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## Literature, Geography and The Poetics of Space

Tracing Historical Narratives Across Literary Landscapes

*Sara Ansaloni & Eleonora Gioia (Eds.)*

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## 6. Nature and city in fairytale space: an environmental and social concern

*Maria Ruggero<sup>1</sup>*

### Abstract

In my essay I am going to discuss the value of space in fairy tales in relation to the environmental and social changes which started at the end of the eighteenth century. First of all, I will provide a general idea of urban and natural space in the German context. Secondly, I will analyse three different stories, *The Brothers* (1795), *The Reconciliation* (1795) and *Undine* (1811) and I will show how the representation of space follows a specific characterisation: the dichotomy between the two areas, the celebration of nature with a consequent human elevation, the interrelation between natural space and human feelings. The conclusion will confirm the main assumptions of the *Romantic ecology* and will show how the geography of fairy tales tends to absorb and to reflect the initial problems which will reach the climax with the current Anthropocene.

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**Keywords:** *Romantic Ecology; Fairy Tales, Anthropocene; German Literature; Ecocriticism*



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