

Maria Elisabeth Hüren, M.A.

Education and Academic Experience

- Since 10/2011: Research assistant, IEAS / NELK, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main
- Since 10/2011: Ph.D. candidate at Goethe University Frankfurt (Faculty 10: Modern Languages; Institute for English and American Studies / New English Literatures and Cultures)
- 04/2010 – 09/2011: Project assistant, Centre for Science and Humanities, Stiftung Mercator, Essen
- 10/2009 – 09/2011: Master of Arts, English and American Studies: Literature and Culture, University of Wuppertal
- 01/2010 – 07/2011: Research assistant, Faculty of Humanities and Cultural Studies, University of Wuppertal
- 10/2005 – 09/2008: Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and English Studies (RWTH Aachen University)

Ph.D. Project

“‘Memory Translation’ in Recent Anglophone Novels: Narrating Civil Wars to Distant Audiences” (working title)

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Astrid Erll

Abstract:

The project is interested in recent anglophone ‘memory novels’ that are concerned with civil war experiences of conflicts that erupted between the end of the Second World War and today. These novels are presently widely popular amongst readerships that are situated outside of those cultural, geographical and social contexts that gave rise to the production of the narratives and/or those contexts that they (are understood to) represent. The principal question that this ‘distant reception’ of such memory novels brings up is that of the possibilities, limits, and implications of a transcultural transmission of memory. On the one hand, the basic observation that all remembrance has an inherently social component means that memory can be shared in principle, which means that memory can travel from one context to another. On the other hand, the prominent theories of the field of memory studies have put forward the assumption that memory artifacts are produced and consumed because they relate to the collective identities of their respective contexts. This project looks at civil war novels as ‘travelling memory media’ from a reception-oriented point of view that is informed by postclassical narratologies, and discusses recent concepts of transcultural memory such as cosmopolitan memory, multidirectional memory, and prosthetic memory.

Papers

2012. “(Re-)Attaching Detached Readers: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *Half of a Yellow Sun* as a Postcolonial Civil War Narrative.” Inaugural Graduate Seminar of Mnemonics: Network for Memory Studies, *Aesthetics and Ethics of Memory*, Aarhus, Denmark.

2012. “Remembering Biafra in/for Distant Contexts.” 3rd International Conference on ‘Re-Thinking the Humanities and Social Sciences’ (RHSS), *The Politics of Memory*, Zadar, Croatia.

2012. “‘Memory Translation’ in Recent Anglophone Novels: Narrating Civil Wars to Distant Audiences.” Poster Presentation. 23rd Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of the New Literatures in English (GNEL/ASNEL), *Post-Empire Imaginaries?*, Bern, Switzerland.

2011. "Potentials, Limits and Narrative Strategies for a 'Translation of Memory'." Summer School of the Nordic Network in Memory Studies, *Transnational Cultural Memory – Towards a Common Past?*, Karlstad, Sweden.

Academic Activities and Memberships

- Co-founder (with Prof. Astrid Erll and Zhuang Wei) of the research group "Interdisziplinäre Gedächtnisforschung" (Interdisciplinary Memory Studies) at the *Forschungszentrum für Historische Geisteswissenschaften* (FzHG), Goethe University Frankfurt am Main
- Research colloquium "Transculturality in the English-Speaking World"; (chaired by Prof Dr. Astrid Erll and Prof. Dr. Frank Schulze-Engler, NELK Frankfurt)
- DocAG "Transcultural Narratives" (GRADE Frankfurt)

Teaching

Winter 2012/13: Introduction to Literary Studies
Summer 2012: 20th Century Irish Drama
Winter 2011/12: Introduction to Literary Studies