

CONTENTS

1. Introducing Methods in Literary Studies: Concepts, Definitions, Overview 1

Why Theories and Methods? Introducing the Topic, Goals, and Outline of this Handbook 1 · On the Indispensability of Theories and Methods in Literary Studies: Analysing Texts and Acquiring Knowledge through Conscious, Explicit, and Systematic Procedures 7 · Theories, Models and Methods: Explaining the Concepts and Distinguishing One from the Other 12 · Spatial and Structural Metaphors for ‘Methods’ We Think and Work With: Methods as Explicit and Systematic Strategies to Solve Problems in Literary Studies 17 · Typologies of Methods and Approaches in Literary and Cultural Studies: A Schematic Overview 26 · Choosing and Using Methods in Literary Studies Wisely: On the Specificity of Scholarly Text Analysis and Interpretations 40 · A Brief Outlook at New Departures: Methods and Trajectories for Literary Studies in the Twenty-First Century 45 · Bibliography 51

Vera Nünning, Ansgar Nünning
2. Methods in Hermeneutic and Neo-Hermeneutic Approaches: A Reading of Shakespeare’s Sonnet 73 59

Introduction 59 · The Hermeneutic Circle: Different Conceptions of Hermeneutic Methodology 64 · Schleiermacher’s Conception of the Hermeneutic Circle 64 · Gadamer’s Concept of ‘the Fusion of Horizons’ 65 · Iser’s Theory of Aesthetic Response and Literary Anthropology 67 · A Hermeneutic Reading of Shakespeare’s Sonnet 73 69 · Critical Summary 76 · Bibliography 79

Ingo Berensmeyer
3. Methods of Psychoanalytic Criticism 85

Theoretical Foundations 85 · Classical Psychoanalysis: Sigmund Freud 85 · (Post)Structuralist Psychoanalysis: Jacques Lacan 88 · Introduction to the Methodology of Psychoanalytic Criticism 89 · Doing Psychoanalytic Criticism: Practical Steps and Procedures 91 · Categories for Analysis 1: Literary Character and Character Constellation 91 · Categories for Analysis 2: Imagery 92 · Categories for Analysis 3: Narrative Situation 93 · Categories for Analysis 4: Representation of Time 93 · Categories for Analysis 5: Representation of Space 94 · Case Study: A Psychoanalytic Interpretation of Edgar Allan Poe’s “Berenice” 95 · Critical Responses to the Method 101 · Bibliography 103

Dorothee Birke, Stella Butter

4. “Reading Form”: A Narratological Guide to Textual Analysis 107
 Introduction 107 · Narratology as a Literary Theory: Three Goals 109 · Applied Narratology as an Analytical and Ancillary Method 111 · Narratological Readings: A Five-Step Guide 115 · Get Ready: Choose Your Tools 115 · Reading *About* Form Precedes Reading Form: Learn How to Use Your Tools 117 · Beginning Somewhere: Identify and Examine Key Components of Narrative Design 117 · Zooming In: Putting Form Under the Microscope 119 · Put on the Varifocals: Applied Narratology as an Ancillary Method 121 · Conclusion 122 · Bibliography 123
Roy Sommer
5. Methods of New Historicism and Cultural Poetics 127
 Introduction: What’s *New*? 127 · A Short History and Overview of New Historicism and its Key Concepts 128 · Introduction to the Method 131 · Model Interpretation: Joseph Conrad’s Short Story “An Outpost of Progress” 135 · Conclusion and Critique of the Method 145 · Bibliography 148
Michael Basseler
6. Methods of Feminist Literary Criticism, Gender Studies and Queer Studies 151
 Introduction 151 · Gender-Sensitive Theoretical Approaches in Literary Studies: A Brief Diachronic Overview 152 · Selected Methods 158 · Sample Analysis: Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre* (1847) 162 · Critique and Limits 169 · Bibliography 170
Marion Gymnich
7. Methods of Postcolonial Literary Studies 173
 Introduction 173 · Central Approaches and Their Main Methodological Implications 176 · Model Interpretation: Andrea Levy’s *Small Island* 183 · Conclusion – Some Points of Criticism 190 · Bibliography 193
Birgit Neumann
8. Close Reading and Wide Reading: Analyzing the Cultural Dimension of Literary Texts 197
 Reading the Cultural Dimension of Fiction 197 · Theoretical Approaches to a Cultural Analysis of Literary Texts 200 · New Historicism (Poetics of Culture) and Cultural History 202 · Reading Culture: The Semiotic Approach 203 · Culture as Text 203 · Interdiscursivity, Cultural Knowledge and Functional History 204 · Wide Reading: Intertextuality as a Method 206 · A Model Interpretation: Toni Morrison’s Novel *Jazz* 210 · The Plot 211 · Fictional Historiography 213 · The Urbanization of African American Culture 215 · *Jazz* as a Document of African American Historiography 216 · Intermedial References to Jazz 217 · Multiple Contextualization 219 · Limits and Relativizations 221 · Bibliography 223
Wolfgang Hallet

9. Methods of New Sociological Approaches to Literature 229
Introducing New Sociological Approaches to Literature 229 · Surveying New Sociologies of Literature and their Methods 230 · Theoretical Assumptions and Methods of 'Latourian Literary Studies' 236 · The Sociology 'in' Literature: A Latourian Reading of Tom McCarthy's Fragmentary Essay-Novel *Satin Island* (2015) 239 · Conclusion and Outlook: New Sociologies of Literature and the State of Literary Criticism 244 · Bibliography 246
Alexander Scherr, Ansgar Nünning
10. Methods of Reception Theory and Cognitive Approaches –
From Reception Aesthetics to Cognitive Poetics 251
Introduction 251 · Presenting the Methodology 256 · Sample Analysis: Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South* (1855) 260 · Criticism 267 · Bibliography 269
Ralf Schneider, Deborah de Muijnck
11. Empirical Methods in Literary Studies 273
Introduction 273 · Theoretical Foundations 273 · Methodology 276 · Example of an Empirical Study 281 · Introduction to the Study 282 · Method 284 · Participants 285 · Materials 286 · Procedure 286 · Preliminary Findings 289 · Critique 290 · Bibliography 292
Jan Alber, Caroline Kutsch, Sven Strasen