

Veranstalter.....	Florian Sedlmeier
Thema.....	Texts and Paratexts in American Literature
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-561
Zeit.....	Mo, 12-14
Raum.....	Ü35 R 01054
Beginn.....	01.04.19

### Course description:

Taking its cue from Gérard Genette's conception of paratexts as "thresholds of interpretation" or "zones of transaction," the seminar aims to explore the functions of paratextual elements such as prefaces and titles. From slave narratives to postmodern metafiction, paratextual elements have shaped the production and influenced the reception of American literature. They foreground questions of authorization and ownership, both legally and symbolically; but they can also achieve the status of self-reflective literary devices that take up these questions to expose and undermine reader expectations. We discuss various examples from different periods of literary history, read authors from Harriet Jacobs to Dave Eggers, to examine the ways in which paratexts sharpen our understanding of both the institutional conditions putting a text in the world and the creative re-negotiation of what constitutes the analytical entity "text" to begin with.

Both a reader with course material and a list of the assigned texts you may need to purchase or borrow from libraries are provided in the first session. Students are expected to attend and participate regularly. They should be willing to be part of a discussion/expert group. The requirement for a grade is a term paper.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Di, 16-17
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	....