Necropolitics and Contemporary Hungarian Literature and Cinema

Ryan Michael Kehoe, Rice University

Abstract

In his article "Necropolitics and Contemporary Hungarian Literature and Cinema" Ryan Michael discusses aspects of the concept of necropolitics (Mbembe) applied to contemporary Hungarian literature and cinema. Kehoe argues that his analysis provides models of postcolonial "aesthetic acts" that disrupt, destabilize, and ultimately subvert the global regimes to which Achille Mbembe refers. Accordingly, Hungary's status as a postcolony is discussed within the context of Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek's and David Chioni Moore's contention that the parameters of postcolonial cultural analysis need to be expanded to account for Central and East Europe's transition out of the Soviet sphere of influence. Further, Kehoe incorporates models of "transitology" from the discipline of comparative politics to the study of culture and literature of the region. Through an analysis of two contemporary Hungarian texts — László Krasznahorkai's novel War and War and Nimród Antal's film Kontroll — Kehoe analyses narrative strategies at work in not only the interrogation of necropolitics but also the construction of a politics of resistance.

Recommended Citation


This text has been double-blind peer reviewed by 2+1 experts in the field.

The above text, published by Purdue University Press ©Purdue University, has been downloaded 2172 times as of 02/18/19.