

Fellows

Paul Michael Lützeler

IFK_Gast des Direktors

Duration of fellowship

01. May 2021 bis 30. June 2021

Paul Michael Lützeler

PROJECT TITLE

Hermann Broch and Religion: The Dialogics of Jewish and Christian Thinking

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Aspects of religion play a major role in Hermann Broch's literary, philosophical, political, and mass-psychological writings. In his very first novel, *The Sleepwalkers* trilogy, one discovers references to Mathias Grünewald's *Isenheim Altarpiece* as an antithetical art-historical intertext, and in the concluding essay, *The Disintegration of Values*, the author discusses the relationship of two of the Christian denominations (Catholicism and Protestantism) to Judaism in order to point out the decline of religious beliefs in Europe. This radical change that Broch is witnessing in the early twentieth century is also the topic of two other novels: *The Spell*, thematizing National Socialist new paganism, and *The Death of Virgil*, with its parallel between the contemporary world and the religious crisis in the time of Cesar Augustus. Broch's reflections on human rights refer back to Genesis with the idea of the human being created in God's image. This becomes obvious in two of his political essays, *The League of Nation Resolution* and *Theory of Mass Aberration*. Broch's fascination with religious developments goes back his university studies and his early literary and essayistic publications in Vienna between 1912 and 1928. The topic of my research at the IFK in Vienna will be this phase of

his growing interest in Christianity and its crisis.

CV

Paul Michael Lützeler is Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities and Director of the Max Kade Center for Contemporary German Literature at Washington University in St. Louis. He was Vice President of the IVG for five years; for twenty years has been President of the International Research Circle Hermann Broch; and is Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the German Studies yearbook *Gegenwartsliteratur* for two decades. His research areas include the literary discourse on Europe; exile literature, with an emphasis on Hermann Broch; and contemporary German literature.

Publications

Monografien/Monographs: *Hermann Broch. Eine Biographie*, Frankfurt/M. 1985 (übersetzt ins Englische, Spanische und Japanische; auch als E-Book); *Die Schriftsteller und Europa. Von der Romantik bis zur Gegenwart*, München 1992; *Bürgerkrieg global. Menschenrechtsethos und deutschsprachiger Gegenwartsroman*, München 2009; Editionen/Editions: *Hermann Broch, Kommentierte Werkausgabe*, 17 Bände, Frankfurt/M. 1974–1981 (auch als E-Book); *Hoffnung Europa. Deutsche Essays von Novalis bis Enzensberger*, Frankfurt/M. 1994; gem. mit Jennifer M.Kapczyński, *Die Ethik der Literatur. Deutsche Autoren der Gegenwart*, Göttingen 2011.