

PhD-topic Pia Wojciechowski

Transcultural Writings: Literary Contextualizations of Historical Borderlands in Polish Literature after 1989.

This PhD project deals with literary imaginations of transcultural spaces in Polish literature of the last two decades. At the centre of attention are fictional and essayistic texts representing Polish cities or regions situated on the western and northern territories of post-Second World War Poland. The basic assumption is that the literary exploration of the German or multiethnic past of such cities as Gdańsk, Szczecin or Wrocław generates conceptualizations of borderlands encompassing historical, geographical and metaphorical dimensions. The transculturality inherent to these imaginative borderlands is diametrically opposed to the idea of an ethnically and culturally homogeneous Poland insisted on by the socialist government until 1989.

The project analyses these writings with regard to aspects of literary topography and interrelations of space and memory. The central concern of the study is the tracing of the characteristics of a superordinate poetics of transcultural writings. For this purpose, literary representations of different geographical areas will be examined from a philological-aesthetic perspective. Furthermore, the study aims at the embedding of these writings into the broader context of literary and cultural developments. Thus, concepts as national literature, regionalization, decentralization and Europeanization will be taken into consideration.