

ENGLISCHE ABSTRACTS

ELIZA SZYMAŃSKA: On the Road – on the Narrative Strategy of (Double) Intercultural Mediation in Radek Knapp’s *Gebrauchsanweisung für Polen* and Adam Soboczynski’s *Polski Tango. Eine Reise durch Deutschland und Polen*

Travel guides and travelogues that are explicitly aimed at transferring knowledge about one country (or a city, a region or similar) to the inhabitants of another are a relevant example of the application of intercultural mediation as a possible narrative strategy. Using a comparative approach, this article shows how Radek Knapp’s literary travel guide *Gebrauchsanweisung für Polen* (2017) and Adam Soboczynski’s travelogue *Polski Tango. Eine Reise durch Deutschland und Polen* (2016) apply the strategy of intercultural (double) mediation biographically, identity- and experience-related, on the one hand to transport knowledge about one country to the inhabitants of the other, and on the other hand to work through the questions about one’s own identity that arise in the context of migration. It is particularly interesting to analyse how the two authors position themselves within the two countries as possible figures of identification.

Keywords: travel writing, narrative strategies, intercultural mediation, Radek Knapp, Adam Soboczynski

NADĚŽDA HEINRICOVÁ: Eugen Ruge’s Journeys and His Attempt at an ‘Approach’ to the Foreign

The paper deals with Eugen Ruge’s travel writing presented in his book *Annäherung, Notizen aus 14 Ländern* (2015). These notes were written during his two research trips for his debut novel *In Zeiten des abnehmenden Lichtes* (2011) and during short international reading trips to which he was invited immediately after the success of this novel. The study of Ruge’s notes focuses in particular on the function of his recurring family history, which becomes the impetus for the first two journeys and is further expanded by these journeys. Another focus will be on Ruge’s approach to the foreign and on the confrontation with the Other(s) (travellers), with the process of globalisation with regard to possible discrepancies on the level of development of individual countries, as well as with the phenomenon of mass tourism.

Keywords: journey, approach, the Other, family history, Eugen Ruge

URSULA KLINGENBÖCK: „so ein schreibttisch ist eine ideale kopfbedeckung.“ Ilse Kilic and Fritz Widhalm’s living.room.journeys

The article explores contemporary travel using the example of Ilse Kilic’s and Franz Widhalm’s *Reise in 80 Tagen durch das Wohnzimmer. Eine Fest- und Forschrift*

(2004). For an understanding of ‘space’ and ‘journey/s’, reference is made to the concept of the “RaumZeitRelativ” (LÖW/STURM 2019: 16f., “SpaceTimeRelative”). The focus is on the travelled space and its conception, but also on travelling as a practice that constitutes space. (Found) things and their order play an essential role in this process. Through the multiple coding of the ‘(cheerful) living room’ as well as its representation on the basis of different patterns of writing and thinking, the travellers not only gain knowledge about the space-time they have travelled through, but also gain knowledge about themselves.

Keywords: travel, space, travel writing, Austrian literature, Ilse Kilic, Fritz Widhalm

ISABELL SCHIRRA: First Fatherland, Then Motherland: Christian Kracht’s Literary Journeys through ‘Traumaland’

In his novels, Christian Kracht uses the motif of the journey to work through the memory of repressed German war guilt. In *Faserland* (1995), the journey through Germany opens up a space of experience for the repressed war guilt manifested as a collective trauma; in *Eurotrash* (2021), the journey through the neutral space of Switzerland develops a process of coming to terms with and purifying this very guilt.

Keywords: journey, trauma, memory work, National Socialism, identity, Christian Kracht

VINCENZA SCUDERI: A Flâneur Between Space and Time: Josef Winkler’s *Leichnam, seine Familie belauernd*

Winkler’s collection of short narratives, *Leichnam, seine Familie belauernd* (2003), is written from the perspective of travel: The episodes come from different spatial and temporal moments in the life of the first-person narrator. In this constellation, the term geography refers primarily to perceptions and feelings across borders. In line with De Certeau, it can be argued that in *Leichnam*, “[t]he space [...] is a mesh of moving elements”: A memory is enough to transform one city into another. The transitory in Winkler’s “hyper-modern world” (Augé) is a space for flâneurs who travel the whole world as if it were a city.

Keywords: flâneur, literary miniature, transit spaces, heterotopias, Josef Winkler

NISHANT K. NARAYANAN: A Journey into the Realm of the Body: Between the Dead and the Living in Josef Winkler’s *Domra*

The article is about the perceptions of the Other and oneself within the framework of the body in *Domra – am Ufer des Ganges* (2000) by Josef Winkler. Winkler travels to the Hindu pilgrimage site of Varanasi, which is considered a holy place by Hindus. The cremation on the banks of the river Ganges signifies redemption for the dead.

There, at the ghats on the banks of the river Ganges, Winkler records in writing and in photos the people, both the dead and the living, and their dealings with the dead. The article discusses the perception of the Other and the self when travelling, focusing on the different ways of representing the bodies of people and animals. This aspect is discussed in relation to Wolfgang Müller Funk's *Theorie des Fremden* (2016), focusing on the fluid and dynamic conceptualisations of the Other and the self. The contribution also analyses how these terms are deployed in Winkler's work to highlight the multi-layered relationships between Winkler's memories of deaths in his homeland, his interest in India in relation to the theme of death and religions, and travel and writing as links between these diverse points of departure.

Keywords: body, Carinthia, Varanasi, India, death, dead, Josef Winkler

RAMONA PELLEGRINO: Multilingual Forms of Representation of the Chronotopos of Encounter in Fictional Journeys: Examples from Saša Stanišić's *Fallensteller*

The article is about how the chronotopos of encounter (or the chronotopic motif of encounter) is linguistically represented in travel writing. Selected stories from the 2016 collection *Fallensteller* by the German author of Bosnian origin Saša Stanišić will serve as an example, as these texts describe different travel experiences that play a central role in the plot. The contribution explores the question of how the interaction between the protagonists and the characters they encounter during their journey is realised from a linguistic point of view, in particular, which forms of multilingualism emerge in the process.

Keywords: Chronotopos, manifest/latent multilingualism, encounter in travel writing, Saša Stanišić

BEN DITTMANN: Journeys from/as/to the Text – The Detour to Foreignness in Marion Poschmann's *Die Kieferninseln*

Using Marion Poschmann's travel novel *Die Kieferninseln* (2017) as an example, this article examines the intertwining of travel and texts and their significance for experiences of foreignness. First, with reference to Lévinas, I will discuss the fact that experiences of foreignness do not automatically arise with every journey. Instead, the article examines the functions of texts as a condition for the possibility of foreignness: texts channel the traveller's perception – which is illustrated by Deleuze's and Guattari's concept of notching as a rasterisation of the country travelled through by punctual markings – and they charge these notches with meanings. This creates a basis for the confrontation that affects the traveller's arbitrary attributions of meaning. The confrontation with prior meaning is finally explored as the basis of iterative negotiation processes between texts.

Keywords: travelling, text, textuality, Otherness, Guattari, intertextuality, Marion Poschmann

MELANIE SCHNEIDER: „Alles wurde zäh, jede Bewegung, jeder Gedanke.“ The Impact of Depression on Travel and Narrative Movement in Bov Bjerg’s Road Novel *Serpentinen*

In his work *Serpentinen* (2020), Bov Bjerg shows us the dark side of the road novel: Höppner’s journey into his own past and the associated attempt at late identity construction are overshadowed by depression. The illness dominates his thoughts and actions throughout the novel: The thought process characteristic of the road novel, which is usually realised by breaking out of rigid everyday life and in the symbolic form of being on the road, is rendered difficult by depressive phases. The impact of the depression – inner restlessness, the fear and anger it triggers – manifests itself in the travel and narrative movement in the text. Both illustrate Höppner’s struggle with depression to construct a possible identity.

Keywords: Road Novel, depression, travel movement, narrative movement, Bov Bjerg

ELENI GEORGOPOULOU: ‘Daughters on the Move.’ Playing with travel modulations in the novel *Töchter* by Lucy Fricke

The article traces the author’s play with different forms of travel that characterise the journey in her novel *Töchter* (2019). Thus, in the modulation of the adventure journey, which extends over the first part of the novel, the protagonists’ previous lives are critically negotiated. In the second part of the novel the prospect of a solution to this problematic life seems possible in the formation of the pilgrimage. Eventually, in the modulation of the initiation journey, the process towards a new phase of life is enabled. The depiction of the respective modulation of the journey oscillates between pragmatism and parody and critically illustrates the burden of inheritance of a generation of daughters, which is ostensibly rooted in the vacancy of the father figure, but behind the scenes is entangled with the refusal to grow up.

Keywords: Adventure journey, pilgrimage, initiation, Lucy Fricke

NICOLA KOPF: Topographies of Standstill: Post-apocalyptic Wanderings in Thomas Lehr’s *42*

The article examines Thomas Lehr’s novel *42*, published in 2005, in the context of catastrophic discourses of mobility and acceleration and focuses on a topography of temporal stasis sketched out in it, which comes into view in the mode of a post-apocalyptic journey. The text is read as a statement on the present, in which standstill

and catastrophe combine to create a revealing form of representation and make visible the dynamics of stasis that shape both plot and form.

Keywords: Post-apocalypse, catastrophe, acceleration, standstill, im/mobility, space, time, Thomas Lehr

ANNABELLE JÄNCHEN: “Hier in der heimischen Fremde” – the East in intercultural family novels

The article deals with the question of a new role of the European ‘East’ in contemporary, intercultural family novels, which increasingly focus on the return to places that play an important role in a family’s memory or are even perceived as home. This return provokes a strong transformation of the characters and becomes the turning point of the narrative. A particular focus of this contribution is therefore on the crossing of the border between ‘West’ and ‘East’. It shows that the border, which Marc Augé categorised in 1994 as a meaningless ‘non-place’ and Lars Wilhelmer, in contrast, as a meaningful ‘transit place’, has become one of the most important leitmotifs in contemporary literature. Novels by Dmitrij Kapitelman, Veia Kaiser and Dana Grigorcea serve to illustrate my thesis.

Keywords: intercultural family novels, border, Eastern Europe, return, Dmitrij Kapitelman, Veia Kaiser, Dana Grigorcea