

GERMAN TEXT CRIMES

WRITERS ACCUSED, 1950–2010



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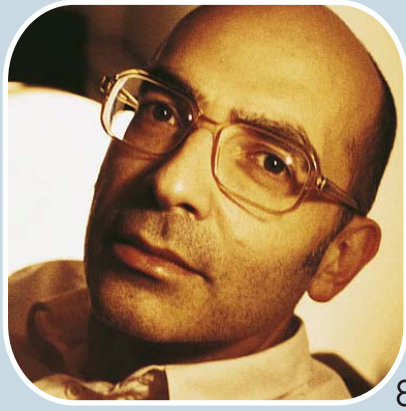
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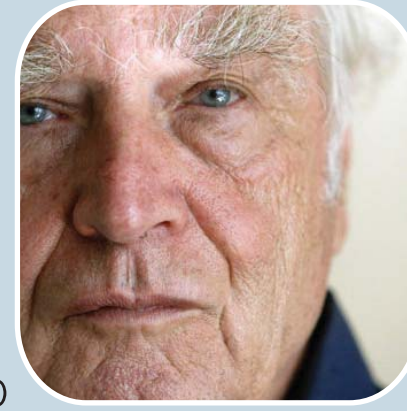
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This research project involves five researchers at Swansea and collaborators at the universities of Bath, Leeds, Liverpool, Nottingham, Oxford, St Andrews, Sheffield, and Sussex. A seminar series at Swansea (convened by Prof. Julian Preece) and a day conference will lead to a publication edited by Dr Tom Cheesman, in the German Monitor series (Amsterdam: Rodopi).

Literary scandals have punctuated the post-war period in German-speaking countries. Some writers have been convicted by the courts – in West or East Germany or Austria – on varied counts: treason, falsification of history, anti-Semitism, obscenity, invasion of privacy, plagiarism. Others have been tried for these and other offenses in the court of public opinion.

What do these cases have in common? Did and do writers have a positive duty to commit “text crimes” in order to break public cultural taboos? When are scandals manufactured to create publicity? When do they represent a conservative attempt to silence writers?

1. Martin Heidegger
2. Günter Grass
3. Elfriede Jelinek
4. Charlotte Roche
5. Ingeborg Bachmann
6. Wolf Biermann

7. Bernhard Schlink
8. Maxim Biller
9. Christa Wolf
10. Paul Celan
11. Martin Walser

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Modern Languages

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