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Modern Theory; References

Fact and Fiction Isocrates on Truth and the Rules for the

EncomiumReferences; Dialogue and Direct Discourse; References; To Purify the Language; Towards the Study of the Canon in Brazilian Literature: Machado de Assis and Jean-Ferdinand Denis; References; Semiotics and Liberal Arts Education; References; On the Need for New Comparative Literature Handbooks; To Join Instruction with Delight On Literary Studies and Literary History; References; Globalization and Literary Value; Cultural Values in a Multicultural Perspective; Is there

such a thing as American culture?; How can we study culture? ReferencesPolyfunctional or Monofunctional Language?: Canons in Linguistic, Stylistic and Literary Competence; References; Historical Referentiality as a Condition of Literary History: References: The Parnassus of the Twenty-First Century Turns into a K2; References; Daughter of Theology; Literary Genres and Intercultural (Mis) Understanding: Bakhtin's concept of speech genres and monologization; Literary genres, monologization, and intercultural (mis)understanding; Monologization in the travel story; The dilution of the picaresque novel; Some concluding remarks; References Brutalization of Cultural and Universal Values in Marlene van Niekerk's Triomf Relativity of Cultural Relativism or Redefinition of Universal Validity? References; The Conventions of Interpretation; Notes; References: Post-Totalitarian Culture in a Postmodern Labvrinth From the Perspective of Poland; Does the Polish government support Postmodernism?; References: Theory, Theories, Theorizing and Cultural Relativism; References; Literary Theory and the Dynamics of the Media Age Static versus Dynamic Models; References; Censorship and Literature in a Democratic South Africa Against Interpretation Hermeneutics and Empirical StudiesReferences: Justifying the Canon; References; Canonsand Comparatists; Notes: Canons in Context; Analyzing school canons; Conclusion; References; Interpretation and Explanation; References; Influence Versus Intertextuality; The Structure of Literary Revolutions; Cultural Relativism and Models for Literary Studies; Models of studying literary relations; Intracultural literary studies: Intercultural literary studies: Crosscultural literary studies; The pragmatics of model-based applications; Where Invention and Representation Meet

Sommario/riassunto

References

Literary Studies is currently going through a deep transformation, preparing itself for the launch into the twenty-first century. The present volume, which is dedicated to Douwe Fokkema on the occasion of his retirement from Utrecht University, captures this transformation in a number of squibs by a select international group of scholars. Topics dealt with are: canon formation, conventions, cultural relativism, hermeneutics vs. empirical studies, and the problem of values, all themes very much central to current discussions in comparative literature and literary theory. Taken together the