

## **Abstract**

How will the human being be changed by biopolitical measures over the next decades and centuries? This question has been not only discussed in the natural sciences and in philosophy, but also in fiction, especially in literature. Novels such as Zeh's *Corpus Delicti* (2009), Rufins *Globalia* (2004), Atwood's *Oryx and Crake* (2003) and Houellebecq's *La possibilité d'une île* (2005), incorporate nonfictional discourses, develop them further and thereby produce new discourses and concepts. The project analyses these novels' treatment of central questions about the future of the human being, concerning topics such as illness, aging, cloning and the human as an animal. Similar topics have already been addressed in Michel Foucault's concept of biopolitics. The concept of transhumanism as developed e.g. by Nick Bostrom can be seen as an actualization of biopolitics, as it discusses these issues with regards to the future. Together, these concepts of biopolitics and transhumanism form the theoretical basis for the project. Starting with Huxley's *Brave New World* (1932), the most important forerunner of the current novels, the analysis shows how in the "laboratory of fiction", experiments concerning contemporary problems are carried out and possible outcomes are projected. Furthermore, the dissertation project also focuses on the question how the incorporation and development of scientific concepts influences narration. Thereby, the project aims at demonstrating how fiction incorporates current discourses about biopolitics and transhumanism and develops self-reliant scenarios.