In the Company of Ghosts
Hauntology, Ethics, Digital Monsters

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‘In the Company of Ghosts’ explores French philosopher Jacques Derrida’s ‘hauntology’ through the lens of digital monsters and feminist theory.

Hauntology - a pun on ‘ontology’ and ‘haunting’ - offers an ethics based on responsibility towards that which cannot be said to fully exist, yet has an effect on our everyday lives nonetheless. Like the figure of the ghost, such undecidable existences are neither absent nor present, here nor gone, of the past or the future. In other words: they haunt.

By engaging with hauntology through contemporary stories of digital monsters - such as The Curious Case of Smile.jpg, Welcome to Night Vale and Mushroom Land TV - the thesis discusses how such troubling hauntings might be imagined, and what it means to think an ethics based on responsibility towards the undecidable. In this way, the thesis brings together hauntology and digital media, arguing that thinking with and through the figure of the ghost as well as the digital monster may lead to different and critical ways of imagining both the world and ethics.

There is no curse inside this book.
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