



FACULTY OF ARTS  
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# ABSTRACT OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS (ENGLISH)

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## **Adoleszenz im Kontext von Migration im Werk von Irena Brežná, Ilma Rakusa und Katja Fusek**

Adolescence v kontextu migrace v díle  
Ireny Brežné, Ilmy Rakusy a Katji Fusek

Adolescence in the Context of Migration in the Work  
of Irena Brežná, Ilma Rakusa and Katja Fusek

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Specialization:	Germanic Literatures

Praha 2023

## **Keywords**

Ilma Rakusa; Irena Brežná; Katja Fusek; adolescence; migration; Switzerland; literature

## **Abstract**

Many contemporary literary texts call for the analysis of adolescence configurations in the context of migration. This dissertation aims to examine how, in the selected text corpus, adolescence in the context of migration and nomadism concretely across the imagined Iron Curtain is portrayed, between Switzerland and the spaces beyond the former, geopolitical Iron Curtain. The text corpus includes the novels *Die undankbare Fremde* (2012) by Irena Brežná, *Novemberfäden* (2002) and *Aus dem Schatten* (2017) by Katja Fusek, as well as the novel *Mehr Meer. Erinnerungspassagen* (2009) and the short story collection *Einsamkeit mit rollendem "r"* (2014) by Ilma Rakusa. The theoretical groundwork is provided by the conceptualisation of the adolescence phase as a “disorder” (Carsten Gansel) and the situation of “failed” adolescence (Mario Erdheim). The research further builds upon gender theories, theories of experiencing foreignness, and cultural transfer. The first chapter shows that the multilingualism of the characters becomes a space of freedom outside of Swiss German and Swiss dialects. The second and third chapter describe how speaking about clothes (vestimentary poetics) and food (alimentary poetics) helps position the characters in new social and emotional schemas.