

Prof. Dr. Stefan Horlacher

3220 Daniel Defoe, or: The Rise of the Novel in Tue (3) ZEU 148
3420 the 18th Century
73710
73720
201220
201230
201510
202210
202510
232330
232910

HS 7 KP (requirements to be announced in class)
SiH 3 KP (requirements to be announced in class)
S 1/3 KP (requirements to be announced in class)
S (Master) 5/8 KP (requirements to be announced in class)

Traditionally, the birth of the "modern novel" is associated with authors such as Daniel Defoe or Laurence Sterne and with catchwords such as "bourgeois individualism" or the "birth of individuality". Like no other genre, the novel can be regarded as a literary document testifying to the introspection characteristic of early 18th-century man and to the redefinition of his relation to extra-textual, and with Defoe mainly material, reality (*homo oeconomicus*).

In this seminar, we will concentrate on two novels by Daniel Defoe. An initial reading suggests that *The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* (1719) seems to follow the then contemporary conventions of factual reporting, travel narrative and didactic or conversion narrative. As such, *Robinson Crusoe* can be read as the unmistakable and unique story of a single individual, as the early triumph of narrative imagination and as a moral as well as economic treatise. We shall focus on these multiple codifications of the novel and on the different textual traditions it takes up and transforms.

The second novel we shall concentrate on, *The Fortunes and Misfortunes of the Famous Moll Flanders* (1721/22), can be considered as a picaresque novel which for more than two hundred years after its first appearance "remained an outsider" and was "refused admission to the highest literary company," as Pat Rogers puts it, "in case her dirty boots soiled some precious figures in the carpet". To an even greater degree than in *Robinson Crusoe*, the moral and devotional aspirations of the novel *in toto* seem to be in direct contradiction to the fascination which the depiction of Moll Flander's erotic and partly criminal life exerts on the reader (diversion *versus* instruction).

The seminar will be held as a compact seminar on one weekend in January. In addition to this, there will be four introductory sessions during October and November.

Please buy:

Daniel Defoe. *Robinson Crusoe*. Edited with an Introduction and Notes by John Richetti. London: Penguin Classics, 2012.

Daniel Defoe. *The Fortunes and Misfortunes of the Famous Moll Flanders*. London: Penguin Classics, 2012.

It is not necessary to register via eMail beforehand. Please just show up for the first meeting in order to sign up for this course.