

Call for Papers

Literaturkontakte – Texte, Kulturen, Märkte



Freiburg, 14th & 15th July 2017

A cooperation between the Faculty of Philology at the University of Freiburg
and Literaturbüro Freiburg

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<http://literaturkontakte.jimdo.com>

Bodo Kirchhoff's novel *Widerfahrnis* tells the love story of a retired publisher and a former owner of a hat shop, who embark on a road trip to Sicily. After meeting a young refugee in Catania, the couple is suddenly confronted with the harsh realities of the outside world. They want to help, but soon the question arises whether their decision is motivated by philanthropic desires or egoism. It seems significant that Kirchhoff was rewarded this year's prestigious German Book Prize; his novel shows how literature responds to global concerns such as the refugee crisis and establishes moments of contact as well as confrontation between different cultures.

Moments of literary contact such as these are subject of our graduate conference, which will be held on 14th and 15th July 2017 at Literaturbüro Freiburg. We use a broad definition of the concept 'literary contacts', which usually designates a process of exchange between two or more national literatures. Broadening this perspective, the conference will address 1) moments of contact between literary texts of different cultural origins; 2) the literary representation of contact between different cultural spaces and 3) moments of contact between literary texts and their 'intermediaries' such as translators and publishers within the literature industry. A joint reflection of the three dimensions, both in a diachronic and synchronic perspective in literature of the 20th and 21st century, offers great potential for scholarly debate. The conference will act as a forum for young researchers as well as cultural agents such as publishers and translators. By organizing panels and round table discussions, our aim is to encourage a productive interdisciplinary exchange of thoughts and perspectives between scholars and agents in the cultural sphere.

1. Contact between literary texts of different cultural origins

In light of globalization and its concomitant effects on our societies, we can observe an increased preoccupation on the side of both authors and literary scholars with moments of contact between texts of different cultural origins. Using intertextuality or postcolonial practices such as rewriting or polyphony, authors increasingly offer a critical analysis of canonical Western narratives, thereby revealing gaps in the traditional canon or Eurocentric worldviews. We welcome submissions dealing critically with writing practices such as intertextuality, polyphony or rewriting, which authors use to represent processes of contact and/or confrontation between (national) literatures.

2. Contact between cultural spaces in literary texts

Since the *spatial turn* in the 1980s, there has been an increasing concentration on questions of place and space in literary studies. According to Juri Lotman, humans conceptualize space by thinking in oppositions, such as inside/outside, above/below, proximity/distance, home/abroad and centre/periphery. How does literature represent these dichotomies? Furthermore, how do literary works use these spatial relations to construct notions of identity and alterity? Of particular interest are also the dynamics of border crossings in travel literature or migrant literature. We invite prospective speakers to address the interrelationship between space and concepts of identity and alterity as well as the representation of cultural border crossings and intermediary spaces resulting from this process.

3. Contact between texts and cultural agents in the literature industry

Which marketing strategies do publishers develop to ensure the cross-cultural circulation of literature? Which criteria lead to the translation of a work of literature and how do translators adapt a text to a new cultural context? We welcome submissions discussing topics such as the role of translators as intermediaries between two cultures, marketing strategies used to ensure the cross-cultural circulation of literature or the function of international literary awards. The conference addresses the cross-cultural circulation of literature both on the level of production (i.e. translations and marketing strategies) and on the level of the reception of foreign literature.

The conference will take place on 14th and 15th July 2017 at Literaturbüro Freiburg. We encourage both undergraduate and doctoral students from a variety of disciplines (European and Non-European Literature Studies, Comparative Literature Studies, Film and Media

Studies and Cultural Studies) to apply. Prospective speakers are invited to submit abstracts of approximately 300 words. Submissions should include a short biography of the author. Applications are to be send to literaturkontakte@germanistik.uni-freiburg.de by February 28, 2017. Speakers will be notified of acceptance by mid-March 2017. Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes. A small conference fee of 15 Euros will be charged to all participants.

For further information visit our homepage <http://literaturkontakte.jimdo.com> or contact the organizing committee at literaturkontakte@germanistik.uni-freiburg.de.