

Reading guidelines for Drew Leder, *The Absent Body*: introduction, chapter 1

Read Leder's introduction (pp. 1-8). How does Leder characterise his overall goal in this book?

Chapter 1 "The Ecstatic Body"

1. On page 13 Leder introduces the concept of the nullpoint (*Nullpunkt*). What is this concept, and what does it help to explain?
2. What is "from-to analysis" (p. 16) and how does it connect to the notion of a nullpoint?
3. How does Leder use the term "ecstatic"?
4. Explain how Leder uses and distinguishes the terms *absence*, *focal disappearance*, and *background disappearance*.
5. What is a *complemental series* and in what contexts does Leder use the concept?
6. What is *incorporation*?

Chapter 2 "The Recessive Body"

1. What is Leder's overall goal in chapter 2?
2. Briefly summarise Leder's account of the three features that structure the *interoceptive* field—*qualitative reduction*, *spatial ambiguity*, and *spatiotemporal discontinuity*. Give an example of each.
3. "It can...", "I must...", "I cannot..." Complete each of these phrases as Leder implies.
4. What is *depth disappearance*, and how does it contrast with *focal disappearance* and *background disappearance*?
5. How does Leder use the term "recessive"?
6. What alternative complemental series does Leder introduce?
7. What role does the concept of *temporal depth* play in Leder's analysis?
8. In concluding this chapter, how does Leder seek to supplement Merleau-Ponty's analysis of the lived body?

To think about: do you share Leder's representation of lived experience? If not, does this constitute an "objection" to an "argument," or a different kind of critical engagement with the text?