



CALL FOR PAPERS

TRANSITIONS AND DISSOLVING BOUNDARIES IN THE FANTASTIC

Third Annual Conference of the Gesellschaft für Fantastikforschung (GFF)

at the

University of Zurich

from 13th to 16th September 2012

in collaboration between the **Institute of Popular Culture Studies (IPK)**
and the **Swiss Institute for Children's and Youth Media (SIKJM)**

and within the framework of the Swiss National Science Foundation research project "Transitions and Dissolving Boundaries. World, Knowledge and Identity in Fantastic (Children's and Youth) Literature and Media"

organised by

Ingrid Tomkowiak, Christine Lötscher, Petra Schrackmann and Aleta-Amirée von Holzen

Transitions and the dissolving of boundaries are crucial to the fantastic in all media manifestations. Fantastic texts include, among other things, crossings into other worlds, time travel, metamorphoses, hybrid creatures as well as a variety of transitions and transgressions. Hybrid genres and genre reconfigurations as well as various forms of intertextuality featured in fantastic literature(s) are based on transitions between texts and the dissolving of boundaries between topics and motifs of diverse origin. In this sense, the fantastic provides the potential to disintegrate the artificial line of distinction between high and popular culture or between supposedly good and bad "taste", which can arguably be seen as a form of provocation. The fantastic raises a significant number of questions about cultural and social developments and challenges existing boundaries. By creating hybrid zones of autonomy, the fantastic provides alternatives to conventional understandings of, for example, world, knowledge or identity. Fantastic elements serve to unveil social discourses and to articulate complex physical and psychological processes as well as abstract figures of thoughts.

Transitions pervade the fantastic and manifest in numerous forms, such as in the shape of inter-media adaptations (from texts to film, comics, games, radio plays, novels), transpositions into new media (as, for instance, done in fan fiction or the case of multimedia franchises), as well as in various forms of crossover as exemplified in the increasing trend of generation-spanning all-age literature.

With regard to transitions and the crossing of boundaries, the focus of this conference will lie on objects, norms, knowledge, ascribed meanings and potential spectrums of interpretation associated with the fantastic. The aim is to explore representations of worlds and subjects, reality and fiction, in



order to contribute to a further assessment of the cultural relevance of the fantastic – in its contemporary, historical, social and medial dimensions.

We are open to scientific papers in German or English on the entire scope of the fantastic: analyses of specific texts, on the interconnection of text, image and sound in various media or different media formats, literary or visual genres, as well as theoretical contributions to the fantastic and its cultural significance.

All interested in contributing to this conference are requested to send a proposal of maximum 350 words including a brief description of the project, contact data and relevant biographical information to the organisational team by 7th January 2012, preferably via e-mail. We would particularly welcome contributions relating to the overall theme of the conference. However, there will also be an open track in which substantiated yet innovative papers on other topics regarding the fantastic may be presented.

Contact:

Prof. Dr. Ingrid Tomkowiak
Institut für Populäre Kulturen
Universität Zürich
Affolternstrasse 56
8050 Zürich, Schweiz
Phone: +41 44 634 24 36
E-Mail: fantastik2012@ipk.uzh.ch