

Lower Saxony – Scotland Joint Forum 2022

Workshop Programme

22 November 2022, 10:30 CET – Session I

Writing Angst: The Relevance of the Gothic Today in the Light of Scottish and German Literary Traditions

1. Workshop Organizers

Prof. Dr. Barbara Schaff and Dr. Anca-Raluca Radu, *Georg-August-University of Göttingen*

Prof. Louise Welsh, *University of Glasgow*

2. Workshop Description

Around Halloween the Gothic reality comes into its own. But what is so fascinating about the combination of excitement and fear that it brings? In our workshop, we want to compare two particular literary Gothic traditions: the Scottish and the German. Why did one literary nation – the Scottish – develop a lively sense of the Gothic, whereas German literature, after a promising start of the “Schauerliteratur” around 1800, abandoned the Gothic format later? How can we explain success and failure of the genre in the respective national traditions? What does Gothic literature mean in a contemporary context: what is the importance of place; what are the tropes, the themes, the narrative formats shaping our understanding of the Gothic today, and what are its transnational contexts and connections? These are some of the questions we want to explore. We would also like to investigate formats for students who are interested in the genre; including online courses and a summer school during which students from both universities can discuss their BA or MA projects and try out their own creative writing skills in the Gothic genre.

3. Programme

10:30 am

Welcoming Addresses

Prof. Dr. Barbara Schaff, *Georg-August-University of Göttingen*

Prof. Louise Welsh, *University of Glasgow*

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10:40 am **Panel Discussion: Scottish and German traditions of the Gothic: Developing a Genre**

Participants:

Lucy Allan, *University of Glasgow*

Jakob Bauer, *DFG-Projekt „Schauergeschichten“ Dresden*

Prof. Christine Ferguson, *University of Stirling*

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Kaiser, *University of Göttingen*

Dr. Anca-Raluca Radu, *University of Göttingen*

Dr. Frauke Reitemeier, *University of Göttingen*

Prof. Dr. Barbara Schaff, *University of Göttingen*

Prof. Louise Welsh, *University of Glasgow*

11:10 am **Coffee Break**

11:25 am **Discussion with Panellists and Students**

In the second part of the workshop we aim to discuss future possibilities for collaborative teaching. Among the questions we will explore are the following: How important is a sense of place an understanding of the Gothic? What creative teaching formats might deepen our understanding of the genre? Which comparative approaches would best suit a productive transnational format? How might the idea of a national literary tradition still be helpful in the 21st century? And finally, what kind of pedagogy might best allow for the focus on the development of critical and creative skills?

11:50 am **Final Wrap-Up**

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