

Body and Metaphor

Narrative-Based Metaphor Analysis in Medical Humanities (2017-2020)

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Metaphors are ubiquitous in

- science communication and medicine
- literary texts
- everyday speech

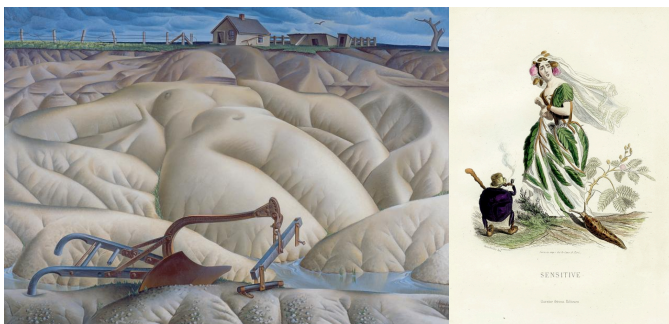
Function of metaphors:

- familiarize (explain a complex, elusive, abstract 'thing')
- defamiliarize (surprise, make strange, provide a fresh access; a resource to rethink and reimagine)

Modus operandi: comparison, a "carrying over" from source to target domain

Metaphors in medicine and psychotherapy are a double-edged sword: They are

- fraught with cultural meaning, values and norms
- spaces of agency and resistance



Woman-as-land and woman-as-flower in Alexandre Hogue's "Erosion No 2, Mother Earth Laid Bare" (1936) and J.J. Grandville's *Les Fleurs Animées* (1867)

To describe the nature of the female body and women's role in society (1850-1950), women have been compared to a range of source domains (e.g., plants, land, ships).

- ✧ How do women writers activate the ambiguous meanings of metaphors as spaces of agency?
- ✧ How do they rethink stereotypical, limiting metaphors?
- ✧ How can narrative theory be used to analyze metaphors?

Authors to be studied: Willa Cather, Rebecca Harding Davis, Nella Larsen, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Ellen Glasgow, Kate Chopin, etc.



Woman-as-prisoner and woman-as-shipwreck in *Birth Control Review*, Nov. 1923 and Dec 1928



Woman-as-vine in Frida Kahlo's "Roots" (1943)