

Raccontare il lavoro nel Ventunesimo secolo. Narrazioni italiane e tedesche a confronto

CORA ROK

Università di Bonn

Abstract

Italian and German Narratives of Work in the 21st Century. A Comparison

*The article compares Italian and German representations of work from the last two decades offering a short comparison of the realities of work in German and Italian society and a chronological overview of the pertinent contributions of theoretical analysis of both countries in order to highlight key literary texts and examine scientific approaches. In contrast to Italy, in Germany there have been no texts found with reference to the factory. Although precarity is also a theme in German texts, German writers appear to be more interested in the depiction of the ideological infiltration of the neoliberal *nouvel esprit du capitalisme* in the consciousness of flexible workers. While in texts of both countries narrative techniques of hybridization and impotent figures can be found, in Italian texts the comic element is clearly stronger. Furthermore, Italian writers demonstrate more commitment against precarization in their texts and in public.*

Keywords: literary representations of work; German literature; precarity; neoliberalism; new realism.