

Einladung an alle Studierenden

Colonialism as Atmosphere in *Tabu* and *The Murmuring Coast*

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This paper will look at *Tabu* (Miguel Gomes, 2012) and *The Murmuring Coast* (*A costa dos murmúrios*, Margarida Cardoso, 2004) as instances where the indictment of colonialism emerges from the gaps between the different layers of reality and between these and the concurring narrative media utilised. The story is told from the point of view of split subjectivities who are at pains in recognising themselves in their memories of the Portuguese colonial actions in Africa. In *Tabu*, memories appear in the form of allegories and parables of legendary tales, such as *One Thousand and One Nights* and *Robinson Crusoe*, which reconstruct the coloniser as a suicidal explorer changed into a crocodile. This in turn is revealed to be the subject of a film within a film that clashes against the parodic use of music and voiceover commentary. Equally, in *The Murmuring Coast*, the first-person voiceover commentary addresses herself in the third person, like a reflection in a broken mirror, whose crack makes room for the return of the repressed, in the form of the corpses of murdered Mozambicans washed up on the beach, amongst other gruesome imagery. The paper will focus on the ways in which these narrative strategies rely on the creation of atmosphere in order to convey meaning.

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