
Heine's absent presence plays a curiously ignored role in the history of the Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School. While the trajectory of Heine suggestively resonates with that of Critical Theory, both literary criticism and Critical Theory have remained resistant to exploring their affinities as if Heine's critical role in the formation of Critical Theory were still a taboo. Examining the various types of Heine reception in Löwenthal, Horkheimer, Adorno, and others along with that in Arendt point to a constellation with a critical dialectic that suggests, as Adorno did, the need to "reappraise" Heine.

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