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1 Introduction

New York,
Concrete jungle where dreams are made of,
There's nothing you cant do,
Now you're in New York,
these streets will make you feel brand new,
the lights will inspire you,
lets hear it for New York, New York, New York¹

These lines from the song *Empire State of Mind* (2009) by the famous American rapper, record producer and entrepreneur Jay-Z, who himself was born in Brooklyn, New York, reveal the challenge of capturing the City of New York in words. New York City is on the one hand celebrated as a "[c]oncrete jungle", but on the other hand also as the place, "where dreams are made of", whose "streets will make you feel brand new" and whose "lights will inspire you".

¹Jay-Z ft. Alicia Keys *Empire State of Mind*. <http://www.magistrix.de/lyrics/Jay-Z%20ft.%20Alicia%20Keys/Empire-State-Of-Mind-405440.html>. (September 25, 2011).

2 The City as Metaphor

3 Pictures of New York City

3.1 Panorama of the City

3.1.1 John Dos Passos' *Manhattan Transfer*

3.2 Into the City

3.2.1 The Polarized City of Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* and Stephen Crane's *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*

3.2.2 The Ethnic City of Anzia Yezierska's *Bread-Givers* and Rudolph Fisher's *City of Refuge*

3.3 The Metaphysical City

3.3.1 Paul Auster's *City of Glass*

4 New York Topography as Representation ...

5 Conclusion

6 Primary Literature

Stephen Crane. *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets and Other Tales of New York*.

John Dos Passos. *Manhattan Transfer*.

Edith Wharton. *The House of Mirth*.

Anzia Yezierska. *Bread Givers*.

7 Secondary Literature

Antje Dallmann. *ConspiraCity New York: Großstadtbetrachtung zwischen Paranoia und Selbstermächtigung*. Vol. 176. American Studies: A Monograph Series.

Robert A. Gates. *The New York Vision: Interpretations of New York City in the American Novel*.

Peter Hall. "Metropolis 1890-1940: Challenges and Responses". *Metropolis 1890-1940*. Anthony Sutcliffe. 19–66.

Heinz Ickstadt. "New York und der Stadtroman der amerikanischen Moderne". *Medium Metropole: Berlin, Paris, New York*. Friedrich Knilli. 111–124.

Kenneth T. Jackson. "The Capital of Capitalism: The New York Metropolitan Region, 1890-1940". *Metropolis 1890-1940*. Anthony Sutcliffe. 319–354.

Peter Keating. "The Metropolis in Literature". *Metropolis 1890-1940*. Anthony Sutcliffe. 129–146.

George J. Lankevich and Howard B. Furer. *A Brief History of New York City*.

Leonard Lutwack. *The Role of Place in Literature*.

Irene Belleter Sauter. *New York City: "Gilt Cage" or "Promised Land?" Representations of Urban Space in Edith Wharton and Anzia Yezierska*.

Hans W. Schaller. *Der amerikanische Roman des 20. Jahrhunderts*. Uni-Wissen Anglistik, Amerikanistik.

Anthony Sutcliffe. "Introduction: Urbanization, Planning and the Giant City". *Metropolis 1890-1940*. Anthony Sutcliffe. 1–18.

Joan Zlotnick. *Portrait of an American City: The Novelists' New York*.