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### Radio as an Apparatus of Transformation: Adaptation of Existing Literary Forms in Twentieth-Century German Hörspiele

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# RADIO AS AN APPARATUS OF TRANSFORMATION: ADAPTATION OF EXISTING LITERARY FORMS IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY GERMAN *HÖRSPIELE*

*Patrick D. Goff*

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The advent of radio in the Weimar Republic paved the way for a new form of dramatic art—*Hörspiele*, or radio plays. Drawn to the medium for its “blindness” (or lack of a physical stage) and potential to reach a wider audience, many German literary figures adapted some of their existing stage plays, novels, and other literary works for the radio. In my senior thesis project, I examine how these adaptations changed, in form and content, over the course of the twentieth century through the use of three case studies: Bertolt Brecht’s *Mann ist Mann* (1926), Heinrich Böll’s *Doktor Murkes gesammeltes Schweigen* (1955), and *Neid*, a radio play written by Elfriede Jelinek in 2011. My project will answer these questions: how did each adaptation handle the intersection of art and politics? In what ways do these adaptations reflect the playwright’s own views on the medium itself, especially relative to radio’s usage as a propaganda tool during the Third Reich? Finally, how does Germany’s literary engagement with radio anticipate or complicate twentieth-century attitudes towards media?