major instrument in charting global societies, but it also reveals itself as a force agent for change. That is why research areas such as human geography,

geocriticism, literary geography and cartography (as defined by Robert T. Tally Jr., Franco Moretti, Bertrand Westphal and others), ecocriticism, geopoetics, spatial humanities, postcolonial studies etc. can expose the spatial composition of literature and its role in socio-political contexts and narratives. Bertrand Westphal establishes geocriticism as a research domain that explores the plural dimension of the relationship between real and fictional spaces. That is why one of the interdisciplinary approaches in geocriticism attempts to explore global realities found at the intersection between discourses (political, philosophical), (not only) literary fictions and geographies (real and imagined). Westphal describes, in his *La Géocritique. Réel, fiction, espace* (2007), the major principles of geocriticism (spatiotemporality, transgressivity and referentiality), principles that have been tackled by other researchers on literary spaces and places. On the other hand, Robert T. Tally Jr. makes use of the ideas on space, place and cartography in a metaphorical manner in his definition of literary cartography, literary geography and geocriticism, aiming at exploring real-and-imagined spaces in literature. His explorations are not based on a geographical science, visible in the quantitative research on space, and they are also methodologically different from Bertrand Westphal's geocritical approaches. More recent debates (see B. Richardson edited volume *Spatiality and Symbolic Expression: On the links between place and culture*, 2015) insist on the relationship between cultural production and symbolic expression after "the spatial turn" in a multimedial world of representations.

There are two major traits of critical practices in spatial studies: 1) the analysis of spaces and places inside the text and 2) the search for the link between the text and the spaces it refers to (i.e. real) on the outside. There are methods that propose a combination of these two approaches, looking at both the real and simultaneously imagined spaces (Soja), pointing to "the vicissitudinous relations among texts, images, places, and representation" (Tally Jr.). Other queries are linked to: the representation of real spaces in literature vs. the symbolic and figurative representation of spaces; technology based analysis (GIS) vs. approaches that revisit classical themes in a new manner. Within this theoretical framework, the next issue of the **Metacritic Journal for Comparative Studies and Theory**, to be published in July 2020, will be dedicated to geocritical approaches to literature. Cultural approaches, qualitative and quantitative analyses are all welcome. Articles should include, but not be limited to:

1. The production of spaces and places in literature
2. Heterotopias, non-places, borders and in-betweenness
3. Chrono-topographies and chronotopical readings
4. Transnational studies
5. Geography and ecocriticism
6. Cartography and digital humanities

7. Memory, postmemory and their spatial representations
8. Literature and mapmaking
9. Geocriticism and World Literature
10. Mapping literature and socio-political spaces
11. Cities, metropolises, cultural centres, peripheries
12. Cognitive and affective maps
13. Geocritical practices and the Anthropocene

Please submit a 150-word original proposal that clearly explains how it will contribute to, revise, or depart from existing debates around the concept of geocriticism. Both proposals and final texts should be in English and should observe our guidelines as they appear on our website: <http://metacriticjournal.com/for-authors>

Final submission should include: 5,000-7,000-word article, including 150-word abstract, 5-7 keywords, list of references (only cited works), 150-word author's bioprofile and the author's photo-portrait (jpg, separate file). Proposals and final submissions should be formatted as Word documents and sent to [metacriticjournal@gmail.com](mailto:metacriticjournal@gmail.com)

#### **Further reading:**

1. Bertrand Westphal. *La Géocritique. Réel, fiction, espace*. Paris: Éditions de Minuit, 2007. *Geocriticism: Real and Fictional Spaces*. Translated by Robert T. Tally Jr.. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.
2. Edward W. Soja. *Thirdspace*. Cambridge MA: Blackwell, 1996.
3. Fernando Cabo Aseguinolaza, "The Spatial Turn in Literary Historiography". *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture*, 13.5 (2011). Web Link: <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss5/5%3ESpecial>>
4. Franco Moretti. *Atlas of the European Novel (1800-1900)*. London and New York: Verso, 1998.
5. Henri Lefebvre. *La production de l'espace*, Paris: Anthropos, 1974. *The Production of Space*. Translated by Donald Nicholson-Smith. Cambridge MA: Blackwell, 1991.
6. Phil Hubbard and Rob Kitchin (eds.). *Key Thinkers on Space and Place*. London: Sage, 2011/2004.
7. Robert T. Tally Jr. (ed.). *Geocritical Explorations: Space, Place, and Mapping in Literary and Cultural Studies*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.
8. Robert T. Tally Jr. *Spatiality*. New York: Routledge, 2013.
9. Robert T. Tally Jr., Christine M. Battista (eds.), *Ecocriticism and Geocriticism: Overlapping Territories in Environmental and Spatial Literary Studies*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.
10. Adam Barrows, *Time, Literature, and Cartography After the Spatial Turn: The Chronometric Imaginary*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.