



Press Release

New Study on Günter Grass and John Dos Passos

“I’ve very much enjoyed reading William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe, and John Dos Passos. There is no one like Dos Passos – with his marvelous depiction of the masses – writing in America now.” – **Günter Grass**

This study reveals how John Dos Passos influenced Günter Grass, who in 1999 was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. It further compares their viewpoints on *Flucht und Vertreibung* (the expulsion of Germans from Central and Eastern Europe at the end of World War II).

Miguel Oliveira taught at the University of Madeira and ISAL, a private academic Institute. From 2003 onwards, he directed the Language Lyceum in Funchal and was appointed head of the Forum for Philosophical Studies of the Forum for Sciences, Arts and Culture in Madeira. In 2005, he commissioned the bicentennial documentary exhibition on Friedrich von Schiller on Madeira Island. He then worked as coordinator and curator for the John Dos Passos Studies Centre and the Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs. Furthermore, he became one of the founding members and was invited to join the advisory board of the John Dos Passos’ Portuguese

John Dos Passos had been sent to post-war Germany to report on the Nürnberger trials for “Life Magazine.” As a correspondent his articles that were later compiled in his book *Tour of Duty*, also contained reflections on the suffering of the Displaced Persons (DP’s). Günter Grass, too,

Literary Prize, whose first jury he was designated to chair. He eventually became a permanent member of the Council on Reading of the Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs, whose aim it was to sponsor the publication of young, promising authors. In 2007, Oliveira edited the Portuguese biography of the German Nobel laureate Günter Grass, starting in the same year to publish scientific monographs on John Dos Passos. In 2009, he translated Ödön von Horváth’s novel *Being Youth without God* into Portuguese and launched a students’ guide on self-learning that was co-financed by the Goethe Institute in Lisbon and the Chamber of Commerce of Porto

portrayed their fate and anguish in his *Crabwalk* novella. Although Dos Passos wrote from an American perspective, his insights on post-war Germany are actually not very far removed from Günter Grass’ perceptions of the era.

Santo. Moreover, he published a lyrical biography on Federico García Lorca. Later on he acted as councillor for the Austrian Bureau of the Dialogue Among Civilizations, whose purpose was to bring closer together and strengthen the friendship ties between the Austrian and Portuguese peoples, through exchange projects in the areas of education, science and culture. In addition, Oliveira held several lectures amongst others at the University of Vienna. For his work in the dissemination of American and German cultures, Oliveira was awarded two honours of merit: one by the American Consulate, the other by the Regional Government of Madeira.

Titel

John Dos Passos’ Influence on Günter Grass, A Study on Two Memory Writers and Two Distinct Approaches towards Migration as a Literary Theme

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Miguel Oliveira



**John Dos Passos’
Influence on Günter Grass**

A Study on Two Memory-Writers and Two Distinct Approaches
Towards Migration as a Literary Theme

“A remarkable essay on two major writers and their viewpoints on *Flucht und Vertreibung*.” **Susana d’Abreu**

“You have a unique perspective on my father’s life and writing. Your studies and observations will contribute to a new understanding of my father’s international side. We do appreciate all of your writing and teaching on the subject John Dos Passos.”
Lucy Dos Passos Coggin