



Galin Tihanov

Queen Mary University of London

Exilic Writing and the Making of World Literature

In this paper I focus on the centrality of exile and exilic writing in the making of world literature. Not only is writing about exile a specific mode of producing a particular version of the world; it is also a way of thinking about movement, mediations, transfers, and boundaries. Crucially, exile is one of the foundational discourses of modernity that interrogates memory, identity, and language. Today's notion of world literature is inseparable from a transnational and cosmopolitan perspective, which is intimately – and in a characteristically contradictory manner – linked to exilic experiences and the practice of exilic writing. I refer to a number of literary texts, but also to a text which falls in the genre of “philosophy of history”, in order to consider how exile and exilic writing have been inscribed in the very notion of world literature with which we work today.



Galin Tihanov is the George Steiner Professor of Comparative Literature at Queen Mary University of London. He has held visiting appointments at Yale University, St. Gallen University, the University of Sao Paulo, Peking University, Seoul National University, and the Higher School of Economics (Moscow). He is the author of four books and has published widely on German, Russian, and East-European cultural and intellectual history, on world literature, cosmopolitanism, and exile. His new book, *The Birth and Death of Literary*

Theory: Regimes of Relevance in Russia and Beyond, will be published by Stanford UP in June 2019; he is currently writing *Cosmopolitanism: A Very Short Introduction* for Oxford UP.