

Introduction¹

Space, Semiotics & Cognition

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The double volume is devoted to the cognitive and morphological aspects of space. It is undoubtedly a powerful contribution to the development of new space grammars.

Most of our social, intellectual and sensory experiences, from the most elementary to the most elaborate, are in fact linked to a lived space (where to meet the other, to flee danger, to seize an object, to feed, to observe a phenomenon?). It was therefore necessary to examine the perceptual interactions between the subject and his environment, and to observe how the situational and eventual spaces thus created become the epistemic support of knowledge and experience, and to focus on questions like: does physical space, especially in what is perceived visually, has the same structure as the social, territorial space, or that of our abstractions? How are the fabricated spaces - theatrical, fictional, pictorial, sculptural, architectural, ... - the expression of our spatial imaginary? What is the contribution of a cognitive semiotics to the understanding of the spatial meaning and its visual hypostases? How have the new modalities of seeing led to the evolution of semiotic functions?

If the cognitivist currents have spectacularly nourished semiotics, the remarkable methodological advances are also attributable to the morphological approach, which has proved itself effective in fields as diverse as biology, mathematics, urban planning, dynamics analysis systems in the social sciences, history or philosophy of art.

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