

**Zwischen Idylle und Trostlosigkeit oder
literarische Reise in die ostdeutsche Provinz.
Zur Erinnerung und Gedächtnisarbeit
in *Dinge, die wir heute sagten* (2010)
von Judith Zander**

ANETA JURZYSTA

University of Rzeszow

Abstract

*Between an idyll and despair. Returns to the East-German province in *Dinge, die wir heute sagten* (2010) by Judith Zander*

*The article is devoted to forms of remembering and memory work in Judith Zander's novel *Dinge, die wir heute sagten* (2010) which was set in a provincial village in East Germany, a small narrow-minded and isolated world, where time appears to stagnate. When old Frau Hanske dies, her daughter Ingrid and her family fly in from Ireland for the funeral. Her visit changes many things in the village, raising questions old and new. The villagers start to talk about their present-day lives and about past entanglements. Zander makes the non-eventfulness of the brooding village the very basis for a local identity that is only seemingly divorced from history. The primary focus of the novel is not the province per se, but a reflection on social life in the former GDR and in newly unified Germany.*

Keywords: East Germany; province; history; memory; isolation.