



Universität
Basel

Research Project

Narrative and Becoming: Differential Narratology

Project funded by own resources

Project title Narrative and Becoming: Differential Narratology

Principal Investigator(s) [Askin, Ridvan](#) ;

Organisation / Research unit

Departement Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaften / Amerikanistik (Schweighauser)

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Status Completed

Narrative and Becoming elaborates a transcendental empiricist concept of narrative. Against the established consensus of narrative theory it argues for an understanding of narrative as fundamentally nonhuman (instead of human), unconscious (instead of correlated to consciousness) and expressive (instead of representational). While narratology has hitherto conceived of narrative as mind-dependent, ideal representation, *Narrative and Becoming* conceives of it as mind-independent, expressive reality. What is at stake is thus the ontological status of narrative.

Expressivity here has to be understood in its Deleuzian sense and names the ontogenetic and morphogenetic relation of the transcendental and empirical realms: according to Deleuze the empirical has a transcendental dimension from which it emerges. The transcendental is thus generative of the empirical. At the same time, the transcendental only exists as implicated in the empirical; it is an aspect of

the empirical itself. The relation between the transcendental and the empirical is thus topological and immanent. In this topological ontology of immanence difference is the transcendental principle generative

of and implicated in empirical differences. The differential narratology expounded here thus holds that there is an ontologically constitutive but hidden transcendental dimension to empirical narratives. Much of postmodern and contemporary fiction *explicitly* showcases this relation of the transcendental and empirical. *Narrative and Becoming* accordingly traces this relation by means of providing close readings of a number of contemporary North-American fictions: Ana Castillo's *The Mixquiahuala Letters* (1986), Michael Ondaatje's *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid* (1970), Colson Whitehead's *The Intuitionist* (1999), and Mark Z. Danielewski's *House of Leaves* (2000).

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Other funds

Add publication

Published results

1281159, Askin, Ridvan, Difference and Identity in Richard Powers' *The Echo Maker*: A Deleuzian Reading, 978-3-8253-6081-8 ; 3-8253-6081-4, Ideas of Order: Narrative Patterns in the Novels of Richard Powers, Publication: Book Item (Buchkap., Lexikonartikel, jur. Kommentierung, Beiträge in Sammelbänden etc.)

1281163, Askin, Ridvan, Folding, Unfolding, Refolding : Mark Z. Danielewski's Differential Novel House of Leaves, Revolutionary leaves : the fiction of Mark Z. Danielewski, Publication: Book Item (Buchkap., Lexikonartikel, jur. Kommentierung, Beiträge in Sammelbänden etc.)

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