

Contents

Acknowledgement — V

1 Introduction — 1

Table of abbreviations — 10

2 Literature review: Landscape's revenge — 11

3 From the unreal to the apocalypse: The landscape as a function of language and narrative in Walser and Carvalho — 47

3.1 Walser: *Träumen* (1913–1920) and the short prose — 49

3.1.1 The dissolution of the landscape into language in Walser's short prose — 49

3.1.2 The quest for movement and the use of adjectives — 51

3.1.3 Portrayals of people and the 'what-if' scenarios of *Konjunktiv II* — 53

3.1.4 The unheimlich and the first signs of a dark and unsettling landscape — 56

3.1.5 The rift between indicative and subjunctive fiction: Walser's penchant for miniaturization — 60

3.1.6 A defeatist's answer in face of the unreal: The retreat into a world of objects and the option for the margins — 64

3.2 Carvalho: *Aberração* (1993) and the early novels — 69

3.2.1 The Romantic longing for homecoming and the exile of the mind — 69

3.2.2 Carvalho's intellectual and linguistic post-apocalyptic scenario — 73

3.2.3 The problem of geography: Carvalho's civilizing project — 84

3.2.4 The last human beings: On Carvalho's poetics of subtraction — 97

3.2.5 Um romance sem descendência: The politics of epidemics in Carvalho's early novels in light of Susan Sontag's take on the "rise in apocalyptic thinking" — 102

4 The disappearing act: Moving towards the margins — 110

4.1 Walser: *Fritz Kochers Aufsätze* (1904) — 111

4.1.1 A Romantic death fifty years too late: *Fritz Kochers Aufsätze* as a program of Walser's entire oeuvre — 111

4.1.2 The nature of the *Aufsatz*: From Romantic idyll to language's artifice — 113

4.1.3	The found manuscript: Fritz's unnamed teacher as the narrative mastermind behind the <i>Aufsätze</i> — 119
4.1.4	The bared text: Walser's interweaving of narrative voices and displacement of narrative authority — 124
4.2	Carvalho: <i>Mongólia</i> (2003) — 128
4.2.1	The overlapping of narrative voices and the systemic refusal of manual labor — 128
4.2.2	A minor literature: The case for marginality — 138
4.2.3	A "minor" reading of Machado de Assis' narrators and their influence on Carvalho's work — 142
4.2.4	What is literature and where does it happen?: The displacement of reality into the act of representing — 150
5	How to do things with fire: The desert as landscape's final revenge and as the culmination of Walser's and Carvalho's literary projects — 158
5.1	Walser: <i>Jakob von Gunten</i> (1909) — 159
5.1.1	A dreamlike atmosphere — 160
5.1.2	The slow onset of madness and the ghost of truth — 164
5.1.3	The anti-hero: A departure from Romanticism — 170
5.1.4	Jakob's conflict between the world of culture and the world of nature — 178
5.1.5	Brother ex-machina: The role of the eldest brother in <i>Jakob von Gunten</i> — 184
5.1.6	Johann's seventh labor: To become a tree — 190
5.1.7	Walser's politics of fire and the desert as the inevitable end — 196
5.2	Carvalho: <i>Nove Noites</i> (2002) — 201
5.2.1	Buell Quain: A tragic in the tropics — 201
5.2.2	The making of a Walserian character — 203
5.2.3	L'auteur avant sa mort: Adding Walser to a Structuralist recipe — 210
5.2.4	Carvalho's Napoleon: Truth, historical truth, and (auto) biography — 221
5.2.5	Orphans of civilization: The quest for a paternal figure — 224
5.2.6	"Daqui para frente, é o deserto": The fire and the desert in Carvalho's work — 237
6	The desert for conclusion — 242
	References — 248