

EXOTICISM AND EMPIRE IN CONTEMPORARY GERMAN LITERATURE

Contemporary German literature is characterised by a new multiculturalism, influenced by authors from various ethnic backgrounds writing in German. My project will examine how far this can be seen to represent a new paradigm for inter-cultural exchanges in the post-'9/11' world. My research entails identifying fiction, travel literature and film produced since 1989, which engages with the German experience of Empire in Africa and elsewhere or which is set in post-colonial 'exotic' locations, such as India, the Caribbean, or South America.



I will explore how it differs from left-wing representations of the 1960s and 1970s which tended to identify with 'Third World' liberation struggles or imposed a Western imprint on African reality. I will also draw, where appropriate, on directly imperialist material from the Wilhelmine era and attempt to establish the contemporary relevance in the 'Berlin Republic' of the representation of Empire and the encounters between cultures in these works.

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