

Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg
Institute for Advanced Study

Fiction ∫ *Science*
MEETS

‘WRITER – SCHOLARS – SCIENTISTS’ WORKSHOPS

EXPERIMENTAL ENCOUNTERS AROUND
LITERARY DEPICTIONS OF SCIENCE

7. DEZEMBER 2017, 13.30 – 19.00 H

BERNHARD KEGEL, *ABGRUND* (2017)

Organizers:

Anton Kirchhofer (University of Oldenburg),

Anna Auguscik (University of Oldenburg),

Hanna Straß-Senol (University of Oldenburg)



Program

INFORMATIONEN

DAS BUCH UND DER AUTOR

Bernhard Kegels Roman *Abgrund* (2017) spielt auf den geschichtsträchtigen Galapagos-Inseln. Er eröffnet nicht nur Einblicke in das komplizierte soziale Gefüge des Archipels – welches geprägt ist durch den scheinbar unauflösbaren Konflikt zwischen ökologisch verantwortungsvollem und ökonomisch nutzbringendem Handeln – sondern auch in die Faszination und ‚Abgründe‘ der biologischen Forschung. In seiner Fokussierung auf die Konflikte, die zwischen den Vertretern der traditionellen Fischerei, des strengen Naturschutzes und der internationalen Touristen auf den Galapagos-Inseln entstehen, gelingt dem ‚Wissenschaftskrimi‘ und ‚Ökothriller‘ ein sachkundiger Kommentar über lokale Ökosystemveränderungen von globaler Relevanz.

Bernhard Kegel, promovierter Biologe, ist Autor von Wissenschaftsromanen und populären wissenschaftlichen Sachbüchern. Er trug bereits zur Konzeptionsphase von *Fiction Meets Science* bei, und war 2013 (April-Juni) und 2015 (August-Dezember) *FMS novelist fellow* am HWK. Unterstützt durch das Leibniz-Zentrum für Marine Tropenökologie (Bremen), nahm Kegel in dieser Zeit an zwei wissenschaftlichen Expeditionen – ins Schwarze Meer und zu den Galapagosinseln – teil. *Abgrund* ist der erste publizierte Roman, der im Rahmen einer *FMS* Fellowship entstanden ist.

Da die Originalsprache des Romans deutsch ist, wird der Workshop – in Abweichung von unserem allgemeinen Format – hauptsächlich auf Deutsch stattfinden.

ABOUT FICTION MEETS SCIENCE AND THE WORKSHOP SERIES

This event is part of an ongoing series of workshops, focusing on one literary author at a time, which aims to bring the scholarly projects in *Fiction Meets Science* (FMS) into a dialogue with the FMS writers as well as with scientists potentially concerned or interested in the writers' projects. Its goal is to promote or intensify exchange across the different groups, disciplines and projects in FMS, and to allow new angles to emerge from these experimental encounters between the diverse perspectives of writers, scholars and scientists.

FMS is a research and writers' fellowship program that brings together sociologists, literary scholars, novelists, and scientists to examine the literary and social ramifications of a recent trend: an overall increase in the quantity of mainstream and literary fiction about science, and a shift in the ways that science is addressed in fiction. FMS is about to embark on its second three-year research phase, starting in 2018.

For more information see www.fictionmeetsscience.org

PROGRAMM

Zur Vorbereitung: Alle Teilnehmenden haben *Abgrund* von Bernhard Kegel gelesen.

Donnerstag, 7. Dezember 2017
Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg, Delmenhorst

Moderator: Anton Kirchhofer

12.30 LEICHTES MITTAGESSEN

13.30 Begrüßung und Einführung

13.45–14.40 (1) Leser-, Wissenschaftler- und Autorperspektiven

(Diskussionsimpulse: Hildegard Westphal, ZMT)

- Reaktionen und Beobachtungen der Leser_innen zum Text.
- Wissenschaftler_innen im Dialog mit dem Autor und untereinander.
- Kommentare des Autors (besonders in Bezug auf die Recherchen und den Schreibprozess für den Roman, über die Erfahrungen und Begegnungen mit der naturwissenschaftlichen Praxis, über eventuelle Planänderungen und Perspektivenverschiebungen o.ä.)

14.50–15.45 (2) – Textstrukturen und Erzählstrategien

(Diskussionsimpulse Uwe Spörl)

KAFFEPAUSE

16.15–17.10 (3) – Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft

(Diskussionsimpulse Uwe Schimank)

17.20–18 (4) – Rezeptionsanalyse

(Diskussionsimpulse Anna Auguscik)

18–18.45 Round Table

gemeinsamer Austausch über Einsichten, offene Fragen, weiterführende Perspektiven

19.00 ABENDESSEN

GENERAL WORKSHOP FORMAT

- Each workshop is centred on one literary text, whose author will be present.
- The format includes four thematic slots (roughly aligned in focus with the four project groups in FMS 1) followed by a concluding round table discussion. The opening slot will focus on responses to the text itself and a dialogue between the author and different kinds of readers (scientists, literary scholars, sociologists). It should reflect the reading experience of all present (and might include a longer or shorter reading, as well as the author's comments and remarks on experiences, decisions, motives, on interactions with scientists, on the process of researching the topic, conceptualising and writing the story).
- Participants of the workshop will have (re)read the literary text in preparation.

The workshops seek to create an experimental space where the particular research angles of the scholars (and of their various projects) are presented for direct engagement, discussion and exchange of perspectives, to the writers whose works form the objects of research, as well as to the scientists, whose respective disciplines, practices and (in some cases) whose fictional counterparts, in turn form the objects of representation.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES WITHIN THE *FICTION MEETS SCIENCE* RESEARCH PROJECT

This workshop format makes use of the particular feature that makes FMS stand out from other, partly related projects. FMS is unique among the projects conceived across the traditional two cultures divide in that it brings together four distinct groups: novelists, scientists, literary scholars and social scientists (most similar projects involve only two or three of these groups).

The primary goal of the workshops is to promote the networking of the projects and of FMS participants. They are in no way intended to take the place of any individual FMS project. They are designed to intensify the exchange among the scholarly projects, but above all they create an experimental setting. While writers, scholars and scientists mostly tend to operate in the absence of each other, the workshops will bring them into direct exchange. By 'exposing' them to the presence of each other, the workshops extend an invitation to engage in a direct and differentiated multiperspectival dialogue, where each may observe and participate in the 'reactions' that occur when they come together, and where the various groups join an experiment in the hope that new insights and interchanges may emerge from the encounter.

The workshops are not designed as a 'public outreach' format. Their focus is on FMS internal exchange and networking between the various FMS components. A more public dimension might possibly evolve at some later point. If the workshops are successful, they might not only be opened to a wider circle, they might also be productive of a type of publication with contributions involving all four 'components' of FMS: authors, scientists, literary scholars and social scientists.