

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Cultural relations, including literature exchange, have since the very beginning constituted a prominent part of the bilateral relations between the FRG and the PPR. Firstly, since 1956 an array of relations and forms of cooperation in the area of culture (literature, visual arts, theatre, film) was developing. Despite neutrality declarations of the contemporary actors of transfer, in fact their activities were usually variously related to the political sphere. Both Polish and West German foreign policies were important factors of culture transfer (inclusive of literary transfer, which is at the core of this project) had played a significant role in culture transfer even before PPR and FRG signed the Treaty on Normalisation of Political Relations in December 1970, and then (in June 1976), an Agreement on Cultural Cooperation.

This project aims to investigate the relationships between Polish/West German foreign cultural policies and the possibility of for Polish culture to be present at the West German publishing market. The problem has so far not received scholarly attention in the perspective of the history of literature. What is more, the influence of foreign cultural policies on the so-called “publishing/literary field” has so far not been theorised upon (for instance in the area of sociology of literature). By the same token, the project is innovative both with respect to the historiography of Polish-German cultural relations and the methodology of literary studies.

Prospective research covers the years 1949-1989 and will rely on broad archival material drawn from German and Polish state archives, as well as from the archives of publishing houses and the legacies of individuals involved in Polish-West German literature transfer.