

Marginalization and Minorities in Contemporary World Literature and Film: Introduction

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The articles introduced here are the result of the work of a research team on marginalization and minorities in literature and film at the Faculty of Philology, University of Gdańsk, Poland.

The collection represents a wide spectrum of research on the philosophy and theory of marginalization, examining the practice of the margins in current world literature and film and focusing on the motif of minority experience. The articles cover a number of highly differentiated interpretive approaches, methods and conclusions, including a philosophical perspective on the dialectics of marginalization; the motif of death in modern literature and philosophy; colonial Africa in Muriel Spark's fiction; journals from Greenland; the experience of marginalization in essays by Said and others; Africa and Europe in the Danish author Kirsten Thorup's latest novel; black male marginalization in American literature; Count Leon Skórzewski as a citizen of the world; Jewish soldiers in American war fiction; the narratology of marginalization; AIDS and discrimination in the film "Philadelphia"; the Other and vampires in the HBO series "The Blood"; disabled people in Korean film.

The range indicated briefly above is truly remarkable and testimony to the increasing interest of readers, scholars and critics in the topic of marginalization in contemporary society. The treatment and practice of the margin is becoming highly complex, and the logical *locus* of this practice is the artwork which, owing to its inherent nature and form, lends truth, honesty and complexity to the examination and analysis of the multiple issues connected with marginalization. In doing this the artwork is—now and always—superior to the standard media and press descriptions and interpretations that often tend to simplify the issue. The artwork, in short, emerges at this point in history as the possibly sole agent of truth and reality.