

## 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:** Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern, Seminarraum 216  
**ECTS:** 1 (Wahlpflichtbereich GSAH)  
**Registration:** until December 4 (extension) to: [toggweiler@wbkolleg.unibe.ch](mailto: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 Schönerem, 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.