



## **Beyond borders and boundaries. Poetics of the arrival in contemporary French and German exile narratives.**

Representations of exile and migration have increased in contemporary French and German literature since the so-called “refugee crisis” reached its peak in Europe in 2015. Having taken refuge in France and Germany, both famous and new authors are circulating stories on the French and German literary scenes reflecting exile’s upheavals. Autobiographical or autofictional, for the most part, these stories bear witness to experiences that took place long before the “refugee crisis” while at the same time reflecting on the current situation. This thesis focuses on six arrival narratives published after 2015, three in French and three in German, to shed light on the poetics of arrival in exile in France and Germany. Our starting point is the hypothesis that arrival in exile is a long, often painful process, individually constructed but conditioned by political and social parameters. We will begin by focusing on the “border and boundaries of arrival” and how they are narrated. The concept of the border, in its many dimensions, will serve as a model for theoretical reflection and literary analysis. Secondly, we will analyse the conditions under which a refugee can actually *arrive* in German and French society. The literary narrative will be a privileged place for the transgression of borders and boundaries—making the utopia of living together. From an interdisciplinary perspective, we propose a theoretical approach for each of the two parts of this thesis, based on the terms *Grenzen* (borders and boundaries) and *Entgrenzen* (beyond borders and boundaries), which will then guide the literary study.

Keywords: exile, migration, borders and boundaries, arrival, French and German contemporary literature