

The body /not/ at home

The workshop on “The body /not/ at home” investigates how film, theatre and literature negotiate bodies that are not ‘at home’ – both in terms of practical reality as well as in a metaphorical sense. In an age of accelerating mobility, which coincides with an increase in refugee populations alongside greater economic and mental insecurity across the board, the proposed topic is of particular socio-political importance and opens up a series of critical questions:

What representations are chosen in literature, art and film to depict these displacements ‘from the inside out’? How are these states of out-of-placeness, homelessness, statelessness and liminality displayed? What kinds of images are evoked when portraying such ‘borderline’-cases? And what happens if, even after death, a body can’t find peace or, more aptly in this context, can’t find its way ‘back home’? Maybe the dramatically growing interest in vampires, zombies and other undead creatures is linked to this impossibility of identifying and locating oneself in this unstable world?

Following the debates on issues of ‘nomadic existences’ that engage with post-structuralism, post-colonialism and subject theory, the workshop traces theoretically-based and politically-in-formed readings of modern texts, films and performances dealing with the problem of subjects ‘abroad’.

Time: April 1, 2015, 10 am – 6 pm

Venue: Ghent University, Department of Literary Studies (Scandinavian Studies),
Rozier 44, room D.2.20

Organisation: Sophie Wennerscheid (Ghent) & Niels Penke (Göttingen)

No registration. Students are cordially invited to attend the workshop.

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Workshop Program, April 1, 2015

- 10.00 Introduction, Sophie Wenerscheid & Niels Penke
- 10.15-11.15 Joint reading and discussion: Sara Ahmed, "Home and Away. Narratives of Migration and Estrangement", in: *Strange Encounters* (2000) and S. Ahmed, "A Phenomenology of Whiteness" (2007)
- 11.15-12.00 Sophie Wenerscheid: Hanging out on the Streets. Experiences of Displacement, Alienation and Homelessness in Eija Hetekivi Olsson's Novel *Ingenbarnsland (No Children's land)*
- 12.00-12.45 Irene Garnes Hareide: Madness and Normality in the Novel *En dåre fri (A fool free)* by Beate Grimrud
- 12.45-14.15 Lunch break*
- 14.15-15.00 Rozemarijn Vervoort: Permanently In-between; Identity and Belonging in Sigbjørn Skåden's Work
- 15.00-15.45 Niels Penke: Bodies in Transformation. The Undead in Contemporary Scandinavian Horror
- 15.45-16.00 Coffee break*
- 16.00-16.45 Katharina Pewny: Ritual Failure and the Dead Body in Performance: Motus' *Antigone* and *The Tempest*
- 16.45-17.30 Japhet Johnstone: Making the Clothes that Make the Man: Gottfried Keller's 19th-Century Tales of Cross-Dressing at Home and Abroad
- 17.30-18.00 Concluding discussion, further plans