

FAKULTÄT FÜR PHILOLOGIE

Lehrstuhl für Allgemeine und Vergleichende
Literaturwissenschaft (Komparatistik)
Fachschaftsrat Komparatistik
c/o Fachschaftsrat Germanistik
z.H. des SKK-Organisationsteams
Gebäude GB 3/136
Universitätsstraße 150
44801 Bochum

skk2014@rub.de
<http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/skk2014/>

Bochum, 5th March 2014

Attention! The deadline for sending in abstracts has expired. Thus, sending in abstracts for the congress is no longer possible.

The 5th student congress in comparative literature will take place from 27th to 29th June 2014. It offers students at Bachelor and Master level, as well as Magister and doctoral students a possibility for exchange with students of other universities in the German-speaking area and furthermore to enter a scientific discussion about their research topics. This comprises not only communication between the individual students themselves, but also an attempt to bring the student communities of comparative literature from several universities into a dialogue, thus improving or enhancing knowledge transfer between universities.

The topic for the 5th student congress is “**Literature and Sexuality**” and belongs to the most multifaceted subjects in literary production and reception. Throughout the different periods and literary genres, sexuality has been newly rated and changed in its representation time and again based on moral, psychological, anthropological and, not to forget, aesthetic premises. In order to add another facet to the manifold considerations and reflections that have been collected so far regarding the topic “Literature and Sexuality”, we invite students and doctoral candidates to participate in this 5th congress with their own presentation. Speeches can but must not be based on thematically fitting seminar papers, reviews, essays, or seminar discussions.

Possible topics could be among others:

1. Sexuality and Text

Which literary materials, motives and characters have been shaping the representation of sexuality since the earliest beginnings of literary production? In how far can various text types and literary epochs be associated with a certain, definable inventory of characters? What are the features of different sexual orientations (hetero, homo, transsexual, etc.), the attitude towards selection of partners (monogamy vs. polygamy, homogamy vs. heterogamy), or the concepts of sexual practice (satyriasis, nymphomania, fetishism)? Where are protest and

rejection developed, where does literature define standards?

2. Historico-cultural perception of sexuality through the ages

Sexual practice and also its literary representation have always been along the diffuse lines between individual ordinariness and social necessity on the one side and the known legal and moral integrity or ecclesiastical prohibition on the other. Despite this apparently strict dualism, the topic has been repeatedly politicized and economized, with examples from literature taken as “proofs”. So another question with regard to the approach of sexuality from the viewpoint of comparative literature could be: What was permitted or prohibited when, where, and how? Where is literature a subject to censoring, where does it deliberately avoid it and present us with alternatives? Where are taboos purposefully broken with the aim of provocation and where does literature fit in with the socially accepted norms?

3. Interdisciplinary perspectives: Multiple accesses to sexuality

The research on sexuality in general and on its representation in literature in particular has brought forward various scientific viewpoints and methods of analysis. Gender Studies, Psychoanalysis, Discourse Theory and many other intellectual approaches offer us different pictures of sexuality and of the special modalities of its representation. In this framework, also the connections to other scientific disciplines such as medicine, philosophy or anthropology could serve as starting points for interesting talks.

4. Media presentation forms of sexuality

In most cases, the discussion about sexuality is linked to questions relating to sensual perception. With their entry into public discourse, sensual impressions are subject to forms of media and the question is which advantages or disadvantages might be linked to this transfer (if it works at all). To which extent is sexuality or eroticism linked to imagery, for example? How can optic or haptic impressions be translated into writing? How do the different forms of media influence each other in their representations, where can genre-spanning stereotypes be found? How do digital media and distribution via internet influence contemporary representation of sexuality? How do these new forms of representation relate to classical aesthetics, where are limits exceeded? Is there, for example, such a thing as pornographic literature or is sexuality/eroticism in literature always “art”?

Requirements for submissions

Applications for speeches have to be sent until **9th February 2014** to skk2014@rub.de and include the following:

- (preliminary) title of the lecture;
- an abstract of about 300 words, including a selected bibliography (max. 1 page in Times New Roman, type size 12, spaced 1.5, plus selected bibliography);
- brief background information about speaker (academic title, if any, location and subject of study).

Contributions should not take longer than 20 minutes. The text should be about 7 pages long (Times New Roman, type size 12, spaced 1.5). We kindly request the speakers to adjust their submission to these regulations.

We will look through the abstracts until the end of March. In April, we will have selected which of these abstracts seem the most interesting for publication and will notify each author of our choice. After the congress will have taken place in June, the speakers may edit their submissions from July to August 2014. Thus, the conference proceedings will be ready for publication by October 2014.

For further information, please visit our homepage at <http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/skk2014/>.

In case that any questions arise, you can contact us via e-mail any time.

Your team for the SKK 2014 at Ruhr-University Bochum