

Essay Questions

Reading Seminar “Concepts of Authorship,” WS 2007/08, Uni Bayreuth

1. “I am the author.” Comment on the perception of authorship as described in Jorge Luis Borges’ texts “Pierre Menard, Author of the *Quixote*” and “Borges and I”. What are the underlying theoretical concepts?
2. Has there ever been a development in the concept of authorship? Are there current movements?
3. Can one use Plato’s metaphor of the magnet and the rings in today’s literary studies? How?
4. What’s so new about the romantics in terms of authorship? Can you trace this in any of their texts?
5. Why is Boris Tomasevskij’s text “Literature and Biography” so surprising?
6. Comment on the ubiquitous fallacies deplored by the theorists of the New Criticism.
7. Is collective authorship a phenomenon of the internet?
8. Discuss the new models of authorship as defined in Lev Manovich’s “Models of Authorship in New Media”.
9. * Find your own topic. You may use any of the set texts or topics as you main focus. If you are unsure, discuss it with me. Come to my office hour or send me an email. *