

"The Representation of Emergent Scientific Discourses and Modes of Control in Contemporary Science Novels", British Society for Literature and Science, University of Oxford, 12-14 April, 2012

In this paper I will introduce a model of structural periodization that borrows and extends Foucault's notion of the discursive break, Williams' concept of the interplay between dominant, residual, and emergent practices as well as Kuhn's theoretical approach of science as one form of discourse. The aim is to explore fictionalized spaces where science-in-the-making or processes of discovery clash with diverse mechanisms of control. The latter here serves as a shorthand for a political, ideological, religious, economic, scientific or academic agency whose power position allows for a broad spectrum of influence ranging from ban to promotion.

Following a very brief sketch of the relevant text corpus my paper will focus on two historical novels: Clare Dudman's *Wegener's Jigsaw* (2003) and Jo Lendle's *Alles Land* (2011), precisely because the analysis of this subgenre further unravels diachronic issues of counter-discourse whose impact can still be felt today. It is part of the design of my paper to critically reflect the representation of a scientist in fiction against the backdrop of contingent theoretical frameworks and their influence on emergent theory. Building on this conjecture, the paper highlights the fictional representation of a specific scientific paradigm shift by looking at the individual process of discovery in relation to its deviancy from or consistency with the dominant beliefs of scientists of the time.