

Abstract for the Research Project “Environmental, Political and Aesthetic Crises and Transformations: Challenges of Literary Representation between Socialism and Postsocialism (ca. 1965-1995) from a Transcultural Perspective”

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The study analyses the intricate connections between aesthetics, ecology and politics between the late 1960s and the transition period around 1989. From a transcultural perspective, it discusses the interplay of texts from the GDR, the Soviet Union and the PRC with their political contexts and literary systems, compares them and traces ecocritical networks. In particular, the study asks how the ecological crises pose a dual challenge: a challenge of literary representation, confronting literature with the need to redefine the relationship of ,real' and fictional worlds and in turn challenge the political and social system, thereby negotiating agency.