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Stefania Sini, Carlo Alessandro Caccia
Università of Piemonte Orientale (UPO), Vercelli (Italy)

The yellow teeth of the soul: for a personological phenomenology of Gibson's Neuromancer

Since its publication, William Gibson's *Neuromancer* has received various readings through different theoretical approaches, from neo-Marxism to Psychoanalysis, from Posthuman to Accelerationism. This paper intends to propose an alternative philosophical reading to these perspectives, which moves from the stylistic structure and the formal strategies of the novel. Through the tools offered by the recent theories of literary character (Arrigo Star, Enrico Testa, Francis Berthelot), we will dwell on *Wintermute* and *Neuromancer* as "personae" whose deeds and states of consciousness configure "lived experiences" that can be phenomenologically described. Their being personae is conflictually intertwined with their status of existence as artificial intelligence. We will analyse this conflict in the light of the coexistence within them of "subjectivity of data" and "subjectivity of states" (Roberta De Monticelli). Precisely in the light of this concrescence, in the spectrum of experiences staged by the Gibsonian plot, a path emerges that can be assimilated to a sort of paradoxical *Bildungsroman* embodied by the two figures of the child *Neuromancer* and the adult *Wintermute*, complementary and superimposed in a passive/imaginative synthesis (Edmund Husserl, Giovanni Piana). The destination of this *Bildung*, more than the *Übermensch* or more than the Singularity as divine hypostasis, seem to us the conquest of irony, the serious-comic gaze on the cosmos, and an embodied creatural principle (Mikhail Bakhtin, Erich Auerbach). Through the cyberpunk re-use of multiple *topoi* of the literary tradition, Gibson proposes a still fruitful reflection on the relationship between individuality and intelligence. From the cages of formalization and dualism, we see the profile of the soul freeing itself.

Stefania Sini is Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Italian Literature at the Università of Piemonte Orientale (UPO), Vercelli. Her researches concentrate on Literary criticism, Theory of Literature, and Philosophy of literature. She has published works on Giambattista Vico (*Figure vichiane. Retorica e topica della "Scienza nuova"*, 2005), Mikhail Bakhtin (*Michail Bachtin. Una critica del pensiero dialogico*, 2011), Russian Formalism, in particular Boris Eikhenbaum (*Contrasti di forme. Boris Eichenbaum teorico della letteratura*, 2018). She has founded and is Editor in chief of "Enthymema, international journal of literary theory, criticism and philosophy" (<http://riviste.unimi.it/index.php/enthymema>).

Carlo Alessandro Caccia is Graduate Student at the Master Course in Modern, Classical and Comparative Philology, at the University of Eastern Piedmont (Vercelli). His researches concentrate on Literary criticism, Theory of Literature, and Philosophy of literature, with particular regard to the phenomenology of imagination. He is going to publish a monograph around Antoine Volodine's aesthetics.