In the center of EU-Europe but not a part of it, that’s Switzerland’s unique position today. After a quick overview of key historical, political, and economic dates and facts, this presentation homes in on the crisis of self-understanding that has affected the country since the late 1980s and triggered a slow race to catch up with the world. The end of the Cold-War order has forced Switzerland to redesign itself for a global context. Swiss literary culture and discourse have often been critical of the nation’s tendency toward backwards-oriented utopias and tried to push the country toward more openness. But as the country changes, so does its literary scene.