

## **Abstract**

This thesis analyses Ingeborg Bachmann's posthumously published texts in the volume *Male oscuro. Aufzeichnungen aus der Zeit der Krankheit* and their relations to her literary work. Two central themes are elaborated through the analysis of the volume: illness and writing. The focus is on Bachmann's conception of writing and the issues arising from it.

A comparison between *Male oscuro* and the author's work, the short story *Undine geht* and two poems *Keine Delikatessen* and *Böhmen liegt am Meer*, shows analogies on several different levels. The concept of utopia indicates continuity in Bachmann's work and the existential condition for her writing in relation to the metaphor of 'desert'.

**Key words:** Ingeborg Bachmann, Male oscuro, illness, writing, metaphoric, contrariness, comparison, utopia