## **Fringe Fictions: Writing from the Margins**

Veranstaltungsart: PS

Datum & Uhrzeit: DO 14-16

Seminarhaus SH - SH 3.101

Modulkürzel: BA ES 2.2 / L2/5, L3 FW 2A.2 + FW 2B.2, L1, FW2.

[Moodle](https://moodle.studiumdigitale.uni-frankfurt.de/moodle/course/view.php?id=6878)

Since the advent of modernism, there have been a number of literary genres that sought to challenge the canonical tradition. Today, canons are treated with suspicion for their perceived ideological biases in relation to gender, race, and other forms of oppression. This seminar provides an accessible introduction to an array of non-canonical literary genres, including Avant-garde which challenges bourgeois aesthetics; minority literature which is identity-laden; minor literature which makes vernacular interventions to the canonical language; and resistance literature which advocates political activism through literary discourses. These genres can broadly be classified as fringe literatures operating *outside* of mainstream literary cultures, both in terms of their production and consumption. Curiously, such fringe literatures are also brought to light by relatively unknown publishers, only later to be canonized by the mainstream upon their successful reception.

Literatur:

*From the Land of Green Ghosts* by Pascal Khoo Thwe (2002)

*Why I am not a Hindu* by Kancha Ilaiah (1992)

*God 99* by Hassan Blasim (2020)

**Course Requirements and Term Paper Guidelines**

**Participation Credit**

* All students should post one paragraph of critical commentary on the essays/novel/text/film assigned for the session on [moodle](https://moodle.studiumdigitale.uni-frankfurt.de/moodle/course/view.php?id=6878).This should be done by Wednesday midnight, every week. The commentary should be between 3-5 sentences and should answer the following questions: what is the main gist of the reading? Do you agree/disagree, and why?
* All students are required to **lead a session** (in groups of three or four maximum) with the following tasks: present the central argument of the reading/s assigned for that session with a critical and reflective perspective. At least one of the session leads is expected to **bridge the session**, i.e. summarize the discussion from that previous session and present it (5 minutes maximum) at the opening of the class. *Please prepare and send one page of summary of your session leading/bridging (combined) a day before to me by email.*

**For Full Credit – *all of the above* and a** 15–20-page essay/ Hausarbeit 1.5 space, Ariel font 11, topic to be discussed with me before you start writing the paper.

**Deadline** for the final paper/s: **See the Moodle Dashboard.**

**Seminar Plan**

Session 1: Oct. 17 Introduction, Course Management

Murak, [Voting with Betel Juice](https://reconciliationtim.ca/timor/voting-with-betel-juice-a-timorese-short-story-by-dadolin-murak/)

Mudrooroo, *Writing from the Fringe*, Introduction

Session 2: Oct. 24

Greenberg, ‘Avant-Garde and Kitsch’

Session 3: Oct. 31 – No Session – Dienstreise

Session 4: Nov. 07

### 

### Sell, ‘Resisting the Question, “What Is an Avant-Garde?’

Sers, ‘The Radical Avantgarde…’

### 

Session 5: Nov. 14

### Deleuze and Guattari, ‘What is Minor Literature’

Kafka, ‘[Before the Law’](https://www.kafka-online.info/before-the-law.html)

Session 6: Nov. 21

Thwe, *From the Land of Green Ghosts* – Plot, Summary, and Themes

Session 7: Nov. 28

Thwe, *From the Land of Green Ghosts* – minority consciousness, fringes, and outside the mainstream

Malreddy, ‘SubalterNation: Narrating Burma’

Session 8: Dec. 5 – No Session –

Session 9: Dec 12

Gidla, [Growing Up As An Untouchable](https://lithub.com/growing-up-as-an-untouchable/)

Session 10: Dec 19

Ilaiah, *Why I am not a Hindu* - Plot, Summary, and Themes

Session 11: Jan 16

Ilaiah, *Why I am not a Hindu* – minority consciousness, fringes, and outside the mainstream

Session 12: Jan 23

Bahoora, ‘Writing the Dismembered Nation’

Session 13: Jan 30

Blaism, *God 99* – Plot, Summary, and Themes

Session 14: Feb 6

Blasim, *God 99* – minority consciousness, fringes, and outside the mainstream

Session 15: Feb 13, Conclusion: Session Lead’s Summaries