dr hab. Katarzyna Nowak-McNeice, Prof. UWr

**Literary Representations of California: Between Myth and Reality**

This lecture offers an overview of literary representation of California, starting from the 19th century texts in which the state is presented as a mythical space, and finishing with 21st century examples in which this myth is revised and questioned. The literary examples will be presented and discussed in the light of theoretical texts discussing the exceptional place of California in the national and international imagination. The lecture aims to answer such questions as, What makes California special? What accounts for its presence in international texts of culture? Has California been the paradise it promised to be?