

CoHLIT-21 Berlin Seminar, 9-10 March 2022, ZfL

The next seminar of the [CoHLIT-21 consortium](#) is dedicated to German literature since 2000 and will take place (in a hybrid format) on 9-10 March, 2022 under the auspices of [ZfL Berlin](#).

The Holocaust and the catastrophe of WWII played a central role in the historical narrative/s that influenced the creation of German collective memory in the 20th century. In 1989 the reunification of Germany shifted this memory in various, to some extent contradictory directions, in which old and new issues regarding perpetrators vs. victims, as well as questions of guilt, suffering and shame, gained dominance in the German historical narrative. Aleida Assmann described what she called "the emotionalizing of history" and showed how personal testimonies became a central element in the formation of the German historical narrative. This is also demonstrated in the realm of German literature that was associated with a "new paradigm".

Since the turn of the 21st century, German literature writes and rewrites historical events connected to the Holocaust and WWII into a larger narrative of the German twentieth century. What can we learn from looking at these literary repertoires (for children, young adults and adults) from a comparative multicultural and multilingual perspective?

Possible themes for lectures and workshop presentations (no longer than 30 minutes) include, but are not limited to:

- A shift (post-2000 literature) in the poetic representation of the Holocaust?
- Emergence of new literary genres in dealing with Holocaust memories
- Representational modes: intertextuality and multimodality, including the influence of recent technologies and new performative platforms
- The role of institutions, including pedagogical and educational programs, museums and monuments connected to books and literature
- Poetic representations of perpetrators, victims, bystanders
- Migration and refugees, gender, conflicting memories and contesting narratives
- Transgenerational controversy and public debates on literary Holocaust memory

In view of the comparatist and multilingual scope of the CoHLIT-21 project, we particularly welcome proposals that connect the German context with cases taken from contemporary Russian, Polish, Hebrew, American-English and Dutch-language literature. If you are interested in presenting in this seminar, please send a short proposal to Vivian Liska (vivian.liska@uantwerpen.be) and Michal Ben-Horin (michal.ben-horin@biu.ac.il). For all practical matters (travel, accommodation, ...), please get in touch with Jan Morrens (jan.morrens@uantwerpen.be).

Confirmed speakers include Prof. Dr. Silke Horstkotte (Universität Leipzig) and Dr. Hadassah Stichnothe (Universität Bremen).

The deadline for paper proposals is February 11, 2022.

The organizers: Prof. Vivian Liska (University of Antwerp), Prof. Kris Van Heuckelom (KU Leuven), Prof. Michal Ben-Horin (Bar-Ilan University), Dr. Matthias Schwartz (ZfL)

(A) Adults' Literature

Primary Sources

1. Jenny Erpenbeck: *Heimsuchung*, (ENG: Visitation), 2008
2. Benjamin Stein: *Die Leinwand* (ENG: The Canvas), 2010
3. Katja Petrowskaja: *Vielleicht Esther* (ENG: Maybe Esther: A Family Story), 2014

Additional reading

1. Iris Hanika: *Das Eigentliche* (ENG: Bureau of Past Management, 2020), 2010
2. Eva Menasse: *Dunkelbaum*, 2021
3. Robert Schindel: *Dunkelstein. Eine Realfarce*, 2010

Secondary Sources

1. Erin McGlothlin and Jennifer Kapczynski (eds.): *Persistent Legacy: The Holocaust and German Studies*, Rochester: Camden House, 2016.
2. Maria Roca Lizarazu: *Renegotiating Postmemory: The Holocaust in Contemporary German-Language Jewish Literature*, Rochester: Camden House, 2020.

Additional Reading

1. Torben Fischer, Philipp Hammermeister, and Sven Kramer (eds.): *Der Nationalsozialismus und die Shoah in der deutschsprachigen Gegenwartsliteratur* Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2014
2. Kirstin Frieden, *Neuverhandlungen des Holocaust. Mediale Transformationen des Gedächtnisparadigmas*, Bielefeld, 2014.

(B) Children's and Young Adults' Literature

Primary Sources

1. Reinhard Kleist: *Der Boxer. Die wahre Geschichte des Hertzko Haft* (ENG: The Boxer) 2012
2. David Safier: *28 Tage lang* (ENG: 28 Days), 2014
3. Pei-Yu Chang: *Der geheimnisvolle Koffer des Herrn Benjamin* (ENG: Mr. Benjamin's Suitcase of Secrets) 2017

Additional Reading

1. Eva Lezzi: *Beni, Oma und ihr Geheimnis* (ENG: Beni's and Grandma's Secret), 2010.
2. Mirjam Pressler: *Die Zeit der schlafenden Hunde* (ENG: Let Sleeping Dogs Lie), 2003.
3. Anne C. Voorhoeve: *Liverpool Street* (ENG: My Family for the War), 2007.
4. Robert Domes: *Nebel im August* (ENG: Fog in August), 2008.

Secondary Sources

1. Zohar Shavit: *A Past Without Shadow: Constructing the Past in German Books for Children*. [1999] New York, London: Routledge 2005. [excerpt]
2. Michael Wermke: Cold and Hot Memory: Remembering the Holocaust in Young People's Literature. In: von Glasenapp, Gabriele und Wilkending und Gisela (eds.): *Geschichte und Geschichten: Die Kinder- und Jugendliteratur und das kulturelle und politische Gedächtnis*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2005, pp. 163-173
3. Ada Bieber: Voices from the Interior: Reimagining Childhood under Janusz Korczak's Care. *Lion and the Unicorn*, Volume 42, Number 3, September 2018, pp 321-337.

4. Daniel Feldman: Address Unknown: German Children's Literature about Refugees. *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, Volume 45:2, Summer 2020, pp. 124-144.

Additional Reading

1. Birkmeyer, Jens: Erinnern ohne Erinnerungen? Der Holocaust im Literaturunterricht. In: *ide* 39 (2015) 2, pp. 29-37.
2. Gabriele Von Glasenapp (ed.): *Kriegs- und Nachkriegskindheiten: Studien zur literarischen Erinnerungskultur für junge Leser*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2008.
3. Kümmerling-Meibauer, Bettina: Zwischen faktuellem und fiktionalem Erzählen: Die Darstellung des Kindertransports in den Jugendromanen von Rainer M. Schröder, Annika Thor und Anne C. Voorhoeve In: *Der Deutschunterricht* 71(2019) 6, pp.63-72.
4. Merten, Thomas: „Fortschreiben in der Adaption. Reinhard Kleists *Der Boxer*. Die wahre Geschichte des Hertzko Haft (2012)“. *Die Shoah im Comic seit 2000: Erinnern zeichnen*. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter 2021, pp. 271-313.
5. Steinlein, Rüdiger: Judenverfolgung und Holocaust in neuerer und neuester KJL. In: *Der Deutschunterricht* (2012) 4, pp. 24-34.