



The Semantics of Media (Studies in Linguistics and Philosophy)

J. Ross

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Media are objects with content and character that we describe using in- phrases: *in the story, in the picture, in the movie, in the dream...* Like the propositional attitudes, these objects present a variety of hard problems for semantic and philosophical analysis. *The Semantics of Media* is an organized exploration of fundamental questions in the semantics of media.

The first three chapters set out a straightforward model within the possible-worlds framework, and consider how it might account for a range of notions applying to media generally: implicit vs. explicit content, propositional vs. individual content, causal vs. intentional content and the idea of a single World of the Medium.

The final three chapters examine ways of elaborating the model to cover a range of phenomena keyed to the functionality of particular forms of media. Chapter Four is a discussion of fiction and our apparent reference to fictional characters. Chapter Five deals with the phenomenon of viewpoint in pictorial media. Chapter Six is a study of interactions between users and characters of media centering on the puzzling case of *seeing in films*.

The Semantics of Media will be of interest to specialists in the fields of linguistics, philosophy and communications.

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