

Publications/Romance Studies (North African Antiquity in Francophone Maghrebi Literature)

Bugert, Ines: *Qu'est-ce qu'un auteur maghrébin? Globale Autorschaft bei Kebir Ammi, Yasmina Khadra und Assia Djebar*. Hildesheim/Zürich: Georg Olms Verlag 2019, 463p. (Reihe: Passagen – Transdisziplinäre Kulturperspektiven, 17).

This study understands authorship as a multidimensional and complex discourse which is shaped by several agents of the literary field, namely authors as well as editors, readers, journalists and others. Using the example of Assia Djebar, Yasmina Khadra and Kebir Ammi, authors of North African origin, strategies of authorial self-fashioning are compared to strategies applied by other agents of the literary field, each of them reflecting different interests. Khadra, Djebar and Ammi present themselves as global authors, negating those classifications pinning their work to a specific cultural background and thus neglecting the literary value of their work. In public discourse, however, they find themselves confronted with all sorts of labels, promoting the sale of their works but at the same time not being able to describe their individual literary strategies. The model presented in this study defines authorship as a dynamic discourse constantly defined and redefined by the author in reaction to those authorial images that are created by other agents of the literary field.

Gronemann, Claudia: "Rewriting antiquity: Saint Augustine as mnemonic figure in francophone texts of the Maghreb". *Études Littéraires Africaines* 49 (2020) 189-204.

In line with current debates on African cultural heritage, this article considers the historical dislocation and a recent revival of Augustine of Hippo as a long-time hidden figure of North African memory. It focuses on the evolution of transcultural meaning in the process of memorization from colonial to postcolonial times. The main emphasis will be on the Algerian context, where Augustine was incorporated into colonial myth (Bertrand's *Afrique latine*) what provoked a rejection until his figure was re-appropriated and shaped into a site of Maghrebian memory.

Gronemann, Claudia: "Saint Augustine in Colonial and Postcolonial Texts of the Maghreb: Entangled Memory". *Entanglements of the Maghreb. Cultural and Political Aspects of a Region in Motion*, Friederike Pannewick et al. (eds.), Bielefeld, transcript 2021, 113-136.

The article considers Saint Augustine as a symbolic figure in Maghrebi cultural discourse and approaches his literary and non-literary representations with reference to Memory Studies. The author examines the saint's changing significance within the Maghreb's tradition, especially at colonial and postcolonial times. She discusses the extent to which Augustine of Hippo has become a mnemonic signifier and important reference point for the production of memory and collective identity. The focus on Augustine not as a historical, but a memory figure exemplifies the cultural and historical entanglements in the Maghrebi's palimpsestic memory.

Gronemann, Claudia: "Literarische Erkundungen dies- und jenseits von Algerien: Der Heilige Augustinus als transkulturelle Erinnerungsfigur bei Kebir Ammi", in: *Römische Quartalschrift. Zeitschrift für Christliche Altertumskunde und Kirchengeschichte* 116, 1-2 (2021) 14-30.

"Literary reflections on this side of Algeria and beyond. Saint Augustine as transcultural mnemonic figure in Kebir Ammi" – The Franco-Moroccan writer Kebir Ammi creates his own literary filiation with reference to Apuleius and Saint Augustine as – nevertheless very different – North African authors to whom he dedicated some of his works. Thus, the article analyzes the poetic and biographical evocation of the Bishop of Hippo in Ammi's multilayered text *Sur les pas de Saint Augustin* (2001) with reference to the *Confessiones* and to a specific concept of cultural space linked to narrative polyphony. The aim is to highlight this writing as a rejection of the colonial politics of space and an image of Augustine as *Latin African* – and also as rejection of post-colonial kinds of politicization – while Ammi includes this important historical figure in today's Maghrebian memory and stages his own position as a literary author.

Weiser, Jutta: „Augustinus als Symbolfigur der *Afrique Latine* bei Louis Bertrand“, in: *Römische Quartalschrift* 115/1-2 (2020) 63-82.

„Saint Augustine as a symbolic figure of Louis Bertrand’s *Afrique Latine*” – This article focuses on the important role of Augustine within the theories of colonial novelist Louis Bertrand. His concept of a *Latin Africa* underlines that North African territory – having been Roman since Antiquity – was just ‘restored’ by the French occupation in 19th and 20th centuries. In this ideological context, the Church Father plays a major symbolic role as Latin ancestor of the French settlers. The text presents Bertrand’s ideas on Augustine and analyses emblematic passages of his biography (*Saint Augustin*, 1913) emphasizing the function of the African Saint as heroic model within the French colonial discourse.

Weiser, Jutta: „Aurelius Augustinus und der Süden. Geopoetische Rückeroberung des lateinischen Afrika in Louis Bertrands *Sur les routes du Sud* und *Saint Augustin*“, in: *Romanistische Zeitschrift für Literaturgeschichte* 45, 1-2 (2021) 125-147.

Weiser, Jutta: „Afrikanische Mütter: Erinnerung und kulturelle Identität bei Augustinus und Derrida“ (upcoming)