

PREMIS

The Literary Research Seminar of the English Department at Åbo Akademi University
NB! 15-17, Wednesday 6 March in Panorama, Arken

In collaboration with French Language and Literature at ÅAU and The Embassy of
Canada to Finland, Helsinki

BENOIT DOYON-GOSSELIN: Hermeneutic and Fictional Spaces

Since the 1980s, the figure of the house has played a dominant role in the literature of Quebec and other French-speaking literatures of North America. This is particularly true of the novels of Élise Turcotte. In *The Body's Place* (2003) translated from the original *L'île de la Merci* (1997), the house and other significant spatial figures allow the reader to unite narrative events and to tie up strands of meaning that initially appear disjointed. To provide a better account of the forms assumed by spatial figures in this novel, we will use an approach that can be defined as a hermeneutics of fictional spaces. This approach links the three central concepts of hermeneutics, understanding, explanation and interpretation, with three spatial concepts, i.e. the spatial figure, spatial configuration and spatial refiguration.

Benoit Doyon-Gosselin is an associate professor and holder of the Canada Research Chair in Acadian Studies and Minority Communities at l'Université de Moncton. His first book was *Pour une herméneutique de l'espace. L'oeuvre romanesque de J.R. Léveillé et France Daigle*. He is also the editor of two collective works: *Les institutions littéraires en question dans la*



Franco-Amérique and *Portrait de l'artiste en intellectuel*. In 2018, he published *Lettres à mon ami américain*, an annotated edition of correspondences by the late Acadian poet Gérald Leblanc. His areas of research are Acadian literature and Francophone literature in a minority setting. He is interested in the sociology of literature and the links between space and literature. He is a member The College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada since 2015. He is also the editor of the peer-reviewed journal *@analyses* since 2018.

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Professor Doyon-Gosselin is giving two other lectures besides this one at ÅAU, to which all are welcome:
On Monday, 4 March at 15h15 in Goethe: "L'Acadie et sa littérature". In French.

On Thursday, 7 March at 15h15 in Panorama: "Why do we Translate? In Canada and Beyond." In English.
Part of course Global/Glocal. Explorations in World Literatures, but also open to others.