

Einladung zum Gastvortrag

Prof. Dr. David Gramling

Literature in Late Monolingualism

Auftakt zur Vortragsreihe

Mehrsprachigkeit: Politiken - Poetiken - Praktiken | Multilingualism: Policies - Poetics - Practices

Freitag, 29.11.2024 | 10 Uhr c.t. | Raum VG 0.110

Die Veranstaltung findet im Modus ‚English plus‘ statt.

Monolingualism is bad; literature is good - right? For many of us, monolingualism is pre-associated with closed-mindedness, political nationalism, and a general hostility to diverse knowledges and experiences of the world. In contrast, literature continues to stand as a symbolic beacon for expansive human expression and insight - making meaning and meaningfulness astride Earth's thousands of human languages.

But what if this division of virtue and vice isn't quite right, leading us to ignore the uninterrupted historical and aesthetic collusion between political monolingualism and literary novels today? What if novels made in a European mold tend to be much more indebted to monolingual structures, ideologies, and styles than their publishers, and even their critics, care to acknowledge?

Instead of whistling past such a discomfort, this talk seeks to recognize it squarely - detailing the important ways in which authors of contemporary novels do so too.

David Gramling is Professor of German Studies and Head of the Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies at The University of British Columbia.

David focuses his research on Applied Linguistics | Decolonial Approaches | Gender, Queer, and Intersectionality Studies | Intercultural Communication | Language and Literacy Studies | Literature Studies | Translation and Reception Studies.

With his forthcoming book *Literature in Late Monolingualism*, David revisits his arguments and reflections on *The Invention of Monolingualism* (2016, American Association for Applied Linguistics Book Award, 2018) and *The Invention of Multilingualism* (2021).