

Prof. Dr. Stefan Horlacher

3220 **Magic India: Contemporary Indian** **Thu (3)** **HSZ 304**
3420 **Novels**
73710
73720
201220
201230
201510
202210
202510
232330
232910

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

India is characterised by complexity: culturally, ethnically, linguistically, and historically. Consequently, many images, ideas and metaphors have come to be associated with it, from 'Mother India' to the 'tiger' of the new IT economy. In this seminar, we will explore literary representations and interrogations of such notions by reading two Booker Prize-winning novels that have proved hugely popular and influential across the world, both within academia and outside. Beginning with Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*, we will examine the colonial and postcolonial construction of Indian history. This will be followed by Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*, which foregrounds the role of the body and of gender in the postcolonial context. Moreover, we will critically engage with conceptions of ethnic heterogeneity and political strife in India, while also emphasizing the migrant histories of Indian diasporas in the UK and the US. The novels thus represent a broad spectrum of cultural trends and discourses that make up 'India'; by analysing this nexus we will also consider the function of novels in English such as those read in the seminar for our notion of what India is.

A syllabus and a bibliography will be made available at the first meeting.

Please buy:

Arundhati Roy. *The God of Small Things*. London: Harper Collins, 1998.
Salman Rushdie: *Midnight's Children*. London: Random House UK, 2008.

This course prepares students for the "Schriftliches Staatsexamen: Klausur Englische Literaturwissenschaft" in the spring of 2013.

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.