

**Towards the Chōric Reception of Global Literature:
A Case Study of Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West***

Mohsin Hamid's latest novel *Exit West* (2017) depicts a tenuous journey of a young couple who are forced to leave their homeland at the outbreak of the war. Hamid sets the story of *Exit West* in an unnamed city of an unnamed country, in the place nowhere and the place where the reader imagines it to be. Moving the narrative through time and space, from Mykonos and London to San Francisco, keeping the names of those places unknown to his characters, Hamid reconceptualises the ideas of home and belonging within unnamed places. Drawing on Jacques Derrida's approach to Plato's *chōra*, a term dealing with a way of reception necessarily connected to a place, this paper aims at unravelling the ways in which the narrative and global reception of the novel interweave and examining how the real city of Lahore is transformed into the imagined unnamed place in the novel, thus challenging the reader's perception of not only the novel but the idea of place and home as well.

Biographical note:

Anna Savitskaya is a PhD student at the English Department of the University of Göttingen and research assistant at Göttingen State and University Library. She completed an MA in English Philology at the University of Göttingen with a thesis on the formation of transcultural identity in heterotopic spaces in selected works of Brian Castro. Her interest in transculturality in contemporary context developed into her current PhD project, *Cultural Evolution in Contemporary Anglophone Literature*, which examines parallels between the concept of transculturality and cultural evolution in contemporary fiction.