

# Wenn Maschinen, Tiere und Tote tanzen

WEIJIE RING

*Zhejiang Universität (Hangzhou)*

*Abstract*

*When Machines, Animals, and the Dead Dance*

*This study explores how writers examine the boundaries of the Human through depictions of the dance of machines, animals, and the dead. Three texts from the German Romantic period are discussed: E.T.A. Hoffmann's short story Automate (Automaton, 1814), Wilhelm Hauff's fairy tale Der Affe als Mensch (The Ape as a Man, 1826), and Joseph von Eichendorff's poem Der Kehraus (The Last Dance, 1838). The study addresses the following central questions: How can the Human and the Non-human be distinguished through rhythmic expression, and how are their dance movements within this liminal space represented in literary language?*

**Keywords:** Dance; movement; boundaries of the Human; rhythm; German Romanticism.