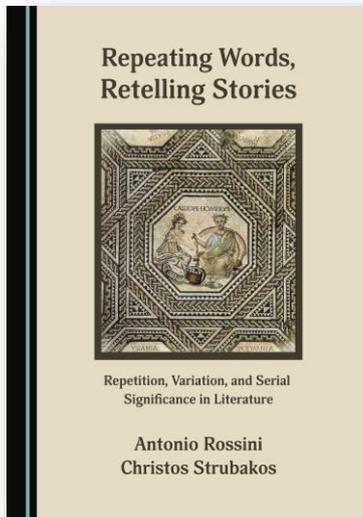


Repeating Words, Retelling Stories

Repetition, Variation, and Serial Significance in Literature

By Antonio Rossini and Christos Strubakos



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Book Description

Often in literary texts, repetition does not only serve the purpose of re-enforcing a concept, but rather, the creation of a new meaning. This may be engendered by contrast, gradation, and ‘correction.’ This book explores examples from Homer, where repetition is intertwined with the very fabric of Early Greek Poetry, Virgil, and Ovid. An appendix dedicated to irony shows how even this rhetorical figure can be considered a special case of negative repetition. The book also provides a review of recent literature on neuro-cognitive science, attesting to how repetition is unavoidably a staple feature of any text.

From the Preface

“Rossini and Strubakos step beyond the attention to proximity to explore ways in which the repetition of word or image is distributed within texts, across texts and between texts. This has consequences for how we determine meaning and significance. If we want to interpret a text, it is not enough to let the eye track the route from word to word, sentence to sentence. We must also recall what was said before, and even what was said elsewhere. Authors, Rossini and Strubakos suggest, understand this, and deliberately construct their texts employing strategies of repetition and seriality in order to facilitate both the recovery of meaning and its enhancement. Reading is an exercise in memory, it depends on recognizing traces and “hearing” echoes. What Rossini and Strubakos bring to light, benefitting from the insights of brain research, are specific rhetorical strategies that assist memory, those imperfect processes that require so many aids.” (p. xiv-xvi)

- **Dr Christopher Tindale**

About the Authors

Dr Antonio Rossini is a Professor and the Head of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at the University of Windsor, Canada. His interests range from Classical to Mediaeval literature and from General Linguistics to Argumentation Studies.

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Repeating Words, Retelling Stories: Repetition, Variation, and Serial Significance in Literature is available now in Hardback from the Cambridge Scholars [website](#), where you can also access a free [30-page sample](#).

