

PhD-topic Katja Will

**“Why should I turn back home?”**

**Motifs of return in selected Scandinavian Novels from Romanticism to Contemporary Literature**

The assumption of this research project is that the borders of the own and the other can be reconstructed by looking at texts which deal with return processes at different times. The figure of the returnee is staged as a “disturbing third-party”. The returnee confuses and forces his surroundings to re-negotiate the relation between the own and the other. The confusion is founded in the contradicting perspectives of distance and closeness. The emerging performance force leads to very different strategies of becoming home, which I will try to demonstrate in this research project.