

Call for Papers for the special issue in « Costellazioni. Rivista di Lingue e Letterature»

Spatiality as interpretative approach to contemporary Scandinavian culture and literature

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Colleagues are invited to submit an abstract (max 450 words, excluding references) for a thematic issue of the international journal «Costellazioni» (<https://www.rivistacostellazioni.org/>), to be published in spring 2022.

The study of spatial form in literature, initially launched by Joseph Frank around the middle of the last century and further developed by Gaston Bachelard and Gérard Genette, was granted more methodological and conceptual complexity by Frederik Jameson's and Edward W. Soya's studies in the Nineties. In recent years, the interconnectedness of scientific descriptions of geographical space and literary writing, inevitably determined by and rooted in a specific environment, has opened up new horizons for researchers working at the intersection of space epistemology, geographic description, and the poetics of space (Bertrand Westphal). Also in the Scandinavian area, the representation of space has been extended to include forms of social and cultural diversity, thereby contributing to a reassessment of literary history: rather than tracing it as a linear evolution in time, scholars come to view such history as a dynamic, intimate relationship between given places and the literature they inspire.

In its complexity, therefore, the sense of space offers a valid interpretative lens for studying contemporary Scandinavian culture and literature. The arena of architecture and urban studies likewise hosts an ongoing debate in Nordic countries over how to forge a new balance between the construction of "exemplary" and monumental buildings and surrounding urban dwellings, and the various functions (and feelings) tied to these neighborhoods.

The aim of this thematic issue is to explore the interconnectedness of spatial and temporal relationships in the perception and narration of the Nordic world from multiple points of view.

Topics for contributions could include (but are not limited to) the following:

- The discontinuity between urban and domestic space and how it is reflected in representations of society;
- Sites and places as recurring narrative tropes in contemporary Scandinavian literature and/or in the production of individual writers: urban areas and the periphery, suburbs and rural areas, autobiographical and private spaces, and work places;
- Material and/or immaterial spaces connected to memory, identity, affection, or trauma; the symbolism of space;
- Space as a sense of belonging for some and of rejection and marginalisation for others;
- Eco-critical connotations in encounters and clashes between man and nature, natural landscapes and technology;

- Architecture as an art capable of shaping reality, creating living patterns and making a mark on the material world.

Essays must not exceed 40,000 characters (including spaces) and will be subjected to double peer reviewing. Languages accepted: Italian and English. Style sheet available at <https://www.rivistacostellazioni.org/normeredazionali>

Please send your proposal (in English or Italian) to: annamaria.segala@uniroma1.it, camilla.storskog@unimi.it, and wegener@acdan.it

Deadlines: Abstracts must be submitted by 15 July 2020. Notifications will be sent by 31 July 2020. Essays are to be submitted by 11 November 2021.