

# MODERN = AUSTRIAN LITERATURE

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This essay operates under the assumption that W. G. Sebald not only appropriated Austrian texts as objects of scholarly inquiry, but that these works in turn inspired and influenced his own prose fiction, the writing to which he came late in life. Taking as its test site his engagement with the work of Peter Handke, the argument traces through the trope of pathology a process of cross-pollination (Carol Jacob's notion of *Bestäubung*) between these writers and explores the critical guises at work in the mode of "subjective derangement" through which Sebald reads from Handke's metaphysical project a means of seeing the world in a different way.

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**N. B.** Accuracy is paramount. *MAL* continues to subscribe to the spelling reform introduced in 1994/95 in the countries where German is used as the official language; however, we make every effort to quote older material accurately, i.e. without imposing *die Neue Rechtschreibung*, and to honor instances where orthography and/or typography are clearly material to an appreciation of the writer or topic.

MRK/MFT