

**CONTEÚDOS PROGRAMÁTICOS**

**Series of Lectures and PhD-Seminars - October 21-26, 2009**

Concepts, methods and theories, as well as metaphors and narratives, are the tools of academic discourse: Concepts such as ‘genre’, ‘history’, ‘cultural memory’, ‘narration’, ‘performativity’, ‘space’, ‘identity’, and ‘intertextuality’ constitute a common language and enable discussion and exchange between different disciplines as well as between scholars from different national cultures of knowledge. Like metaphors and narratives concepts shape and structure the way in which we discuss literature and culture, order our experiences and knowledge of the world, and greatly contribute to our ways of academic world-making. Rather than being univocal or firmly established, more often than not, the meaning and operational value of concepts, methods, theories, metaphors, and narratives differ between national literatures and cultures as well as between historical periods: They are dynamic and changeable as they travel back and forth between different academic and national contexts. Answering the demands of the time and adhering to paradigms dominant in a specific field of research, their scope of meaning usually changes significantly as the cultural baggage attached to them differs.

Especially in an age of interdisciplinary research, concepts, metaphors, and narratives are ‘on the move’, travelling across different cultural contexts, gaining access to new fields of research while promoting continuous re-negotiation and re-adaptation. What does actually happen when concepts, metaphors, and narratives travel across (disciplinary and national) boundaries? What is the relationship between concepts, metaphors, and narratives in the interdisciplinary contact zone? And which role does literature play in these journeys and in the establishment of newly adapted concepts, metaphors, and narratives?

Based on what Mieke Bal (2002) has felicitously called “travelling concepts”, the series of lectures and seminars pursues three main goals: First, it invites participants to explore and discuss some key concepts, methods and theories in literary and cultural studies; second, it will trace the journeys of concepts, metaphors, and narratives across different boundaries in literary and cultural studies and further explore the challenges and transformations that occur during their literary and cultural transition(s); third it will offer a wide range of literary and cultural examples that illustrate the uses and functions of the concepts, methods and theories, as well as the metaphors and narratives that will be discussed.

Each meeting will be devoted to a particular topic revolving around one or more key concepts. Suggested topics and concepts include:

- „The Development of the Study of Culture in Europe: Travelling Theories, Concepts, Metaphors and Narratives“
- „Writing Literary History: Approaches, Concepts, Recent Developments“
- „Why Genre Theory Matters: Approaches, Concepts, Recent Developments“
- „Cultural Memory Studies: Approaches, Concepts, Recent Developments“

- „Narrativity and Narrative Theory: Approaches, Concepts, Recent Developments“

Participants are invited to address the topic of the series of lectures and seminars by identifying key concepts, metaphors, and narratives which are at the core of their own research projects, tracing the journey of specific concepts, metaphors, and narratives in (historical) case-studies. The theoretical framework of the individual topics and sessions will be provided in keynote lectures, while the seminars will offer ample opportunity to discuss both a wide range of examples and the research projects of the participants.

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