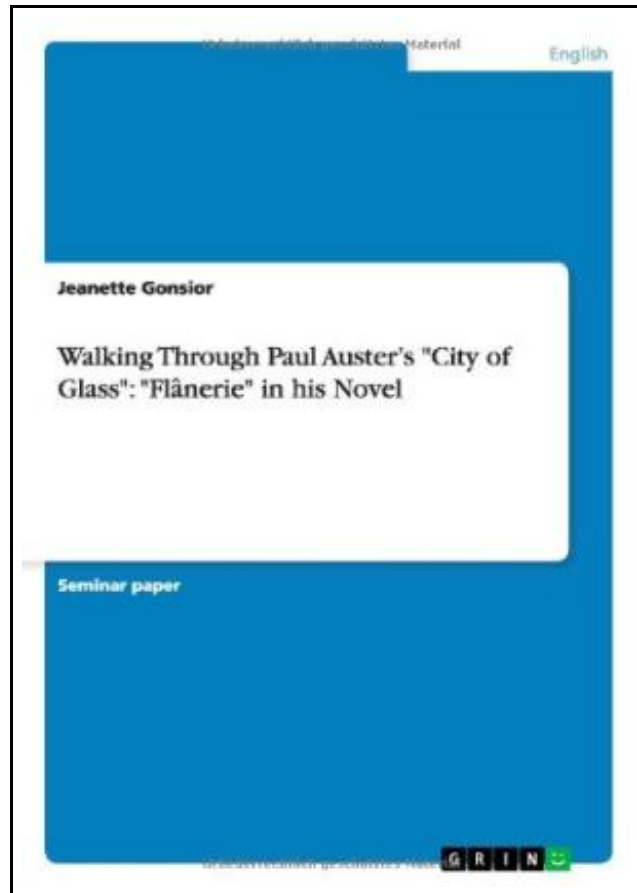


Walking Through Paul Auster's "City of Glass": "Flânerie" in his Novel



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Reviews

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(Dayana Turner)

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GRIN Verlag Feb 2009, 2009. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 211x148x7 mm. Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, Humboldt-University of Berlin (Department of English and American Studies), course: The Flaneur and the Visual Culture of the City, 30 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: 'To stroll is a science, it is the gastronomy of the eye. To walk is to vegetate, to stroll is to live.' (Balzac, 'Physiologie du Mariage') 'City of Glass' is Paul Auster's first novel, published in 1985, after being rejected by several publishers. The first part of 'The New York Trilogy' has been translated into 17 languages so far, a fact that pleads for the novel's commercial success nowadays. An indication for the literary importance of 'City of Glass' is the continually growing number of essays, anthologies and monographs all over the world. It is undeniable that its selling success is related to the general fascination for the cosmopolitan city of New York and for detective stories, as - at first sight - Auster's novel follows the tradition of Edgar Allan Poe. However, he follows the tradition 'as creator of 'the lost ones'', as - on closer inspection - the reader has to realize that the real mystery is one of confused character identities and realities. 'City of Glass' does not meet the reader's expectations about a typical New York 'city novel': Auster created an adequate text for a modified, postmodern cityscape where all objects of the city seem like linguistic codes that need to be deciphered. The risks of the city result from the confusion of language and perception. The fear of an identity collapse comes along with the apparent collapse of the cityscape. Auster picks out the loss of stability and security in...



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