Memories - Let’s talk about them
A morning for doctoral students and interested parties with Lizzie Doron

Call for Participation

Friedrich Dürrenmatt Guest Professorship for World Literature
Workshop of the Graduate School of the Arts and Humanities | GSAH

Guest: Lizzie Doron, Author Israel / Friedrich Dürrenmatt Guest Professor
Moderation: Dr. Naomi Lubrich, Director Jüdisches Museum der Schweiz
Date: 11. December 2019, 10.15 am – 12.30 pm
Venue: t.b.a.
ECTS: 1 (Wahlpflichtbereich GSAH)
Registration: until November 30 to: toggweiler@wbkolleg.unibe.ch as on KSL:
https://www.ksl.unibe.ch/ (Login via UniBe-account, search by title)

Content
More than 100 billion nerve cells are working in service of our memory!
What do we do with them? What are they doing to us? Why are we so afraid of losing them?
Our Memory is the operating system of the human ability to survive. It is customary to say that we must remember what was, so that we can imagine what might be. Thus, in literature, as we all know, memory is one of the key tools. For me, all stories I tell are memory-based. They are not memories of pure truth, of course, but fragments of truth, interwoven with my imaginary world, my desires, doubts, dreams, and more. Memory is a mainstay in every one of my books.
In our meeting, I will share with you the role of memory in my work. And I will share with you a variety of my “memories” - constructive, exciting, or painful ones, alongside with the memories I longed to forget. All of these were milestones in my writing process.
We will also talk about “Memory Poetics”, memories as a common means of telling stories — your stories. You are invited to read one of my novels in the language of your choice. Discussion will be held in English.
Waiting for you,
Lizzie

Course reading (one reading of your choice required):
Warum bist du nicht vor dem Krieg gekommen?, Es war einmal eine Familie, Ruhige Zeiten, Der Anfang von etwas Schönem, Es war einmal eine Familie, Das Schweigen meiner Mutter, Who the Fuck is Kafka (German), Sweet Occupation (German).

Lizzie Doron lived on a kibbutz before studying linguistics and becoming a writer. Being a member of the so-called second generation (the generation born to Holocaust survivors), she interweaves personal with fictional history in her books. In 1998, she published her first autobiographical novel Why Didn’t You Come Before the War?, which is now a mandatory reading in Israeli schools. This debut has been followed by Peaceful Times (2005), The Beginning of Something Beautiful (2007), Once There Was A Family (2009) and My Mother’s Silence (2011). Doron writes in Hebrew, her books have been translated into German, French, Italian and Russian. With Who the Fuck is Kafka (2015) and Sweet Occupation (2017), Lizzie Doron puts the focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The two documentary novels deal with encounters with political activists and Doron’s friendship with a muslim journalist. Subsequently, Doron has been criticized as a “traitor” in Israel as well as praised for her literary bridging between Israelis and Palestinians. From September to December 2019, Lizzie Doron will be teaching as Friedrich Dürrenmatt Guest Professor at the University of Bern.