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Irodalomtudományi Intézet, I. emeleti tanácsterem

Petra James előadása

Luxury goods, exotic objects, ivory and tuberoses –
Habsburg imperial and aesthetic legacies
of the "Cabinet of curiosities" (Kunstkammer)
in Central European and Belgian modernist fiction
1880s-1930s

Short summary

The Habsburg Empire once spanned vast regions across Europe and beyond, fostering the collection of rare and exotic objects displayed in Kunstkammern, early forms of museums. These collecting practices also influenced aristocratic and bourgeois collecting practices across the Habsbourg realm, in cities like Vienna, Innsbruck, Antwerp, Prague within the empire's territories. This project proposes to examine modernist and decadent literary interiors as continuations of these practices, offering a decolonial reinterpretation of key authors such as Rodenbach, Maeterlinck, Caragiale, Thomas Mann, Karásek ze Lvovic or Schulz.