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**Dissertation: Utopia, or Paradise Lost? The Texts of Danish Immigrants in
Argentina and Latin American Immigrants in Denmark and Their Images of Denmark**

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Abstract

The thesis explores the texts of Danish immigrants in Argentina in the period ca 1844-1990 and Latin American immigrants in Denmark in the period ca 1973-1990 and it follows particularly the conditions and the purposes of their creation. The texts are considered as representations of migration and exile literature in the body of Danish literature. Both groups of authors were producing the texts independently of one another. However, one can identify a joint effort to create or retain an active relationship to Denmark in all texts. This effort has an existential dimension, too, as one can view it as an act of (re)formulation of their personal identity in exile.

The thesis then analyses the texts with a help of postcolonial reading in order to find images of Denmark that are being established in the text. Terms adopted from postcolonial studies (and partially also from New Historicism) about migration and migration literature are explained in a separate chapter. The hypothesis of this dissertation is a possible identification of these images with images of utopia, paradise lost or the promised land. Acts of communication with traditional images related to the conquest of America and the establishing of the Argentine Republic is also assumed. The result of the analyses is a multi-layered, dynamic image of Denmark where, nevertheless, one can find – in both groups of the texts – some identical elements, as well as communication with images of utopia, the lost paradise and some specific Argentine topics.

key words: migration - migration literature - exile literature - Danish literature - Argentina – postcolonialism – identity – Danish migration to Argentina