

Edited by Reginald Wiebe

Polyptych

Adaptation, Television, and Comics

SERIES IN CRITICAL MEDIA STUDIES

Summary

Through each of its chapters, 'Polyptych: Adaptation, Television, and Comics' examines the complex dynamics of adapting serialized texts. The transmedial adaptation of collaborative and unstable texts does not lend itself to the same strategies as other, more static adaptations such as novels or plays. Building off the foundational work of Linda Hutcheon and Gérard Genette, Polyptych considers the analogy of adaptation as a palimpsest—a manuscript page that has been reused, leaving traces of the previous work behind—as needing to be reevaluated. A polyptych is a multi-panel artwork and provides a new model for analyzing how adaptation works when translating collaborative and unstable texts. Given that most television and comic books are episodic and serialized, and considering that both media are also the cumulative work of many artists, this book offers a series of distanced readings to reassess how adaptation works in this field. Comic book adaptations on television are plentiful and are nearly completely ignored in critical discussions of adaptation.

This collection focuses on texts that fall outside the most common subjects of study among the corpus and contributes to expanding the field of inquiry. The book features texts that are subjects of previous academic interest, as well as studies of texts that have never before been critically considered. It also includes an appendix that provides the first list of comic book adaptations on North American television. 'Polyptych' is a unique and timely contribution to dynamic and growing fields of study.

The book will be of interest to scholars and researchers in the fields of Comic Studies, Adaptation Studies, and Critical Media Studies more broadly, as well as to students undertaking courses on these subjects. It will also appeal to comic book and pop culture fans who wish to expand their knowledge on the subject.

About the editor

Dr Reginald Wiebe is an Assistant Professor of English at Concordia University of Edmonton. His teaching areas include Canadian Literature, British Literature, International Literature, Postcolonialism, and Graphic Literature. He completed his PhD at the University of Alberta in 2015 and has been employed in the Department of Literature and Languages at Concordia since 2016. His research interests are primarily in the field of comics studies, particularly in the area of Graphic Medicine. He is working on a manuscript with Dr Dorothy Woodman of the University of Alberta called 'The Cancer Plot: Terminal Immortality in Marvel Comic's Moral Universe'. Research from this project has been shared at various conferences in Canada, including the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE), the Canadian Disabilities Studies Association (CDSA) and the Canadian Society for the Study of Comics (CSSC). He has also presented conference papers and given public talks on superhero comics and mental health, as well as pedagogical talks on why to teach comics in the classroom.

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