

Veranstalter.....	Florian Sedlmeier
Thema.....	Genre Transmedial: Crime Fiction
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Seminar IV
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-568
Zeit.....	Di, 10-12
Raum.....	Ü35-01054
Beginn.....	15.10.2019

Course description:

The seminar will introduce students to various general conceptions of genre. The word that has been imported to the English language from the French where *genre* carries meanings such as kind, genus, and gender, largely biological connotations close to the German “Gattungen.” Following Fishelov, we will be specifically interested in the metaphors these conceptions employ (such as species or family) in order to arrive at an understanding of genres not only as literary but also political and social institutions. Such an institutional conception, which always already includes questions of value and valence, has specific relevance for our case study. Notably, crime fiction (lat. *crimen*: crime, felony; indictment) has been subject to theorizing: For one, its dramatized method of detection, the assembling of clues, provides a hermeneutic model; for another, the genre and the mode of detection draw attention to the political mechanisms informing the powerful fictions of the social.

Against this backdrop, the seminar discusses various medial transpositions of the genre and its various subgenres across roughly two centuries. While crime fiction is not distinctive in its transmedial appeal, the seminar develops the hypothesis that the specific affordance of the genre consists in its reliance on mediating fictions, exemplified in techniques of detection and evidence production (from witnesses and fingerprints to DNA testing), and their corresponding histories of knowledge, which in turn constitute normative social and political imaginations.

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, which engages in extensive further reading and formulates questions for discussion. To receive a grade, students have to write three analytic essays over the course of the semester.

Note: Students who are registered but who do not show up for the first session will automatically be set “inactive.”

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