

READING TRANSCULTURAL SELVES IN GERMAN-LANGUAGE POSTMIGRATION NARRATIVES

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[abstract]

Migratory transitions between cultures can elicit significant changes in self-experience and incite altered states of consciousness. Forms of these changes – including alienation, idiosyncratic language conversions, time perception mutations, and multiple-selves experiences – convert ordinary experiences of selfhood. This PhD project explores the nature of transcultural self-altering experiences and the forms they take in newly emerging postmigrant German-language novels. Such a phenomenology of altered states engenders attention to emerging forms of ‘postmigrant reading[s]’ (Moslund, 2019). In a second step, the study investigates practices of postmigrant readings and reflects critically on notions of empathy and on symptomatic reading modes.

Through a selection of contemporary German-language postmigrant self-narratives in literary fiction such as in Sasha Marianna Salzmann's *Ausser Sich* (2017) the study explores the shapes and meanings of transcultural subjectivity. Drawing on cognitive phenomenology (Gallagher & Zahavi, 2021) the study provides theoretical concepts for transcultural self-altering experiences. Thus, this PhD study explores culture-cognitive and literary shapes and meanings of subjectivity in transitions while critically reflecting on their categorization. Besides, the PhD project offers a cognitive phenomenological account of literary forms of transcultural subjectivity from a German postmigrant perspective. Consequently, the study also reflects on the phenomenology of reading and the reader's role in a contemporary multiteity.

Keywords: *transcultural self • self-altering experience • cognitive phenomenology • postmigrant narratives • Sasha Marianna Salzmann • contemporary German-language literature*