

1) *Title*: MUSIL ONLINE – An Interdiscursive Annotation

2) *Aim*: The project aims to develop an innovative commentary and a specifically designed mode for interdiscursive annotation, thus meeting the main desiderata of research on Robert Musil today and of commentary research in general.

3) *Hypotheses*: The writings of Robert Musil (1880-1942) are considered as one of the most important literary interpretations of European civilization during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, taking into account its various processes of progress, crisis, and decline. Being part of Austria's immaterial cultural heritage and by this virtue also of the collective global cultural memory, Musil's work will be made openly accessible on MUSIL ONLINE. This open internet resource requires at the same time a coherent, thorough-going commentary which pays attention to its multiple layers of meaning, bringing these into a dialogue with one another by rendering their respective scientific, philosophical, cultural and political backgrounds. The only way to do so consists in creating a new form of interdiscursive annotation within an interactive, dynamic digital surrounding, enabling the future user to develop his/her individual access to Musil by allowing him/her to switch on and off several aspects of the online presentation of both the text and virtually all of its dimensions.

4) *Methods*: First, the existing annotations and commentaries to Musil's various writings will be examined as to their pertinent contribution to understanding the author's intentions and role in the context of his time. The annotational structure of the digital edition of Musil's work as given in the Klagenfurt Edition of 2009 will be digitalized and embedded in the online presentation. Second, the nature of an interdiscursive commentary on Musil will be developed from scratch insofar as the new possibilities and technical facilities of an up-to-date online presentation have to be taken into consideration for the first time. In order to do so, the method called 'constellation research' ("Konstellationsforschung") as brought forth by Dieter Henrich et al. will have to be adopted and adapted according to the specific requirements of both a literary corpus of texts and an age as diverse and complicated as the time of Musil's main activity between 1900 and 1940.

5) *Innovation*: While there are several projects that provide an open online access to the writings of an author (including Nietzsche, Wittgenstein, Karl Kraus), none of them aims at developing an embedded form of coherent interdiscursive annotation as well. Rather, the gap remains between the *text* in the sense of a more traditional edition on the one hand and the *context* in the sense of annotations and comments elucidating the former. In contrast, the explicit goal of the present project is to bridge this very gap to the benefit of the reader and user.

**The present project will provide an essential contribution to the free knowledge exchange between science and society, to the sustainable preservation of Austria's immaterial cultural heritage – and, of course, to the global collective memory of humanity.**