Prof. Dr. Stefan Horlacher

S Salman Rushdie Thu (3) HSZ 105

Salman Rushdie is one of the most popular novelists worldwide, and most probably also one of the best, with *The Times* in 2008 ranking Rushdie thirteenth on its list of the fifty greatest British writers since 1945. Rushdie is probably best known for his novel *The Satanic Verses* (1988), which provoked Muslim protest in several countries, leading to Ayatollah Khomeini calling for his death.

This seminar will, after a short introduction to the author, focus on two novels which specifically deal with the Indian subcontinent, i.e. India and Pakistan. The first novel we will concentrate on, *Midnight's Children* (1981), not only won the Booker Prize (1981) but was awarded the 'Best of the Booker' in 1993 and 2008 as the best novel to have received the prize during its first 25 and 40 years. While *Midnight's Children* focuses on the birth of the modern nation of India, the second book we will analyze, *Shame* (1983), won France's Best Foreign Book Award and was a close runner-up for the Booker Prize in 1983. This short novel concentrates on Pakistan and its political upheavals, featuring fictional versions of the former Prime Ministers Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq and is a great counterpart to *Midnight's Children*, not only from a literary but also from a cultural studies and postcolonial studies perspective.

Please buy:

Salman Rushdie. *Midnight's Children* [1981]. London: Vintage, 2008. [ISBN 0099511892]

---: *Shame* [1983]. London: Vintage, 1995. [ISBN 0099578611]