

In my research, I aim to examine and compare various ways in which literary criticism today seeks to reinvent the idea of literary autonomy (i.e. the autonomy of the work of art, the literary language, or the process of literary production itself). I assume a meta-critical attitude: my interest is not so much in literature itself, but in the way of doing criticism - I trace and analyse various historical shifts and contemporary debates in order to systematically and methodically reconstruct the most important points of agreement and disagreement.

My research has, fundamentally, two starting points. On the one hand, I am particularly interested in the recent history of Polish literary criticism (post-1989), especially its debates and various polemic exchanges; I aim to showcase various ways in which critics have attempted to reconcile their ideas about autonomy with the new, market-oriented social reality. On the other hand, I want to introduce the Polish reader to a specific way of thinking about autonomy, one that might be associated with a network of critics and researchers brought together by the academic journal *nonsite*. Here, the source of autonomy is located in the meaning, understood as identical with the author's intention. The intention itself, however, is understood in a particular manner as well: as *immanent* to the work of literature (or art) rather than *external* to it. Such an approach to meaning and intention is rooted in various interesting philosophical traditions that remain largely unknown in Poland today (at least in the field of literary studies). Moreover, this approach allows us to see meaning as the part of the work that resists the reduction of the work of literature to its status as a commodity: autonomy is understood here first and foremost as autonomy from the market (or the commodity form).

This highlighting of the tension between the meaning and the market seems especially promising in the context of Polish literary criticism today, where the threat posed to the work of literature by the very commodity form is still largely omitted. This is why in my research I aim to combine select aspects from both traditions, Polish and American, in order to reconceptualise autonomy in such a way that it allows us to better understand the relationship between the meaning and the market, while at the same time recognising the specificity and peculiarity of Polish history, including the impact that the shift from socialism to capitalism had on our literature and its criticism.