

Dolphijn, Rick, University of Utrecht, Netherlands

“I get a sub city”: Murakami’s Nakata Feels Urbanity

In his celebrated novel *Kafka on the Shore* Japanese writer Haruki Murakami introduces us to Saturo Nakata, a curious character who, though able to communicate with cats, is unable to read or write and has a polite yet very naive and simple way of expressing himself. Of particular interest is his sense of space and the way this allows him to feel the city. Not bothered by a (n Oedipal) history or goal, Nakata shows us space in its most affective state. This paper will explore Nakata and how he relates to Kafka, but also the Hegelian rule of Colonel Sanders, the Cruelty of Johnnie Walker, and the love of Hoshina, the truck driver upon whom Nakata makes a lasting impression. It is according to the relations between these characters that Murakami reveals us ‘another’ or a ‘wholly other’ spatiality, as Deleuze would name it: a topological instead of a geometrical one.