

«Walter Benjamin reads Mickey Mouse: Cinema, Technology and the Posthuman»

Carlo Salzani, investigador (Vienna)

Abstract:

Like many other intellectuals of his time, Walter Benjamin was fascinated by the phenomenon of the enormous popularity of Mickey Mouse and he used this figure in some of his writings. These texts constitute a “constellation” in which Benjamin puts to the test and evaluates a series of suggestions arising from the context of his writings in the 1930: the question of the body, the Unmensch, the loss of experience, mechanical reproduction, etc. – and, of course, the political implications of the transformation Mickey Mouse represents and stages. These texts are, in turn, also in a constellation with our times, in which we are still faced by the necessity of deactivate the limits separating the organic and the machine, human and animal, female and male, and to invent a new relation between the human, technology and nature and a new social, economic and sexual organization.