



Call for Applications: Summer School, 22.–29.7.2018: »Genre Trouble – Poetics and Politics of Genres«

Freie Universität Berlin
Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies

Genre labels promise clarity. At the same time, they are subject to the tensions between uniformity and transgression, canonization and exclusion, domestication and emancipation. It is precisely these frictions that make it appealing to employ generic labels, even if these may, at times, seem anachronistic.

Many young researchers come to engage with questions and conceptualizations of genre in their own research projects, both in relation to the texts they examine as well as in their own writing. Through discussions, lectures and workshops, the seven-day *Summer School 2018 Genre Trouble—Poetics and Politics of Genres* will focus on the complexities, contradictions and the heuristic value of literary conceptualizations of genre. Constellations of genre and nation, genre and gender, and genre and class are also relevant in this context.

We open the Summer School with a panel on the **theoretical and the pragmatic aspects of conceptualizing genres**. Genres operate within and beyond research institutions for various purposes. What are the current approaches to determining genre? How flexible are concepts of genre? What methodological and theoretical insights can be gained from such categorizations? And how are notions of genre employed in pursuit of market-oriented strategies (e. g. on the book market, in the cultural sector and in the allocation of funding and prizes)?

In the second panel we look at the **histories of conceptualizing genre**. Here we are not only concerned with the historical development of genres, but also with questions about the interrelations of historical and cultural constellations. Why do demands for poetological debates about terms and concepts of genre increase during specific historical periods, as they did during the Hellenistic age and the Renaissance, and at the turns of the centuries around 1800 and 1900? How can we understand such debates in terms of economic activity? Do social upheavals incite or accelerate the transformation of genres?

In the third panel we discuss the **connection between genres and transition** with a special emphasis on the practice of literary translations and phenomena of cultural translation. A look at (literary) translation could provide its own set of answers to the question of how genres are established, transmitted and subverted. How do genres, for example the novel, travel between different linguistic regions and how are they transformed? How are we informed by intralingual genre transmissions, such as Brecht's *Dreigroschenoper* and the novel *Dreigroschenroman*? Can literary translations, as they traverse the border between an obligation to and an emancipation from the original text, even be understood as genres in their own right?

In the fourth panel we examine **genre considerations within inter- and transmedia(l) research**. Comics, video and computer games, digital and serial text productions, as well as the interrelation between these forms, challenge conceptualizations of genre developed within literary studies. How can transmedia(l) narrative projects be theorized and analyzed? What role does the mediality and materiality play in genre classification?

We will conclude the Summer School with a panel on the genres of **criticism and academic writing**. Argumentative and commentary text forms are particularly oriented towards institutional norms. However, it is precisely here that rhetorical, stylistic, medial and self-reflexive experiments are possible: playful forms of critique can be found in academic texts as well as in literary essays, film essays, performance lectures or other types of artistic research. How are political attitudes expressed without abandoning claims to scholarly research? How do tensions between affective closeness and distance play out in the texts?

The Summer School is open to international doctoral students, postdocs and advanced MA students in literary studies and the humanities who are engaging with questions and conceptualizations of genre as a central part of their research projects. The working languages are German and English. Participants are invited to present their own projects during the Summer School.

KEY DETAIL

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Date | 22 – 29 July 2018 |
| Location | Freie Universität Berlin, Habelschwerdter Allee 45 |
| Organiser | Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies |
| Languages | German and English |
| Participating experts | Federico Italiano (Munich), Paul Keckeis (Vienna), Werner Michler (Salzburg), Wolfgang Müller-Funk (Vienna), Irina Rajewsky (Bochum), Alexandra Richter (Rouen), Ulrike Schneider (Berlin), Nicole Sütterlin (Cambridge/Harvard University), Wilhelm Voßkamp (Cologne), Rüdiger Zymner (Wuppertal), u. a. |
| Participants | max. 30 people |
| Costs | a € 200 fee; the costs for travel and accommodation will be covered by the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School for Literary Studies |
| Application deadline | 31 March 2018 |
| Application | in German or English with a curriculum vitae (tabular, 1 – 2 pages) and letter of motivation (1 – 2 pages) with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• positioning statement – in what ways does your project relate to the question of genre?• description of your interests in and expectations of the Summer School. Please submit your application in one PDF file only. |
| Contact | Jeanette Kördel, j.koerdel@fu-berlin.de |