

DISCIPLINE: Contemporary German literature

CURRENT DISSERTATION TITLE: (ÖKO)LITERATUR UND ANTHROPOZÄN: VON BERGE MEERE UND GIGANTEN BIS ZUR HEUTIGEN WERKEN

ABSTRACT

The proposal of my work is to analyze Alfred Döblin's novel Berge Meere und Giganten (Mountains Seas and Giants), edited in 1924, in order to underline the modern aspects that are present in this work and see if a connection between this text and a corpus of nowadays science fiction novels and eco-critical engaged literature is possible. In particular, the conflictual relation between human being, technology and nature, in the way this is delineated in the novel, seems to anticipate the scenarios which are discussed in the Anthropocene-debate. In order to conduct this comparison properly, I need to deepen my knowledge of the actual scientific debate, considering that the literary manifestation of the Anthropocene can be read as a branching of the scientific phenomenon. If Döblin's text gives the cue for it, I will also investigate possible relations with other authors contemporary to him. Besides Spengler, Gehlen und Jünger, the writer who seems most appropriate for this comparison is Hans Dominik (1872-1945), whose novel Atlantis (1925) has some points in common with Berge Meere und Giganten. I intend to devote a chapter of my dissertation to the gender question, since women play an important role in Berge Meere und Giganten and it seems to be a connection between the way they interact with men and the harmony that they can establish with nature.