



PARATEXTS ACROSS FICTIONAL AND FACTUAL GENRES OF THE 17TH-19TH CENTURIES

Workshop: call for working papers

**May 3, 2024 / Nobelparken, 1485-414,
whole day seminar**

Since the publication of Gérard Genette's *Paratexts* (orig. *Seuils*, 1987), the concept of paratext has been adopted across the human sciences and interdisciplinary fields. In literary studies, historical focus on paratexts has become an important aspect of genre studies and fictionality studies. Recent years have also seen an increase in the studies of paratexts in non-literary genres, such as medical and philosophical texts. As a result, we have come to realize that, historically, paratexts have been a central site for negotiating and establishing generic conventions and for emphasizing the rhetorical purport of the text to the reader. These studies show that paratexts are often, as Genette puts it, *at the service of better reception for the text and a more pertinent reading of it*.

The Centre for the Rise of Science and Fiction invites researchers at all career stages to submit short proposals for working papers to be discussed in a workshop on paratextual elements across genres. The workshop has two parts: the first part is built around discussing recent articles on paratexts in different genres, while the second revolves around the participants' working papers that are commented on by the other participants and the researchers of the centre.

We particularly welcome papers on paratexts in early modern and romantic periods, focusing on issues, such as:

- Prefaces as authorial rhetoric guiding the reception of the text
- Paratexts negotiating or disavowing factuality, pseudofactuality, or fictionality of the text
- The function of graphic paratexts such as illustrations, title pages and frontispieces
- Satirical, ironic, or uncertain use of paratexts
- Differences or similarities between paratexts in fictional and factual genres or in different fields, such as literature, philosophy, and sciences.

We ask prospective participants to send an abstract of 100-150 words and a biographical note of max. 100 words by 15.3. to Simona Zetterberg-Nielsen (norsz@cc.au.dk).

The deadline for working papers (approx. 5 pages) is 19.4. The working papers may include a brief exposition of the researcher's theoretical framework followed by an analysis of a case relevant to their current research.

The workshop is open to participation without working paper, who should register by 19.4.

All participants should sign up by this link:
<https://events.au.dk/workshopmaythe3-2024/signup>