

The novels of the Austrian writer Paulus Hochgatterer were called by the German literary critic Hans-Joachim Neubauer “Heimatromans in quotation marks”. This thesis examines this unclear description in a form of a case study of the portrayal of the country in contemporary Austrian fiction. The study opens with an introduction to the life and works of Paulus Hochgatterer. Its central focus is a detailed analysis of the two latest novels by Hochgatterer, namely *The Sweetness of Life* (2006) and *The Mattress House* (2010). The novels are scrutinized on the basis of the preceding theoretical description of the genre Heimatroman and its historical development. The individual chapters consider space, nature, characters and narrative structure. By doing so, the “Heimatroman” claim is refuted and the often narrow understanding of regional literature acquires a global dimension.