

»Beneath the Walls:
Underground Movement
and Dissent in Egyptian
Literature after the
Arab Spring«

Prof. Dr. Drew Paul
University of Tennessee, Knoxville



“Border Temporalities: Doing
Literature in a World of Walls”
Lecture Series

Lecture

Thursday, 30 November 2023

6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

ZI Lateinamerika-Institut, Room 201

Rüdesheimer Str. 54-56, 14197 Berlin

Organisation: Prof. Dr. Susanne Klengel (klengel@zedat.fu-berlin.de)

A collaboration of: Research Area 1 »Competing Communities« at the Cluster of Excellence
»Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective« (Freie Universität Berlin)
and ZI Lateinamerika-Institut (Freie Universität Berlin)

This lecture examines works of Egyptian fiction that use underground spaces and subterranean movement to articulate dissenting visions for the future in post-Arab Spring Cairo. Novels such as Mohammed Rabie’s *Otared* (2014) and Ahmed Haji’s *Using Life* (2014) go underground to imagine temporalities that resist and move beyond the present reality of proliferating blockages and walls. These futures range from the hopeful to the apocalyptic, yet they all turn to the underground as a site for imagining and staging transformations of the spatio-political order.