Amerikanische Sprache und Literatur

"With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility":
The Language of Superheroes in American Cinema and Society

The opening quotation of this lecture-series title is taken from Sam Raimi’s 2002 film Spider-Man. The quote originally appeared in the Marvel Comics anthology Amazing Fantasy (1962), and has occurred so often in dialogue from the Spider-Man franchise that it has come to be known as the Peter Parker Principle. What makes it special in Raimi’s 2002 film is its prominent framing within the rhetoric of patriotism. Released less than a year after the World Trade Center attacks in New York City, Raimi’s film is punctuated throughout by patriotic language and imagery. From this perspective, the film takes on an ideological quality that appears to be in accord with its historical contexts. Under the assumption that films act as a mirror to society, this lecture series presents three paradigms for thinking about negotiations of identity as ideologically situated within the dynamic flows of material history and social sensibility. The Freudian Paradigm will consider the superhero’s struggle for self-articulation relative to urban modernity. The Crisis Paradigm will explore cinematic superhero identity within the legacy of cold-war policy, mass-media technologies and the post-9/11 moment. The Cultural Paradigm examines the superhero in the era of post-media digitality, social inclusion and multiplicity.

Dozent: Dr. Scott Loren, Lehrbeauftragter für Englisch, Universität St. Gallen

Mittwoch, 18.15 bis 19.45 Uhr, Raum HSG 09-114
15.4., 22.4., 29.4., 6.5., 13.5. und 20.5.2020