



CONFERENCE (18-19 April 2012 at the IGRS, University of London, Senate House, WC1):

» LIT.NET Austria – The net as theme, aesthetic paradigm and communicative tool in literary Austria«

This conference aims to discuss the various aesthetic facets of the net using exemplary studies from the context of modern Austrian literature. ‘Digital literature’ is a relatively new area of research within Austrian Studies and offers interesting perspectives on literary production along the boundaries between the terms *offline* and *online*, i.e. in the times before and after the introduction of computers and the internet (*Bachleitner 2011*). The advent of digital media has created new narrative forms, which necessarily leads to a questioning of traditional processes of reception as well as the way those new technological possibilities are being creatively adapted by authors. The terms *offline/online* and *linear/non-linear* serve here as a theoretical base for the discussion of emergent narrative tendencies in Austrian literature.

Aleatoric principles have been used in experimental writing long before the age of the computer. Avantgardist forms of art have in particular always shown great affinity towards non-linear aesthetic practices and were therefore most apt to undergo a digital transformation. One important topic that is up for discussion during this conference is in how far the aesthetic potential of the “Netz der Netze” (*Gendolla, Schäfer 2004*), i.e. the World Wide Web, has influenced the poetic practice of Austrian writers so far. Consequently the event will not only deal with writing on the internet and hypertext-aesthetics but also with the question of how the avantgardist tradition is being continued in digital literature in Austria today.

Papers are invited on the following topics:

- The net as motive, metaphor and narrative structure in Austrian literature after 1900 (e.g. with regard to travel routes as networks in the modern *Odyssey* as in Walter Grond’s project “Absolut Homer”)
- Authorial networks and collaborative authorship
- Hypertext practices, non-linear and aleatoric texts in Austrian literature
- The narrative function of links, animations and multimedia
- Inter-medial projects in literature, author’s blogs, literary homepages etc.
- The current situation of Austria’s net-literature scene and its role on the literary market
- The connection between digital literature and avantgardist social criticism

Please submit 300-word-abstracts to Heide Kunzelmann (heide.kunzelmann@sas.ac.uk) and Jeanine Tuschling (j.tuschling@aston.ac.uk) by latest 1st of March, 2012 to both. The conference will be followed by a **workshop with literary critic, author and networker Beat Mazenauer**, entitled “Literary communication on the Web of webs”.