Imagination, Desire, and Rationality

Proponents of imaginative desires argue that the best explanation of our affective responses to fiction involves imaginative desires and accounts that do not invoke imaginative desires imply that consumers of fiction have irrational desires. I argue against both of these claims. There are serious worries about imaginative desires that warrant skepticism about the adequacy of the account. Moreover, it is quite difficult to articulate general principles of rationality for desires, and even according to the most plausible of these possible principles, desires about fiction are not irrational. These two arguments serve to undermine the abductive argument for imaginative desires.

Studierende und andere Interessierte sind herzlich willkommen.