

# ***Remapping Reality***

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Internationale Forschungen zur  
Allgemeinen und  
Vergleichenden Literaturwissenschaft

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In Verbindung mit

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Redaktion: Ernst Grabovszki

Anschrift der Redaktion:  
Institut für Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft, Berggasse 11/5, A-1090 Wien

***Remapping Reality  
Chaos and Creativity in  
Science and Literature***

***(Goethe - Nietzsche - Grass)***

***John A. McCarthy***



Amsterdam - New York, NY 2006

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Die Reihe „Internationale Forschungen zur Allgemeinen und Vergleichenden Literaturwissenschaft“ wird ab dem Jahr 2005 gemeinsam von Editions Rodopi, Amsterdam – New York und dem Weidler Buchverlag, Berlin herausgegeben. Die Veröffentlichungen in deutscher Sprache erscheinen im Weidler Buchverlag, alle anderen bei Editions Rodopi.

From 2005 onward, the series „Internationale Forschungen zur Allgemeinen und Vergleichenden Literaturwissenschaft“ will appear as a joint publication by Editions Rodopi, Amsterdam – New York and Weidler Buchverlag, Berlin. The German editions will be published by Weidler Buchverlag, all other publications by Editions Rodopi.

ISBN: 90-420-1818-6

©Editions Rodopi B.V., Amsterdam - New York, NY 2006

Printed in The Netherlands

## CIP Data Page

Permission to reproduce copyrighted material is gratefully acknowledged. Portions of the Introduction were previously published as “Chaos: Motif, Theme, or Theory” in *Thematics Reconsidered. Essays in Honor of Horst S. Daemmrich*, ed. Frank Trommler (New York and Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1995), 133–43. Parts of chapter 2 are adapted from “Strategien der Schöpfung: Paradigmenwechsel in Natur und Kunst” in *Paragrana* 4.2 (1995): 261–79. Sections of chapter 5 are drawn from “‘A Chain of Utmost Potency’: On the Agon and the Creative Impulse” in *Agonistics: Arenas of Creative Contest*, ed. Janet Lungstrum and Elizabeth Sauer (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1997), 199–225.

The artwork for the cover, “Cracking the Code” (2003),  
was created specifically for this project  
by Kristin Aileen McCarthy (1981-),  
a Ph.D. candidate in behavioral neuroscience at the  
Oregon Health Sciences University.

### “Cracking the Code”

This image draws upon the mythical symbolism of the egg as an embryonic source of life in the broadest sense and of the serpent as both threat and stimulus. As symbol of genetic coding and promise of future development, the egg is embraced by the serpent as harbinger of change – an intrusion both feared and welcome. The promise of future development encapsulated in the egg is augmented by the ambiguous meaning of the serpent both as Biblical icon of forbidden knowledge and as malleable phallic symbol. Its ambiguity as fear-inspiring intruder and, simultaneously, as catalyst for change is mirrored in its encircling of the embryonic promise. If the serpent is viewed as voluntary movement, then the egg – which also plays upon the medulla oblongata, the egg-shaped enlargement at the lower center of the human brain – is representative of involuntary vital processes such as breathing and digestion (the medulla oblongata is involved in involuntary movement). Is the serpent protecting or thwarting that promise of change, that encoded movement? Do all principles of reality ultimately derive from the unity of opposites – convergence and divergence, inner and outer spaces, matter (egg) and mind (serpent = knowledge)? The agonistic, ambivalent quality of the essential tensions between serpent and egg, between environment and seed of life lies at the heart of *Remapping Reality*.

The most powerful of human faculties is the *power of thinking*.

It is the greatest remedy of the mind if a few thoughts can be found from which infinite others arise in order, just as from the assumption of a few numbers, from one to ten, all the other numbers can be derived in order.

*Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, "Of an Organum or Ars Magna of Thinking" (c. 1679)*

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