
German Studies Association

Newsletter

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Letter from the President

Dear GSA members,

You may—or may not!—recall that last spring we conducted a survey of GSA members. The survey was born out of the work of the Conference Task Force Committee, and designed and implemented by past president Celia Applegate and GSA Board member Louise Davidson-Schmich, with technical assistance from Charles Fulton and Terry Pochert. The idea behind it was to gather some hard data on our (growing) membership, and to obtain some feedback on several important questions and initiatives the Board had been deliberating for some time. Once we had the survey data in hand, we have been able to use it in Board discussions and to inform decisions made there and in the Executive Council; survey data, and the further analyses of it provided to us by Louise, also formed the basis for discussions in the Future of the GSA Committee I convened last year. This Committee made a number of recommendations to the Board, all of which have now been implemented. In this newsletter, I want to share with the full membership the outcomes of the survey, and then to let you know how the GSA leadership has responded to the wishes you expressed.

Results of the Survey

We had 385 responses—from a membership of then about 2100 members—to our survey. Of those who responded, about 41% described themselves as historians, 37% as literary scholars, 6% as interdisciplinary scholars, 3% as political scientists, 2% as art historians, 2% as scholars of music, and about 6% as “other.” About 30% described themselves as full professors, 25% as associate professors, 15% as assistant professors, 13% as non-tenure track or independent scholars, 10% as graduate students, and 4% retired scholars. 42% of the respondents were women; and 53% men (the remainder gave no answer). About 85% of those who filled in the survey teach in North America, 11% in Europe, and the remainder elsewhere. A large number of respondents are long-time attenders of the GSA conference: 28% said they had attended 7 or more conferences, and an additional 21% had attended between 4 and 6 conferences. But we also had a large number of responses from people who have attended 3 or fewer conferences (34%). This seems to us a reasonably representative sample, though, according to our other membership records, it slightly underrepresents literary scholars, junior professors and grad students, and women. But, thanks to the analysis of Louise Davidson-Schmich, we have also broken results down to reflect those particular categories, and have not found great differences in their responses to the questions, with a few exceptions, which I will detail below.

The first question we asked on our survey was: how important is attending the GSA conference to your teaching and scholarship? There the responses were enormously gratifying, and point to the continuing intellectual significance of the GSA conference: 44% strongly agreed that the conference was important, and a further 35% agreed that it was somewhat important. Only 17% were neutral, or disagreed. We next asked a series of questions about innovation in conference format (a subject the Board has been discussing for some time). Here we had less unanimity; 52% said they would like to see alternatives to traditional panels offered;

14% were opposed to this, and about 30% declared themselves neutral on this point. We then asked a question that is a crucial one for the Board's deliberations about the conference's size: are you able to attend the conference only if you present a paper? Here we found that 60% of our members either agree or strongly agree that this is the case; about 10% were neutral, and 28% disagreed or strongly disagreed. In the next question, are you able to attend the conference only if you are listed on the program in some capacity, we found that an even larger percentage, 66% to be exact, need to be listed to receive the funding that allows attendance at the conference. A corollary question, asking if members would attend if they are not listed on the program, showed that 65% would probably not attend, with a further 12% neutral (or undecided) on this question. Not surprisingly, when broken down by rank and gender, junior scholars—and women—were more dependent upon giving a presentation to ensure the funding necessary to come to the conference.

The next question was a long one, and born out of many GSA Board meetings in which we have discussed how to keep the conference from running too late on Sunday afternoons, while also trying to offer our members as many sessions as possible (assuming, of course, that these sessions are approved as intellectually viable by the Program Committee). We asked if members would want to shorten or downsize the conference, given that we would almost surely have to raise registration fees, and reject many more panels. The responses here were as follows: 57% of members wanted the conference to stay the same size. 26% were willing to risk having their papers rejected and/or to pay larger fees in order to have the conference end at noon on Sunday. 31% were willing to risk having their papers rejected and/or to pay larger fees in order to have a more selective conference. Since the numbers here total more than 100%, it seems clear that many of those who wanted the conference to end by Sunday noon also wanted a more selective conference, even at the price of rejected papers and higher fees. When this question was broken down further, to understand the responses according to the rank of the respondents, we found that the senior members were much more likely to opt for the smaller conference. What to do about these varying wishes on the part of the members is something the Board has discussed extensively, and will continue to discuss in future (see below as well).

For some time the Board has been discussing how to encourage sociability between disciplines and generations, especially as the conference has grown in size. We would like to encourage members to come to our plenary lectures and meals, but understand that some people prefer not to attend these, for various reasons (including cost). Still, we would like to have some occasions for "mixing," and, among our pragmatic considerations is that we also must ensure that we meet our hotels' food and beverage minimum costs (all conference hotels require a minimum expenditure here, and we often run the risk of incurring penalties because we do not spend enough here). Thus the Board devised the idea of including in the conference registration fee a "drink ticket," costing about \$5-10 extra, which individuals can redeem for beer, wine, or a soft drink at a reception for the entire membership. We asked the membership if they liked this idea, or if they might opt instead for an all-members meal, at the cost of \$30-45. The responses were as follows: 53% were

in favor of adding a drink ticket, 12% for adding a meal ticket, and 38% opposed adding any additional fees for these purposes. There were significant gender (but not generational) differences here; 70% of women were willing to pay for a drink ticket, as compared to only 54% of men. As described below, in response to this finding, we will include a drink ticket in the conference registration fee for 2014, adopting this idea on a trial basis. The Board will then discuss whether or not the event succeeded in its purposes, and decide whether or not to continue this practice in 2015.

Motivated by recent changes in technology, our eighth question asked our members if they would use a Facebook page or a Twitter account to learn about GSA prizes, conferences, and other services. Here we found that 32% would, and 59% would not use such services. Not surprisingly, again, there were significant differences here between generations. 57% of junior respondents answered yes to this question, while only 22% of senior respondents answered in the affirmative. Interestingly, there was also a gender difference here: 42% of women said they would use Facebook or twitter, while only 31% of men agreed. Please see below on the concerns the Future of the GSA Committee and the Board have expressed about going in this direction, and the innovations we are making in the use of technology to reach especially younger members of the organization.

In response to our question about whether or not this newsletter should be delivered exclusively in electronic form, we had an overwhelming response: 73% wanted to save mailing and paper costs by making the newsletter exclusively available on the website, while a little less than 12% wanted to have the option of receiving a paper copy. The Board opted to go to an exclusively electronic format.

Responses to the Survey Results

In response to this survey, and to the many other transformations underway in our organization as it grows, and as the technological and academic worlds change around it, the Board and Executive Council have been working hard to serve the membership in new ways. In the paragraphs that follow, I will briefly describe some of the changes we have been implementing, and also ask you to let us know what you think about the ways in which the organization is evolving. We always want to hear from you!

Perhaps our most dramatic innovation has been the addition of the seminars to the GSA conference format, a response to the desire on the part of many members to modify the conventional session format, at least for those who would like to try something new. The seminars were also designed as a means of turning our “threaded” sessions into more intensive discussions, allowing participants the opportunity to sit down together over three days, and really get to know one another, and one another’s work. I won’t go into detail about the seminars, as they were described in my previous newsletters, but suffice it to say that the 2013 committee (chaired by Lutz Koepnick, with myself and vice-president Irene Kacandes as members) attended the seminars held in Denver, and found them exciting and, on the whole, successful with respect to our goals. With Lutz as, once again, chair of the seminar committee (and Emre Sencer and Elisabeth Herrmann as committee members), we are trying the seminars again this year, and will have 19 on the program (up from 12 in 2013). Learning from experience, this time we are limit-

ing the seminars to no more than 18 participants, and also offering more advice to convenes about best practices in organizing the materials for the seminars. We hope the seminars will be even more successful this year (last year's participants were, on the whole, enormously enthusiastic about their experiences), and become a permanent part of the conference for the foreseeable future.

But we have also made other changes in response to the survey. As mentioned above, we will be adopting a drink ticket, on a trial basis, for the 2014 Kansas City convention. The newsletter is now exclusively available online. In response to the feedback on conference size, we have decided not to scale back the size of the conference, in large part because of the need on the part of our junior members to deliver a paper in order to come to the conference. The Board has, however, pledged itself to ending the conference as early as possible on Sunday afternoons. In Denver, the last session ended at 1:45. In Kansas City, we will do our level best to end by this time, or before, though members should appreciate that scheduling 19 seminars, on top of what may be a record number of sessions, is a Herculean task, and the Program Committee and Executive Director may have to modify our session times in order to accommodate all of our presenters in the spaces available to us. The question of the conference's size and ending time is one on which there is no full agreement, either on the Board, or among the members, and we will simply have to revisit this issue regularly to attempt to satisfy as many people as possible, within the limits of what is also practical in terms of cost and available space.

Speaking of space, I should also note that the Executive Council has recognized that future conferences will, most probably, be bigger than they were ten years ago, and that we can try to negotiate for more space and better locations for the future, and the Executive Director is working hard (as ever!) to lock in good rates at exciting locations in hotels with more conference space and better technology. He has recently purchased a new batch of LCD projectors with the intention of making AV usage available for all sessions which desire it. This expense is a vital one, we believe, as so many of our presenters now wish to use PowerPoint or film clips, and by using our own machinery (rather than renting from the hotels) we will in a very short time recuperate our expenditures.

The technology question brings me to an issue that the Board, on the recommendation of the Future of the GSA Committee, has tabled for a time, and that is the use of Facebook or Twitter as a means of informing our members about our organization. We discussed this matter in depth, and though we recognize the usefulness of these media for updating members on events, we were also concerned about the misuse of either of these formats. In order to prevent misuse, and also to offer high-quality information, we would need to have someone available to send out messages or make postings, and to monitor the Facebook page or Twitter feed constantly. This we simply can't manage at this stage, though it might be possible sometime in the future. At present, we don't want to risk overwhelming (or underwhelming!) our members with information, and we don't want to become a provider of mere gossip or redundant information. So, we will not be adopting Facebook or Twitter at this time.

What we ARE doing, however, is perhaps more exciting, and also more

practical for our members. Thanks to the extremely hard work of a few people, most notably Terry Pochert, Charles Fulton, David Barclay, and Jerry Fetz, we now have up and running a “GSA Exchange.” This idea was born, once again, out of ideas conceived by the Conference Task Force, and promoted by the Future of the GSA Committee, and encouraged, too, by the Interdisciplinary Committee, chaired by Janet Ward and Marc Silberman. All of these people—and many Program Directors as well—have noted that what we really need is a place for junior scholars to find one another, and to form panels for the conference, or learn about our networks, of which there are now 15, devoted to many different aspects of German Studies. What we envisioned was a sort of “electronic sandbox,” in which individuals could play around with ideas, find others interested in similar topics or approaches, and make connections with one another that are not so easy to make for those at smaller universities or on different continents. We encourage you to find the Exchange on the website, and to try it out!

Like the GSA, *German Studies Review* continues to thrive in terms of the total number of submissions and the increasing submissions by scholars from outside Europe and North America. Over the past three years, the journal has become much more selective, with the acceptance rate now at 30 %. In the meantime, several new features (e.g., conference snapshots, forums) have been added that emphasize the connection to the conference. The first volume of 37 featured a report from one of the seminars on World War I. Inspired by the Trojanow affair of 2013; one of the next issues will be devoted to the question of surveillance.

There are many other innovations in the works, or being discussed, among members of the Board and the subcommittees of the GSA. We are discussing, for example, the adoption of a “conference app” for smart phones, an application that would allow members to check the conference program on their phones, and to seek updates to the program in real time. We continue to discuss how to make the conference more intellectually vibrant, and to find ways to connect members even as the size of the organization grows. We have, for a long time, offered travel grants to assist members traveling from overseas in attending our conference; we are now in a position to offer more of these, thanks especially to the generosity of the Austrian Cultural Forum New York. On their initiative, this year we will also offer a new prize, for the best paper on Austria and the Great War submitted for the conference this year. We have begun a fundraising effort, and are reaching out to organizations and to individuals to solicit donations for the many projects we are undertaking now and want to undertake in the future. You will probably hear more about this, and also see GSA products for sale at the next conference—so bring some extra cash to Kansas City! In general, we are moving toward creating a more professional organization, which involves more work on the part of the leadership, and more funds dedicated to paying for professional management. We are listening to you, and we are moving with the times, and we hope that we can continue to serve you, and to listen to and respond to your critical comments as well as your positive ones, in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,
Suzanne Marchand, President

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear members and friends of the German Studies Association,

As we all know, 2014 is a year of special commemorations, among them the centennial of the outbreak of the First World War, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War, and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. And not to be overlooked is the Congress of Vienna bicentennial and the Max Weber sesquicentennial! Although the geographer Simon Reid-Henry has recently criticized what he calls the “Great Year theory of history,” it is obvious, all the same, that an organization like the German Studies Association must take account of all these commemorations.¹

For some years, we have planned to hold our Thirty-Eighth Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, home of the extraordinary collections of the National World War I Museum. The conference dates are 18-21 September. The conference venue, the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center, is very close to the Museum, and I certainly hope that as many members as possible will visit the museum and its archives. GSA members with a conference badge will receive a reduced admission fee. We are planning a number of events to commemorate the three anniversaries, from roundtables and session series to special speakers. We are, of course, also mindful that we are an inter- and multidisciplinary organization, and we will be offering our usual rich array of speakers and programs. Thus, for example, our speakers will include Christopher Clark, recently named the next Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge; Walter Momper, Governing Mayor of (West) Berlin in 1989; Suzanne Marchand, GSA President and Professor of History at Louisiana State University, who will present her Presidential Address; Maxi Obexer, one of the German-speaking world’s most active and creative writers; and Peter von Matt, Switzerland’s most distinguished literary critic.

This year’s conference thus promises to be one of the most interesting and important in our history. Our Program Committee, ably directed by Margaret Menninger (Texas State University), our 2014 Program Director, has worked indefatigably to produce a memorable array of panels and roundtables. The Seminar Committee, also ably chaired by Lutz Koepnick (Vanderbilt University), approved nineteen exciting seminars, up from last year’s initial offering of twelve. And our Interdisciplinary Networks, overseen by the equally tireless Marc Silberman (University of Wisconsin–Madison) and Janet Ward (University of Oklahoma), have again done an exceptional job, as the intellectual diversity of our Network-sponsored sessions clearly demonstrates. Finally, our heartfelt thanks go to all the members of the Program Committee and the Seminar Committee, to the seminar conveners, and to the coordinators of the individual Networks. The GSA simply could not exist without them, and without the voluntary efforts of all our other committee members. I hope you know how grateful we are to you.

¹ Simon Reid-Henry, “When Years Are Celebs,” *Intelligent Life* (March-April 2014), <http://moreintelligentlife.com/content/ideas/simon-reid-henry/when-years-are-celebs>.

We are also very grateful to the Austrian Cultural Forum New York (ACFNY), the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington, DC (ACFDC), and the German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington, DC, for their continued financial support. This support makes it possible for members to travel to the GSA conference and for us to attract important speakers to the conference. Details of these awards can be found in this issue of the Newsletter.

The ACFNY and the ACFDC have also initiated a new prize for innovative research in Austrian Studies presented at the GSA. See inside for further details on this exciting opportunity.

And, of course, we always owe a huge debt of gratitude to the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for its continued support and cooperation. The DAAD makes possible two of our most important annual prizes, and its financial support helps us bring exciting speakers and many members from Germany to the conference each year. The presence of the DAAD at each of our conferences is hugely important to us.

Finally, a special note of thanks to the Embassy of Switzerland for enabling the GSA to invite Professor Peter von Matt to this year's conference. Thanks too to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany for its support!

As Suzanne Marchand notes in her "Letter from the President," the German Studies Association continues to flourish. We hope to be a congenial and democratic intellectual home for all scholars in German Studies. As I always like to emphasize, this is *your* association. At a time of immense uncertainty in the academic world, we can derive some consolation from the fact that the GSA is doing well, thanks to *your* commitment and *your* efforts. But as President Marchand also notes, we *must* continue to look to the future and focus our efforts on developing up-to-date models of governance, a long-term fundraising strategy, and innovative means of conference organization and administration. With your help, we'll succeed.

This issue contains our annual list of dissertations in German Studies, this time for the years 2012-2014. If anyone needs proof of the intellectual vitality of German Studies, all they need to do is read the descriptions of these recent contributions to scholarship. Many thanks to our Vice President, Professor Irene Kacandes, for compiling the list.

All best wishes for a productive summer, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Kansas City.

Best regards,

David E. Barclay
Executive Director
German Studies Association

**The Thirty-Eighth Annual Conference of the
German Studies Association
September 18-21, 2014
The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center
Kansas City, Missouri**

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Conference of the German Studies Association will take place from September 18 to September 21, 2014, at the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center, 1 East Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64108. For those members from overseas who may be visiting the area for the first time, Kansas City is located on the state line between Missouri and Kansas. We are meeting on the Missouri side.

The Westin is located in downtown Kansas City, and is immediately adjacent to Hallmark's 85-acre **Crown Center**, a complex of stores, shops, and restaurants. (Kansas City is the headquarters of Hallmark Cards.) It is also adjacent to the beautifully restored **Union Station**, which this year is commemorating its own centennial. And, as we all know, this year witnesses the centennial as well of the First World War, and thus it is especially appropriate that the German Studies Association is meeting in Kansas City. The **Liberty Memorial**, dedicated in 1926, is on a hill close to the hotel, and on the Memorial's grounds is the **National World War I Museum**, with which the German Studies Association has been cooperating in preparing for this year's conference. The museum is the country's official museum of the First World War, and houses one of the largest collections of its kind in the world. GSA members will receive specially reduced ticket prices to visit the museum, which we encourage our members to do.

The Kansas City region is full of other interesting tourist destinations as well. The **Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art** houses one of the most diverse collections in the country. For jazz lovers, Kansas City is truly special. The home of such great musicians as Count Basie and Charlie Parker, it now hosts the **American Jazz Museum**. Close to the latter in the famous **18th and Vine Historic District** are the superb collections of the **Negro Leagues Baseball Museum**, honoring the rich legacy of African-American baseball players before and immediately after Jackie Robinson and the desegregation of the sport in 1947. For students of architectural history, Kansas City is also the home of **Country Club Plaza**. Notable for its Spanish-influenced architecture, the Plaza opened in 1922 as the country's first shopping center designed for automobiles, and it still houses a large array of shops and restaurants. This brings up the subject of Kansas City's culinary traditions. The city is justly renowned for its steaks and barbecue, and excellent dining possibilities abound. Finally, not to be overlooked in nearby Independence, Missouri, is the **Harry S. Truman Presidential Library**, which is full of materials of interest to scholars investigating the early Cold War and the German-speaking world after 1945. President Truman's home in Independence – the **Harry S. Truman National Historic Site** – is also open to the public.

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Conference again promises to be one of the larger gatherings in our history. Following last year's successful experiment with a series of intensive, three-day seminars, this year we are offering **nineteen seminars** on a wide range of issues in German Studies. As was the case last year, the seminars will run concurrently on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the 8:00 a.m. time block. (See the seminar descriptions below.) Once again we are again scheduling three Sunday time slots in order to accommodate the large number of excellent sessions reviewed by the Program Committee, we have rearranged the Sunday meeting times so that the entire conference will end by 1:45 p.m. on Sunday.

Our annual conference is enriched each year by the support and participation – in sessions, roundtables, and receptions – of a number of **affiliated societies and organizations**. Among the organizations represented this year are: the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG); the American Friends of Marbach; the Austrian Cultural Forum New York (ACFNY); the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington, D. C. (ACFDC); the Berlin Program in Advanced German and European Studies; the Central European History Society (CEHS); the Coalition of Women in German (WiG); the DEFA Film Library at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD); the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany; the Embassy of Switzerland; the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C. (GHI); the Goethe-Institut New York; the North American Goethe Society; the GSA Working Group on World War I; the North American Heine Society; Young Medievalist Germanists in North America (YMAGINA); and the Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr (ZMSBw), Potsdam. We are deeply grateful to all these organizations for their continued support and participation.

Apart from the nineteen seminars (see seminar titles below), this year's conference will include a number of **thematically related clusters of sessions and roundtables**. Among them are six sessions on "Asian German Studies"; five sessions on "DEFA in Amerika," "New Directions in Emotion Studies," "Serial Forms," and "Theory(ies) of Philology"; four sessions on "Sound and Technology in German Studies," "Surveillance and German Studies," "Towards a New World Literature" and "War and Violence"; three sessions on "The Commons: Communism, Public Space, Open Access," "Concepts of Containment in Realism and Beyond," "East Germany's Third Generation," "Kafka and Cinema," "The Metabolism of Cultures," and "The Poetics of Space in the Goethezeit"; and many more. Not surprisingly, many sessions and roundtables this year will focus on the centennial of World War I and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the events of 1989.

As in previous years, many sessions and roundtables in 2014 will be sponsored by the **GSA Interdisciplinary Networks**. The GSA's Interdisciplinary Committee, ably chaired by Professors Marc Silberman and Janet Ward, coordinates the work of all our Networks, each of which in turn is organized by several hard-working coordinators. The Networks that will be sponsoring sessions at the

2014 conference are the Alltag Network, the Emotion Studies Network, the Family and Kinship Network, the German Socialisms Network, the Law and Legal Cultures Network, the Memory Studies Network, the Music and Sound Studies Network, the Religious Studies Network, the Urban Society and Culture Network, and the War and Violence Network. In this World War commemorative year, we are also especially grateful for the efforts of the GSA Working Group on World War I.

Finally, it should be noted that the **DEFA Film Library** of the University of Massachusetts will be presenting a special program this year: a “**virtual**” **film series!** Details will be e-mailed to the members and described in the printed program.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS:

Again, we are looking forward to an exceptional series of luncheon and banquet speakers this year, as well as a special Thursday-evening event; we hope that as many of you as possible can attend these important events. Each luncheon will cost \$31, and the banquet costs \$43. The Thursday-evening event will be free of charge. The speakers are:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, SPECIAL EVENT (8:00 P.M.):

As part of our commemoration of the centennial of the First World War, the GSA is delighted to sponsor a special lecture, open to all conference attendees, by **Professor Christopher Clark** of Cambridge University. The subject of Professor Clark’s address is “**How Europe Went to War in 1914.**” A native of Australia, Professor Clark studied at the University of Sydney before continuing to Cambridge, where he received his doctorate and has taught ever since. One of the world’s most distinguished historians, Professor Clark is a Fellow of St. Catharine’s College. In October of this year he will become Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge. He is the author of many books and articles, among them *Iron Kingdom: The Rise and Downfall of Prussia 1600-1947* (2006) and *The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914* (2013). The latter volume, hailed by the *New York Times* as a “masterpiece,” has received the *Prix d’aujourd’hui* in France and has been on the top of the nonfiction bestseller list in Germany.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, LUNCHEON:

As we approach the twenty-fifth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, we are pleased to welcome **Walter Momper** as our Friday luncheon speaker. As most of us remember, Walter Momper was Governing Mayor of (West) Berlin at the time of the events of November 1989, and in 1990 the first Governing Mayor of reunified Berlin; appropriately, the title of his address is “**Der 9. November 1989.**” He is famous for his remark on November 10: “Wir Deutschen sind jetzt das glücklichste Volk auf der Welt!” As a trained historian at the Free University of Berlin and former executive director of the Historische Kommission zu Berlin, Walter Momper is especially well placed to put the events of November 1989, with which he was so centrally involved, into historical perspective. Momper also served as chair of

the Social Democratic fraction in the Berlin Abgeordnetenhaus and as President of that body from 2001 until 2011.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, BANQUET:

The 2014 Presidential Address will be the highlight of this year's annual banquet. **Professor Suzanne Marchand**, Professor of History at Louisiana State University and President of the GSA in 2013 and 2014, will speak on **"The Great War and the Ancient World."** Professor Marchand received her B.A. degree from the University of California at Berkeley and her M.A. and PhD from the University of Chicago. She has taught at Princeton University and at LSU. Among her many books and articles are *Down from Olympus: Archaeology and Philhellenism in Germany, 1750-1970* (1996) and *German Orientalism in the Age of Empire: Race, Religion, and Scholarship* (2009), as well as the co-authored textbook *Many Europes*. She is on the editorial boards of *Modern Intellectual History*, *German History*, and the *Journal of Art Historiography*; and she is the recipient of many grants and awards.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, LUNCHEON:

Dramatist and novelist **Maxi Obexer** will read from her works in progress. Obexer was born in the German-speaking area of South Tirol in Italy. She studied Comparative Literature, Philosophy, and Theater Studies in Vienna and Berlin. Her stage and radio plays have received numerous prizes, and she has been awarded writing fellowships, including from the Literarisches Colloquium, Berlin, the Akademie der Künste, and the Akademie Schloss Solitude. Obexer has been the Max Kade Professor at Dartmouth College and guest professor at the Universität der Künste in Berlin. Among her best known works are *Die Liebenden*, *Das Geisterschiff*, and *Gletscher*. Her first novel, *Wenn gefährliche Hunde lachen* (2011) received wide praise, including in a review in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Her most recent work is the "Kampferoperette" *Planet der Frauen*, which was commissioned by the Theater Freiburg and was produced jointly with musician Bernadete LaHengst. Obexer also enjoys working with visual artists; she and Ingrid Hora have created numerous installations and works of performance art, such as the recent "Neue Heimat." Obexer has long been interested in the theory, praxis, and pedagogy of dramatic arts and is in the process of founding the Neue Institut für Dramatisches Schreiben, a pedagogical and political project that will be the first of its kind in the German-speaking world. She is also currently working on a second novel, from which we hope she will read.

SPECIAL GUEST FROM SWITZERLAND

Peter von Matt, widely regarded as Switzerland's greatest living literary critic, was born in 1937 in Luzern. He studied German literature, English literature, and art history in Zürich, Nottingham, and London. His early scholarship concerned Grillparzer and E.T.A. Hoffmann. Professor of Modern German Literature at the University of Zürich for decades, he is now an emeritus faculty member. He has

been a guest professor at Stanford University and a Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin. He has been decorated with the Orden Pour le Mérite für Wissenschaften und Künste, and he is a member of the Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung Darmstadt, the Akademie der Künste Berlin, and the Sächsische Akademie der Künste.

Professor von Matt's work is noteworthy for his ability to weave discussions of history, politics, culture, and art into literary analyses of sensitivity and insight. His numerous books include *Verkommene Söhne, mißratene Töchter. Familiendesaster in der Literatur* (1995), *Die tintenblauen Eidgenossen. Über die literarische und politische Schweiz* (2001), *Die Intrige. Theorie und Praxis der Hinterlist* (2006), and *Das Kalb vor der Gotthardpost. Zur Literatur und Politik der Schweiz* (2012). This last was awarded the 2012 Schweizer Buchpreis, the only time that award has been conferred upon a non-belletristic work.

Professor von Matt lives near Zürich with his wife Beatrice von Matt, also a highly regarded literary critic. Together, the pair received the 1995 Kulturpreis der Innerschweiz, and earlier this year they were jointly awarded the 2014 Johann-Melchior-Wyrsh-Preis in recognition of their work on behalf of the culture of the Innerschweiz, in particular the canton Nidwalden.

With the generous cooperation of the Embassy of Switzerland, Professor von Matt is attending the GSA conference in Kansas City. He will participate in the seminar “*Das Kalb vor der Gotthardpost*: Swiss Culture, History, and Politics in the Work of Peter von Matt.” The seminar is sponsored by the Swiss Studies Interdisciplinary Network. Auditors are welcome to join the seminar.

SEMINAR TOPICS 2014

A list of the nineteen approved seminar topics for the Thirty-Eighth Annual Conference in Kansas City follows below. Each seminar will meet on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (19-21 September) during the 8:00-10:15 a.m. time block. A full description of each seminar topic, with a list of conveners and participants, will be included in the printed conference program. Please note that the numbering system of the seminars will probably change in the printed program.

SEMINAR 01: After Critique: Models of Thinking and Writing Beyond the School of Suspicion

SEMINAR 02: Ästhetischer Eigensinn / Aesthetic Obstinacy

SEMINAR 03: German-Jewish Literature after 1945: Working Through and Beyond the Holocaust

SEMINAR 04: Turkish-German Studies: Past, Present, and Future

SEMINAR 05: Art, War, and Trauma

SEMINAR 06: Germany-Poland: Webs of Conflict and Reconciliation

SEMINAR 07: Black German Studies Then and Now

SEMINAR 08: German Community -- German Nationality? Perceptions of Belonging in the Baltics

SEMINAR 09: Theories of/on Sexual Pathology from 1800 to the Present

SEMINAR 10: New Directions in Pop, Sub-, and Lowbrow Cultural Studies

SEMINAR 11: The Future of Teaching the Holocaust in German Studies, History, and Comparative Literature in the U.S.

SEMINAR 12: Religion in Germany in the 20th Century: Paradigm Shifts and Changing Methodologies

SEMINAR 13: *Das Kalb vor der Gotthardpost*: Swiss Culture, History, and Politics in the Work of Peter von Matt

SEMINAR 14: Berlin in the Cold War--The Cold War in Berlin

SEMINAR 15: On War Trauma and Its Consequences in the Twentieth Century

SEMINAR 16: Film in the German Language, Literature, and Culture Curriculum

SEMINAR 17: Rethinking Migration and German Culture

SEMINAR 18: Conversion in the Eighteenth Century: Narrative, Spirituality, Aesthetics

SEMINAR 19: Liebe-Sex-Krieg

AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES AT THE 2014 CONFERENCE

We are pleased to announce that, beginning with this year's Thirty-Eighth Annual Conference in Kansas City, ALL conference breakout rooms will be equipped with audiovisual equipment. This means that any participant in any session, roundtable, or seminar may use an LCD projector ("Beamer," for our members in Europe!) located in the room.

Accordingly, we are asking all our members who will be using AV to pay the \$20 fee that we have been asking of AV users for some time. The fee can be paid on the website when online conference registration and hotel reservations open in mid-April. We will rely on the honor system for these payments, which will only cover a portion of our total costs. Please note that we are NOT raising conference registration fees this year, and that, with your conference registration fee this year, you'll also receive a drink ticket for beer, wine, or a non-alcoholic drink at one of the conference cash bars. So we hope you won't think the fee is too onerous. And we'll be working on a permanent AV policy for 2015 and beyond.

We have taken this path because, as we have noted on many occasions, audiovisual expenses at conference hotels are extremely high. The rental costs of projectors are especially prohibitive. To save on costs, the GSA purchased 16 LCD projectors some years ago; we ship them or carry them from conference site to conference site. At each conference site we rent stands, screens, and power strips, which still are extraordinarily expensive.

Despite those costs, we have decided that, as an organization committed to serving our members, the time has come to make up-to-date media accessible to all our members, and we shall be purchasing an additional 16 LCD projectors to bring to Kansas City. Although these purchases should amortize themselves within about two years, our AV expenses will continue to be high, especially as we'll also continue to rent stands, screens, and power strips from our hotels. As before, you'll need to bring your own laptops. And please remember that, if you have a Mac, you'll need to bring the special adapter with you.

IMPORTANT: Please note that, depending on the projector model being used, sound quality may not be the best. We will also have FOUR rooms equipped with subwoofers for sessions that require high-quality audio. Those four rooms are PRESIDENT, GOVERNOR, MAYOR, and ROANOKE.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Online conference registration, meal reservations, and hotel reservations for the 38th annual conference of the GSA in Kansas City, Missouri, are now open. Please go to the GSA website (www.thegsa.org), click on "Member Services," and then click in the left column on "Conference Registration" to proceed (or simply click on www.thegsa.org/members/conference to proceed directly to the registration page).

THE ONLINE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND HOTEL RESERVATION LINK WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 1 SEPTEMBER OR UNTIL ROOMS AT THE HOTEL SELL OUT. Anyone who registers for the conference after 1 September will be required to pay an additional \$10 fee.

Please note that you can **ONLY** reserve a hotel room at the conference rate of \$169.00 **AFTER** you have registered for the conference itself. You will **NOT** be able to reserve a room at the conference rate by calling the hotel or by booking with an online agency. You must first register for the conference to be eligible for the rate. Once you have registered for the conference, you will receive a confirmation e-mail from Johns Hopkins University Press that will contain the link to the special hotel reservation page. **DO NOT DISCARD OR LOSE THIS E-MAIL, AS IT WILL CONTAIN THE HOTEL RESERVATION LINK.**

Please note as well that you can make meal reservations at the same time that you register for the conference.

Conference registration rates are as follows:

MEMBERS:

\$ 95.00 before 1 September

\$ 105.00 after 1 September

NON-MEMBERS:

\$ 150.00 before 1 September

\$ 160.00 after 1 September

INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS/NO INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION: \$ 35.00

GRADUATE STUDENTS:

\$ 20.00 (GSA members)

\$ 45.00 (non-members of GSA)

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS: \$ 31.00 per luncheon

FRIDAY BANQUET RESERVATION: \$ 43.00

AUDIOVISUAL EXPENSES: \$ 20.00 per person using projector

EXHIBITORS: \$ 150 per table

HOTEL RATE: \$ 169.00

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

The GSA simply would not be able to function without the work of the Program Committee. Theirs is very time-consuming work, and all of us are in their debt. Special thanks go to this year's tireless Program Director, **Professor Margaret Menninger** of Texas State University.

The Program Committee members are:

Program Director: Margaret Eleanor Menninger, Texas State University

Pre-1800 (all fields): Daniel Riches, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

Nineteenth century (all fields): Anthony J. Steinhoff, Université de Quebec, Montreal

Twentieth- and twenty-first-century history: Thomas Kohut, Williams College

Twentieth- and twenty-first-century history: Heather Perry, University of North Carolina – Greensboro

Twentieth- and twenty-first-century Germanistik/culture studies: Sara Hall, University of Illinois, Chicago

Twentieth- and twenty-first-century Germanistik/culture studies: Todd Heidt, Knox College

Political Science: Angelika von Wahl, Lafayette College

Interdisciplinary/Diachronic: Drew Bergerson, University of Missouri, Kansas City

Interdisciplinary/Diachronic: Maria Makela, California College of the Arts

Seminar Committee:

Lutz Koepnick (chair), Vanderbilt University

Elisabeth Herrmann, University of Alberta

Emre Sencer, Knox College

GSA 2014: Austrian Prize for Innovative Research Call for Papers

In collaboration with the German Studies Association, the Austrian Cultural Forum New York and the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington D.C. will, for the first time, jointly award the newly established Austrian Prize for the Most Innovative Research Paper in Austrian Studies.

The prize of \$ 1,500.00 will be granted to the most innovative research paper dedicated to Austrian Studies and presented at the GSA's 2014 Annual Conference. This year's thematic focus will be the World War I centennial and the 2014 year of commemoration (Gedenkjahr).

Research papers should make reference to any of the historic key dates in Austrian contemporary history (e.g., 1914, 1934, 1938, 1939, 1955, 1989).

Papers shall be submitted to the GSA (to the e-mail address below) **no later than 1 July 2014**. An independent jury from the GSA, in cooperation with the ACFNY/ACFDC, will select that paper which demonstrates the most innovative academic research from all disciplines.

Applicants should not be older than 35 years and must not have received a travel grant or any other stipend from Austrian cultural institutions in the US within the past five years.

A formal award ceremony will take place at the GSA's annual banquet to be held in Kansas City on 19 September 2014.

Applications should be sent to director@thegsa.org and copied to innovation2014@acfny.org

Austrian Cultural Forum New York: Young Scholars Travel Grants

The Austrian Cultural Forum New York (ACFNY) and the German Studies Association (GSA) are happy to announce that there will be limited funds available to support selected young Austrian Studies scholars who will participate in this year's conference of the German Studies Association in Kansas City from 18-21 September.

Only applications from scholars working in Contemporary Austrian Studies (since 1945) will be considered. Applicants must not be older than 35 years and must not have received any travel grant from the ACFNY in the past.

The funds are intended for Austrian Studies scholars who are either completing an appropriate advanced degree or who have completed that degree within the past three years. Austrian Studies scholars from North America (Canada, Mexico, and the United States) as well as from outside North America are eligible to apply for these funds.

Depending on the number of accepted applications and budgetary circumstances, the travel grant comprises \$ 500 (for scholars from North America) and \$ 1000 (for scholars from outside North America) to offset travel costs.

Travel grants are for one person only and cannot be split among several applicants. Applications must be submitted to the Austrian Cultural Forum New York/ACFNY (desk@acfny.org), no later than 15 June 2014. Applications should send an abstract of the paper which they submitted to the GSA and a curriculum vitae. Only successful applicants will be informed by 1 July 2014.

Grants will be awarded in person at the German Studies Association (GSA) Annual Conference in Kansas City.

GHI Conference Travel Grants for GSA Participants

The German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington, D.C., is delighted to announce eight travel grants for young scholars (four from European and four from American institutions) in the field of German Studies for the 2014 German Studies Association (GSA) conference. Preference will be given to fellows whose projects fit into the GHI's research foci. We especially invite applications from doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars who will not receive funding from their home institutions.

The travel grant aims to improve the professional opportunities for outstanding, internationally orientated humanities scholars by enabling them to participate in the 2014 GSA conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Recipients will have to present their work at the 2014 GSA convention.

Successful applicants from European universities will receive a travel grant of 1,700.00 Euro. Successful applicants from US institutions will receive a travel grant of US \$ 1,200.00.

The travel grant is open to all highly qualified, internationally orientated European and American scholars (must possess at least an M.A. degree or equivalent state examination). Successful paper contributions must have been accepted by the GSA review committee. Applicants should have already completed some research towards the project and Ph.D. holders must have finished their degree no more than five years previously to the 2014 GSA conference.

Please include the following in your application:

- > Cover letter
- > Abstract (max. 2 pages or 1,000 words) of the planned research project and/or the proposed paper to be presented at the GSA conference
- > Copies of certificates (state exam, M.A., Ph.D., etc.)
- > List of publications

The deadline for application is **15 June 2014**. Please contact the GHI with any questions regarding the travel grant and send your applications as a single PDF file via e-mail.

A List of Dissertations in German Studies, 2012-2014

The following list of dissertations completed in 2012, 2013, and the first months of 2014 in the many and diverse fields encompassed by the term German Studies represents the responses to our call for information this past winter. We make no claim for the completeness or accuracy of the list. We would like to thank all the dissertation directors and recent recipients of Ph.D.s for providing us with this information.

We will publish a list in all future spring issues of the GSA Newsletter. If you missed this round, please be advised that we will continue to play catch-up next year. If you received your Ph.D. in 2013 you may be listed in next year's Spring newsletter. (No repeats, however!) A call for information will go out next fall.

Al-Taie, Yvonne. *Tropus und Erkenntnis. Sprach- und Bildtheorie in der deutschen Frühromantik*. Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Institut für Germanistische Literaturwissenschaft. Directors: Bernd Auerochs, Henry Keazor. May 2012.

Die Dissertation untersucht die sprach- und bildtheoretischen Konzeptionen, die im Zentrum der philosophischen und poetologischen Schriften der Frühromantiker stehen. In einem ersten Teil wird das gesamte Spektrum an sprach- und bildtheoretischen Konzeptionen, die sich in den unterschiedlichen Diskursen des 18. Jahrhunderts finden, analysiert. Die Diskursfelder, die dabei herangezogen werden, liegen auf philosophischem, kunsttheoretischem, zeichentheoretischem und sprachmystischem Gebiet. Der zweite Teil der Arbeit nimmt Philosophie und Poetologie der Frühromantik in den Blick. Es wird untersucht, wie die Frühromantiker ihr Denken aus der Fülle der ihnen zur Verfügung stehenden sprach- und bildtheoretischen Denkfiguren speisen, diese amalgamieren und daraus eine ganz eigene sprach- und bildtheoretische Konzeption entwerfen, die den Kern der frühromantischen Poetologie bildet und diese erst in ihrer Komplexität als kohärentes Denkmodell erkennbar werden lässt. Dabei kann gezeigt werden, dass es den Frühromantikern gelingt, mit Hilfe des Bildbegriffs die poetische Sprache, den Tropus, zu idealistisch-philosophischen und mystischen Zeichenkonzeptionen in Beziehung zu setzen und sie auf diese Weise zu einem Instrument der Welterkenntnis zu erheben, das zu den auf diskursivem Sprachgebrauch beruhenden Erkenntnistheorien aus Philosophie und Wissenschaftstheorie in Konkurrenz tritt.

Arslan, Gizem. *Metamorphoses of the Letter in Paul Celan, Georges Perec, and Yoko Tawada*. Cornell University, Department of German Studies. Directors: Leslie A. Adelson, Wolf Kittler, Natalie Melas, Anette Schwarz. May 2013.

This project examines the critical status of written signs (letters of phonetic alphabets, Sino-Japanese ideograms, mathematical symbols, musical notation, and punctuation) in translational, multilingual and intermedial techniques in the works of Romanian-German poet Paul Celan, French author Georges Perec and Japanese-German author Yoko Tawada. These authors respond to historical, political and literary moments in Europe that challenge the capacities of verbal arts to articulate

turmoil, transformation and silence, by transfiguring the very medium of writing on the micro-level of individual written signs. International scholarship on these authors and theoretical work on translation focus heavily on reference and meaning, frequently conflating word-fragmentation with illegibility. Often overlooked are elements of writing not widely considered to be vehicles of meaning. This project draws on the history and theories of writing systems (Plato, McLuhan, Flusser, Derrida), as well as studies on writing and media (Krämer, Raible, Kittler). It argues that Celan, Perec and Tawada subtly transform the very material of writing at the elemental level of written signs, treating letters and by extension texts as material objects in continual transformation. Relatedly, this project illustrates that a transformative approach to translation gains far more than what is lost in translation.

Bagwell, Angela. *Preterit Loss in Early Modern Nuremberg*. University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of German. Advisor: Robert Howell. April 2013.

One of the most salient developments in the Upper German dialect area during the Early Modern period is *Präteritumschwund*. This study tests various hypotheses about its alleged causes: schwa apocope, schwa syncope, and the increase in preference for a periphrastic perfect tense across several languages in Central Europe. While the data do not reveal a strong correlation between preterit loss and any one of these linguistic developments, they suggest a possible relationship to multiple factors. Disruptions such as repeated visitations of the Black Death, high levels of mortality and compensatory immigration over the centuries created an unstable social landscape and may have contributed to a koineization process. As a result of the demographic upheaval, the urban population of Nuremberg was very diverse from a dialectal perspective and encouraged the development of the new urban vernacular characterized by widespread schwa apocope and syncope and the development of analytical verbal constructions developed. One manifestation of this trend toward analytical verbal construction was the virtually complete displacement of the preterit by the periphrastic perfect.

Beals, Kurt. *From Dada to Digital: Experimental Poetry in the Media Age*. University of California, Berkeley; Department of German. Advisor: Anton Kaes. May 2013.

At least since Mallarmé, if not before, poets in the Western tradition have responded to changes in media technologies by reflecting on their own relationship to language, and by reassessing the limits and possibilities of poetry. In the German-speaking world, this tendency has been pronounced in a number of experimental movements: Dada, particularly in Zurich and Berlin between 1916 and 1921; Concrete poetry, especially its Swiss and German variants in the 1950s and '60s; and finally, digital or electronic poetry, a genre that has roots in Germany dating back to the late 1950s. For each of these movements, the increasing dominance of new media technologies contributes to an understanding of language as something material, quantifiable, and external to its human users, and casts doubt on the function of language as a

means of subjective expression. However, this poetic engagement with a materialized, quantified language does not only pose a challenge to older conceptions of the lyric subject; rather, a new sort of subjectivity may emerge through the interaction of human authors and technological media. Thus by engaging with new media technologies, the experimental movements considered here raise fundamental questions about the nature of subjectivity in a media-dominated age.

Beyer, Heiko. *Soziologie des Antiamerikanismus. Zur Theorie und Wirkmächtigkeit spätmodernen Unbehagens*. University of Göttingen, Faculty of Social Science. Advisors: Ulf Liebe (Bern), Andrei S. Markovits (Michigan), Steffen Kühnel (Göttingen). July 2013.

Historiographical works on German anti-Americanism show that the phenomenon has a long tradition. However, there has been a lack in explaining anti-American attitudes and behavior sociologically. Valid data based on population surveys is also non-existent so far. Although research on anti-Americanism has increased since the events of 9/11, both explanatory models and empirical data remain tentative. To fill these gaps in current research the dissertation suggests an explication of recent theoretical approaches, especially the notes on a liaison between anti-American and anti-modern attitudes. First, the author argues that this correlation is a result of two basic social-psychological functions of anti-Americanism: rationalization of social change and projection of denied parts of the self. Second, he presents quantitative data on German anti-Americanism. Compared with previous research, this data is based on a more valid measure of anti-American attitudes and thus allows more reliable conclusions about the prevalence and mechanisms of the phenomenon.

Block, Nick. *In the Eyes of Others: The Dialectics of German-Jewish and Yiddish Modernisms*. University of Michigan, Germanic Languages and Literatures. Advisor: Scott Spector. April 2013.

This dissertation is a transnational study of German modernism with emphasis on the cultural exchange between German-Jewish and Yiddish worlds. It focuses on the half century between the 1880s and 1930s when the mass westward migration of Eastern European Jews radically reconfigured the way in which Western and Eastern Jews related to each other. Exploring the topography of modernism across literature and the visual arts, I demonstrate how the two projects were co-constitutive partners in a dynamic process of Jewish identity formation. I place texts from authors such as Alfred Döblin and Franz Kafka into conversation with those by Yiddish authors like Sholem Aleichem and Y. L. Peretz. I argue that both German Jews and Eastern European Jews were constructing their sense of Jewish self around portrayals of foreign Jewish difference. My focus on how translations, material culture, and authors crossed physical and linguistic borders illuminates the ties that bound the two groups. Through a bilingual analysis informed by post-colonial and psychoanalytic theory, this dissertation contributes not only to the field of German studies in broadening the scope of German modernism, but also to migration studies, Jewish studies, and scholarship on the processes of transnationalism.

Bousquette, Joshua. *Complimentizer Agreement in Modern Varieties of West Germanic: A Model of Reanalysis and Renewal*. University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of German. Advisor: Joseph Salmons. January 2013.

This dissertation provides a comparative analysis of Complementizer Agreement (C-agr) in modern dialects of West Germanic from a diachronic perspective, attributing the rise and development of C-agr to the initiation and progression of a Linguistic Cycle specific to C-agr. It draws on evidence from original fieldwork on varieties of Bavarian, East Franconian and heritage varieties of German spoken in Wisconsin, as well as previous literature on Cimbrian, West Frisian, West Flemish, and Dutch, with each variety showing an identifiable phase of the C-agr cycle. The study argues that synchronic licensing of C-agr in modern varieties is derived from identifiable diachronic developments, and that the variation exhibited between modern varieties is indicative of the relative progression of each variety through an ongoing Linguistic Cycle specific to C-agr. In doing so, this dissertation contributes to our understanding of both the singular phenomenon of C-agr, as well as to the wider scholarship on syntactic change, with an explicit call for a cross-linguistic approach to language change that also takes into consideration the interaction between different linguistic subfields, especially syntax and phonology.

Chapman, Katie. *Boredom in the German FL Classroom*. University of Wisconsin, Madison; Department of German. Advisor: Monika Chavez. June 2013.

This study was driven by the following three questions: What features of the classroom tend to be associated with boredom in foreign language students? What beliefs and attitudes do foreign language students and teachers hold regarding the concept of boredom in the classroom? How does boredom relate to other aspects of the language learning experience, e.g. attitude toward one's course and teacher, motivation to learn the language, anxiety when using the language, and proneness to boredom more generally? Participants were 57 university-level learners of German in their second semester of instruction, along with their three teachers. Central to the study was the use of the "Real-Time Boredom Questionnaire," an instrument designed by the researcher to capture students' in-the-moment feelings of boredom at several intervals during multiple 50-minute class meetings. Statistical analysis of the questionnaire data revealed that students interpret their feelings of boredom during class time in relation to their attitude toward their teacher, and that attitude toward the teacher is a more meaningful predictor of student boredom than are any particular classroom activities and their features.

Clemens, Manuel. *The Labyrinth of Aesthetic Solitude. A Small Theory of Bildung*. Yale University, German Department. Advisors: Rüdiger Campe, Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht. December 2013.

This dissertation offers an investigation of various concepts of *Bildung* as they appear throughout two centuries of intellectual history. I explore the important,

but never fully philosophically defined notion of *Zweckfreiheit* (“disinterestedness” in the sense of having ‘an end in itself’) by rethinking the very concept of *Bildung*. To this end, my thesis focuses on crucial transitional moments between art, knowledge and life in various accounts on the individual’s encounter with the aesthetic. Starting with Schiller’s *Aesthetic Letters on the Education of Man*, the discussion continues in chapters on Nietzsche, Simmel, Bergson, Freud, Bourdieu, Jacques Rancière and Kant. I claim that the main concepts of *Bildung* need to be translated into the vocabulary of psychoanalysis in order to bridge successfully the gap between aesthetics and life.

Cornish□, Matt. *Last Stop, Germania: History and Nation in the Post-1989 German Theater*. Yale University, School of Drama□. Advisor: Elinor Fuchs. May 2013.

This dissertation explores how politicians and historians use dramaturgy to tell nationalistic stories, and how theater can shape and contest national consciousness through historiography. The first chapter analyzes the connections between historiography and dramatic structure, and shows how politicians and historians told German history as a resolved drama following reunification. In the second chapter, I survey German history plays from the Baroque period through Brecht, studying how playwrights sought to engender national consciousness through their plays. Even before legal unification in 1990, writers from West Germany such as Botho Strauß and Rolf Hochhuth composed plays as counter-narratives to the official accounts legitimizing reunification; I look at these plays, and productions of them, in the third chapter. Shifting to the former East in the final chapter, I analyze the ways in which artists who grew up in the GDR represented and structured the events of reunification differently. Einar Schleef, Heiner Müller, and Frank Castorf contest not just the narrative techniques of most historians, but narrative itself, and I argue that their works become political through the artists’ modes of representation.

DeMair, Jillian. *Telling about the Truth: Negotiations of Credibility in German Narratives*. Harvard University, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Advisors: Judith Ryan, Oliver Simons, Maria Tatar. April 2013.

This dissertation studies how various German narratives from the nineteenth century to the present tell stories that are interrupted or framed by discourse on storytelling itself, with special attention to cases in which the believability of a story is called into question. Frame narratives, interwoven stories, unbelievable occurrences, or less than credible storytellers are all ways by which the texts examined reflect on their own production and create ambiguity about levels of reality and the connections between different story levels. The self-reflexive moments in the works I investigate are not merely a means by which to manipulate readers’ expectations, but also serve to explore the limits of credibility and fictional representation more generally. This dissertation examines how these issues are negotiated in works by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, E.T.A. Hoffmann, Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, Jeremias Gotthelf, Wilhelm Raabe, W.G. Sebald, and Daniel Kehlmann.

Diziol, Sebastian: „Deutsche, werdet Mitglied des Vaterlandes!“ Der Deutsche Flottenverein 1898-1934. Universität Hamburg, Fachbereich Geschichtswissenschaft Advisors: Rainer Hering, Axel Schildt. April 2013.

Der Deutsche Flottenverein (1898-1934) war mit zweitweise über 330.000 Einzelmitgliedern der größte nationale Propagandaverein im Deutschen Kaiserreich. Er agitierte für den Aufbau einer starken deutschen Flotte und damit letztlich für die Tirpitz'sche Flottenrüstung. Die vorliegende Dissertation analysiert aus kulturgeschichtlicher Perspektive erstens die nationale Symbolik und die politischen Mentalitäten, die der Verein in seiner Propaganda vermittelte, zweitens die Partizipationsmöglichkeiten der Mitglieder unterhalb der Führungsebene des Vereins sowie drittens die Kontinuitäten und Brüche seiner Ziele und Propagandainhalte über die Zäsuren von 1914/18 und 1933 hinaus. Die Arbeit basiert teilweise auf bislang nicht zugänglichem Archivmaterial und untersucht erstmals auch die Vereinsgeschichte in der Zeit des Ersten Weltkriegs, der Weimarer Republik und des „Dritten Reichs“.

Drake, Derek. *Variation and Change in Northern Bavarian Quantity*. University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of German. Joseph Salmons. June 2013.

This dissertation presents new research on the 'Bavarian Quantity Law' (the BQL) in the northern Bavarian dialect of Hahnbach, examining the historical, phonological, and phonetic motivations for this feature as well the variability in its realization in the Hahnbach dialect. The range of variation is discussed by incorporating recorded data from 29 speakers representing three generations. By looking at quantity patterns, I show that, while the phonological quantity distinction suggested by the BQL is preserved rather robustly by three generations of speakers of 'Hahnbacherisch', the patterns examined are best contextualized by taking a multi-pronged approach to understanding the variability among speakers and generations as well as the inclusion of acoustic analysis of elicited sentences to identify dialectal features presumed to be defining for this dialect area. The study presents the phonology and phonetics of the Hahnbach dialect and shows how the variation and change present in Hahnbach are contextualized in the maintenance and realization of the BQL in this dialect.

Driscoll, Kári. *Toward a Poetics of Animality: Hofmannsthal, Rilke, Pirandello, Kafka*. Columbia University, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Columbia University. Advisor: Mark M. Anderson. September 2013. □□□

This dissertation studies the place and function of animals in the works of four major modernist authors: Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Rainer Maria Rilke, Luigi Pirandello, and Franz Kafka. Through a series of close readings of canonical as well as lesser-known texts, I show how the so-called “Sprachkrise”—the crisis of language and representation that dominated European literature around 1900—was inextricably bound up with an attendant crisis of anthropocentrism and of man's relationship to the animal. Since antiquity, man has been defined as the animal that has language; hence a crisis of language necessarily called into question the

assumption of human superiority and the strict division between humans and animals on the basis of language. Furthermore, in response to author and critic John Berger's provocative suggestion that "the first metaphor was animal," I explore the essential and constantly reaffirmed link between animals and metaphorical language. The implication is that the poetic imagination and the problem of representation have always on some level been bound up with the figure of the animal. Thus, the 'poetics of animality' I identify in the authors under examination gestures toward the origin of poetry and figurative language as such.

Dunwoody, Sean F. *Conflict, Confession, and Peaceful Coexistence in Augsburg, 1547-1600*. University of Chicago, Department of History. Advisor: Constantin Fasolt. June 2012.

In my dissertation, I show how, after a generation of religious war, Protestants and Catholics in Augsburg learned how to distinguish religion from politics as the key to maintaining civic peace. In direct contrast to contemporary norms and Augsburg's own recent past, between 1547 and ca. 1600, Augsburg's municipal council was determined to privilege commercial prosperity and social well-being as the new core of civic life. Religion and its associated rites were removed from the streets and marketplaces and restricted to specific spaces, spaces such as churches and graveyards that were now increasingly understood as distinct from political spaces. Meanwhile, political authorities strove to articulate an understanding of their rule that was distinct from the authority of ministers. By means of these and other similar negotiations, Augsburgers learned to accommodate religious pluralism without succumbing to the violent manifestations of politicized religious conflict so common in early modern Europe.

Ehrenberger, Kristen Ann. *The Politics of the Table: Nutrition and the Telescopic Body in Saxon Germany, 1890-1935*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of History. Directors: Peter Fritzsche, Mark Micale. March 2014.

My dissertation complicates the relationship between "the individual" and "society." I use food in Germany in the decades around World War I to explore the popularization of nutritional science; the social implications of the family as a common, often-idealized setting for food consumption; and the cultural meanings attached to the politics and economics of agriculture and the food supply. All these layers combined to create a sense of metaphorical or biological connectivity between individuals, from the nutrients that fed their cells to wartime rationing to the Volk-skörper. This "telescopic body" became a common rhetorical device at the end of World War I, as Germans reacted to the catastrophic outcome of the conflict with often-conflicting advice about what to eat and why. "The Politics of the Table" pays particular attention to bodies, gender, ignorance, and expertise while drawing from a diverse source base: medical textbooks, popular magazines, cookbooks, trade journals, letters, films, exhibitions, and government and institutional archives.

Fine, Jonathan Blake. *Streitkultur: Polemic and the Problem of Public Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century Germany*. University of California, Irvine. Department of European Languages and Studies. Advisor: John H. Smith. September 2013.

My dissertation traces the waning of the Enlightenment in Germany. I examine how a consciously directed attempt to create a culture of learned public debate by merging the scholarly Republic of Letters with the bourgeois public sphere was curtailed. In the eyes of its proponents, this culture of public debate, which I term a *Streitkultur*, carried with it the potential to accelerate the process of popular enlightenment. I examine controversies such as Gotthold Ephraim Lessing's *Fragmentenstreit*, the outbreak of theological polemic in the years after Lessing's death, the pantheism controversy between Moses Mendelssohn and Friedrich Heinrich Jacobi, and Immanuel Kant's efforts to supersede these controversies via his tribunal of *Kritik*. Collectively, these debates demonstrate how a specific form of erudite polemical discourse was transformed into a popular, polemical assault on the pillars of state and church authority. Complementing recent work that has shed light on the political, theological, and rhetorical contexts of numerous early modern religious and Enlightenment-era controversies, I show that the attempt to establish a *Streitkultur* provoked a counter-reaction that had as its effect the reinstallation of polemic in its original context and the ultimate curtailment of the possibility of public enlightenment.

Flaig, Paul. *Weimar Slapstick: American Eccentrics, German Grotesques*. Cornell University, Comparative Literature. Advisors: Amy Villarejo, Patrizia McBride, Sabine Haenni, David Bathrick. March 2013.

This dissertation examines the wide-ranging popularity of American slapstick film in Germany's Weimar Republic (1919-1933). I measure this popularity by bringing together a diverse set of archives, tracking responses among journalists as well as philosophers, avant-gardes as well as film studios. With its gag-driven narratives, mechanically energized stars and urban, industrial *mise-en-scène*, slapstick spoke directly to the fears and desires of Germany's first democracy. Using this uniquely American, uniquely cinematic response to modernity as a lens, I offer a transnational account of Weimar culture, with slapstick refracting sites ranging from the film palace to the cabaret, Bauhaus design to modernist text. For the figures I analyze in each chapter (Bertolt Brecht, Raoul Hausmann, Paul Leni and Curt Bois), slapstick's shocking, playfully curious humor challenged the traumas and cynicisms that would consume the Republic and which, moreover, still dominate scholarship on this era and its legacy.

Florea, Ioana Ligia. *Die deutschsprachige Sportpresse in Siebenbürgen in der Zwischenkriegszeit (1920-1928) / The German Language Sports Press in Transylvania in Interwar Period (1920-1928)*. Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai Cluj-Napoca, Romania, Fakultät für Geschichte und Philosophie. Advisor: Rudolf Gräf. November 2012.

Die Dissertation stellt eine monographische Darstellung der Siebenbürger sächsischen Sportperiodika in der Zeit 1920-1928 dar. Die Wahl des Themas wird dadurch begründet, dass die deutsche Sportpresse in Siebenbürgen bis jetzt nicht gründlich untersucht wurde. Es werden vier selbstständige Wochenzeitungen, *Sportblatt*, *Sport*, *Sport-Rundschau* und *Sport. Wochenblatt für allgemeinen Sport*, eine wöchentliche Beilage, *Sportblatt*, eine Monatsschrift, *Der Start. Monatsschrift des Kronstädter Sächsischen Turn- und Sportvereins*, und ein Kalender, *Der Sportkalender des Hermannstädter Turnvereins für das Jahr 1922*, untersucht. Die Untersuchung besteht einerseits aus der Vorstellung der Hauptmerkmale der Fachorgane und andererseits aus der Präsentation der Art und Weise wie diese Fachorgane über die bedeutendsten Ereignisse der Zeit berichteten sowie die mit Turnen und Sport im Zusammenhang stehenden sozial-politischen Themen ansprachen. Die Sportpresse wird nach pressebezogenen sowie sozial-politischen Fragestellungen untersucht: Angelegenheiten wie Berufssportlertum gegen Liebhabersportlertum, Turnbewegung gegen Sportbewegung oder Frauen und Sport haben tiefere sozial-politische Begründungen als es auf den ersten Blick zu bemerken ist. Der soziale Gegensatz zwischen der Arbeiterschaft einerseits und dem Bürgertum und dem Adel andererseits, sowie zwischen Konservatismus und Modernität, zwischen Nationalismus und grenzüberschreitender Öffnung haben die Sportgeschichte des 19. und des ersten Teils des 20. Jahrhunderts weitgehend geprägt.

Florvil, Tiffany N. *Writing Across Differences: Afro-Germans, Gender, and Diaspora, 1970s-1990s*. University of South Carolina-Columbia, Department of History. Advisor: Ann Johnson. June 2013.

This dissertation explores the birth of the Afro-German movement, including its two organizations: The Initiative of Black Germans (*Initiative Schwarze Deutsche*, ISD) and Afro-German Women (*Afro-deutsche Frauen*, ADEFRA) in West and then reunified Germany. In it, I uncover the efforts of Black Germans to organize a diasporic and literary movement to confront discriminatory discourses and practices that simultaneously ignored them and positioned them as "Others" in postwar society. Through their diverse literature and coordinated events, Black Germans enacted membership in the African diaspora, articulating and claiming an identity that supported a community and that transcended and affirmed the nation. The dissertation, moreover, maintains that Black Germans, as a multicultural population, used their literature, emotions, and activism to unite across their differences, alleviate their isolation, forge personal connections, dismantle everyday racism, and gain recognition in Germany. By doing so, Afro-Germans cultivated alternative forms of kinship that helped them advance collective political and cultural goals. Yet, their efforts at solidarity were not without tensions and conflicts. Although Afro-Germans constituted a small minority population of approximately 500,000, their drive to create an inclusive diasporic movement enabled them to highlight the diversity of German culture and history.

Foerster, Kristina □. *Dissolving Linguistic Borders? Contemporary Multilingual Literature in German-speaking countries*. University of Illinois at Chicago, German Department. Advisor: Elizabeth Loentz. October 2013. □□□

This dissertation explores contemporary multilingual literature in the German language. Current research has experienced a wave of interest in literature by multilingual writers. The realm of language mixing in their text, however, has scarcely been touched. I thus adopt a new focus by concentrating on language itself – both thematically and stylistically – using linguistic research on multilingualism as a framework for a close textual analysis of language mixing in literature. The project sets out to show that language takes center stage in multilingual literature not only thematically. Rather, I show that a stylistic analysis informed by linguistics can help determine how the author's multilingualism impacts the language of the texts. This approach allows me to demonstrate precisely what makes multilingual writers sound unique and innovative to critics – their style is a product, at least in part, of their multilingualism. My work thus provides a new methodological framework for the discussion of the literature in question and sheds new light on the unique voice of multilingual writers such as Melinda Abonji, Marica Bodrožić, Terézia Mora, Barbara Honigmann and Gregor Hens.

Franke, Yvonne. *The Genres of Europeanization – Moving Towards the New Heimatfilm*.

University of Pittsburgh, Department of German. Director: Randall Halle. April 2013.

This thesis explores the contemporary tensions between home and travel in German film as they transform under the influences of Europeanization and globalization. It refrains from viewing the contemporary *Heimatfilm* as a separate genre that is predominantly understood as a local principle, whose foil is the travel and road film as allegedly more vital and mobile engagements with geo-political developments. Instead, *Heimat* functions as the overarching principle of this dissertation with the goal of formulating the *New Heimatfilm* as a hybrid genre comprising elements from the rural, urban and road film that demonstrate a conceptual shift within German film. Therefore, the *New Heimatfilm* features mobility and dwelling as strongly intertwined with each other, and provides both local explorations and a larger transgressive and comparative perspective. Similarly to the deterritorialization of *Heimat* in accordance with the *Spatial Turn*, Franke argues that *Heimat* also transgresses its conventional generic categorization.

This dissertation views the concepts of *Heimat* and European identity as interrelated and discusses the possibility of a European *Heimat* as further step within the conceptual shift of the *Heimat* discourse and *Heimatfilm* genre.

Frey, Benjamin. *Toward a General Theory of Language Shift: A Case Study in Wisconsin German and North Carolina Cherokee*. University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of German. Advisor: Joseph Salmons. April 2013.

This dissertation develops the emerging model of verticalization to account for the social processes underlying language shift, focusing on two case studies – the Wisconsin German and North Carolina Cherokee. In studying two such disparate language communities, I develop a general model of shift. The communities in my case studies have vastly different histories and social circumstances, yet both show the effects of verticalization on language shift. For Eastern Band Cherokees, paved roads, the lumber industry, tourism, and public schooling began substantially altering traditional social structures beginning around the 1910s. In eastern Wisconsin, public schooling, new regulations in the dairy farming industry, and an increasing availability of technology all began to drive people to interact in different ways. As community structures and interactions changed, more social domains switched to English. For both communities this led to a tipping point at which parents began raising children to be monolingual in English. It is hoped that studying the correlation between social change and language shift will lead to better solutions in reversing shift.

Greeves, David R. *Patterns of Poetic Absorption in German Lyric Poetry in the Age of Herder (1750-1784)*. University of Chicago, Department of Germanic Studies. Advisors: Eric L. Santner, Christiane Frey, David E. Wellbery. November 2012.

This dissertation is an analysis of poetic techniques of exclusivity in German lyric poetry (concentrating on poems dating from 1750 until 1784 by F. G. Klopstock, the Göttinger Hainbund poet L. C. H. Hölty and J. W. v. Goethe) set against the broader context of the concepts of theatricality, spectatorship, and authenticity. It focuses on the profound shift in the dominant mode of lyric form to a meditative mode of verse that takes place within the German lyric poetry of this period taking as its' critical point of departure the literary criticism of the German philosopher, J. G. Herder. It argues that Herder's identification of the self-dialogue (*Selbstgespräch*) as a characteristic form in Klopstock's poetry warrants special critical attention. Referencing the art historian Michael Fried's category of absorption, the dissertation claims that a poem's meditative mode excludes the reader-spectator from the poem. The dissertation finds that by understanding the patterns of exclusivity and the instrumentalization of the category of absorption, it has shown how the idea of the *Ich* in poetic verse (lyric subjectivity) emerged and how the dominant mode of poetic verse became the meditative modus.

Greiner, Florian. *Wege nach Europa – Deutungen eines imaginierten Kontinents in deutschen, britischen und amerikanischen Printmedien (1914-1945)*. University of Potsdam, Faculty of Arts. Supervisors: Frank Boesch (Potsdam), Willi Oberkrome (Freiburg). April 2013.

The dissertation examines perceptions of Europe in German, British and American print media between 1914 and 1945. Drawing on a digital full-text analysis, the study evaluates several ten thousands of newspaper articles, thus describing public

notions and constructions of Europe in a much clearer way than previous research has done. By taking into account the thematic variety of print media coverage, the thesis shows that European patterns of thought were not restricted to high politics, but articulated in various different social, economic and cultural fields. They often emerged in everyday contexts related, for example, to images of the non-European "Other" in transatlantic and colonial areas, or arising questions of modernity such as air travel, radio broadcasting, tourism, and international sports competitions. While perceptions of Europe in contemporary print media were also often shaped by moments and reflections of crises, they were largely free from the rhetoric of decline that marked contemporary intellectual discourse. The findings offer a novel perspective on facets of "European thought" prior to 1945 that proved to be of foremost importance for the integration of Europe after World War II.

Großmann, Stephanie A. *Inszenierungsanalyse von Opern. Eine interdisziplinäre Methodik*. Universität Passau, Lehrstuhl für Neuere deutsche Literaturwissenschaft. Advisors: Hans Krah, Jan-Oliver Decker, Michael Titzmann. March 2012.

Eine Operninszenierung kann als Text mit drei Ebenen verstanden werden, die sich gegenseitig beeinflussen und bedingen. Bei den drei Ebenen handelt es sich um das Libretto, die Musik und die eigentliche Inszenierung der Oper, also ihre Konkretisierung auf der Bühne. Hierbei sind die Ebenen Libretto und Musik als eher statisch zu bezeichnen, da sie sich im Laufe der Zeit nur wenig verändern. Die Konkretisierung hingegen ist dynamisch, da sie bei jeder Inszenierung neu erfunden wird. Somit kann jede Inszenierung als eine Transformation mit Rückbezug auf Libretto und Musik verstanden werden. Diese Trias der Bedeutungsebenen macht den Reiz dieser Kunstform aus, erschwert aber auch eine Analyse des Gegenstandes, da alle Ebenen als ein Ganzes simultan wahrgenommen werden, aber nicht als ein Ganzes untersucht werden können. Die Studie untersucht in den Bereichen der Literatur-, Musik- und Medienwissenschaften Methoden und Ansätze, die für die Analyse von Opern gewinnbringend genutzt werden können, und entwickelt aus ihnen eine Methodik der Inszenierungsanalyse, die gleichberechtigt die drei Ebenen der Oper integriert und so den interdisziplinären Charakter des Forschungsgegenstandes anerkennt. Die Autorin erprobt und illustriert die einzelnen Analyseschritte und -kategorien an zahlreichen Beispielen aus 400 Jahren Operngeschichte.

Hahn, Dorit. *Reading in German as a Foreign Language at Undergraduate Level: An investigation of learners' reading experience when reading texts in German for academic purposes*. University of Nottingham, Great Britain; School of Education. Advisors: Philip Hood and Lindsey Smethem. November 2012.

This investigation into students' experience of reading German for academic purposes looks at the individual learner experience, with an attempt to take into account various factors that influence the individual student's approach to texts. Students' reading processes were investigated using a multiple stage and method approach to data collection. This included a pre- and post-module reading comprehension

test, a questionnaire on reading for academic purposes, and a think-aloud study incorporating both paired and individual think-aloud sessions. This study provides evidence that students understand the purpose of reading academic texts in German as 'reading to learn', i.e., to construct new knowledge and apply a critical approach to working with the text. They tend to apply mainly those types of reading strategies that help them understand the text at word and sentence level but their approach can often be tedious and inefficient. Students also seem to struggle with linguistic features that are typically and frequently used in German texts for academic purposes. Finally, an analysis of the think-aloud protocols allows the conclusion that a teaching approach that promotes students' responsibility for their own learning, both as individuals as well as in collaborative settings, is beneficial to developing students' reading strategy repertoire.

Heidner, Renate. *Der Rathausbaumeister Johannes Grotjan und die Entstehungsgeschichte des Hamburger Rathauses*. Universität Hamburg, Fachbereich Kunstgeschichte. Advisors: Iris Wenderholm, Rainer Hering. October 2013.

Nach dem großen Hamburger Brand von 1842 war Johannes Grotjan (1843-1922), gelernter Zimmermann und Baugewerkmeister, am Aufbau der Stadt beteiligt. Zusammen mit seinem Büropartner Henry Robertson (1848-1882) nahm er teil an der Rathauskonkurrenz 1876, und sie erhielten für ihren Entwurf einen zweiten Preis. Ein Bauauftrag wurde damals nicht vergeben. 1879 verbündeten sich neun Hamburger Architekten, unter ihnen Johannes Grotjan, mit dem Ziel, den Rathausbau für sich zu entscheiden. Sie entwickelten gemeinsam ein neues Bauprogramm und einen Entwurf. Nach langjährigen Überarbeitungen erhielten sie 1886 den Bauauftrag und bauten das Rathaus. Die Quellenlage zeigt eine vertraglich gesicherte gleichberechtigte Zusammenarbeit mit Arbeits- und Kostenteilung. Gleichzeitig zeigte sich aber auch, dass einer dieser Architekten, Martin Haller, am eigenen Erscheinungsbild als Künstlerarchitekt des Rathauses arbeitete. Die von Nikolaus Pevsner beschriebene hypostatische Künstlerverehrung wird in der Kunstgeschichtsschreibung kaum thematisiert, auch wird eine Gruppenleistung selten untersucht. Hier konnte die vorgelegte Arbeit einen Beitrag leisten.

Henkel, Brook. *Animistic Fictions: German Modernism, Film, and the Animation of Things*. Columbia University, Germanic Languages. Advisors: Stefan Andriopoulos, Andreas Huyssen. October 2013.

This dissertation investigates representations of animated objects in German modernist literature and film between roughly 1900 and 1930. Rainer Maria Rilke's 1902 remark that "all community has withdrawn from things and humans" corresponds to a more general reflection in German literary modernism on a new estrangement and distance between human subjects and the external object-world. Responding to this perceived crisis, modernist texts by Rilke, Franz Kafka, and others present an animated life of objects as a highly ambivalent fiction, posing both a distorted and potentially recuperative relationship between humans and things. Alongside textual representations of animated objects in Kafka's stories and Rilke's poetry

and prose, the new medium of cinema also presented a visual life of things in early stop-motion animation films around 1910 as well as in the experimental films of Hans Richter and the 1920s avant-garde. Reading such representations in relation to contemporaneous theories of mimesis, reification, and cinematic effects, as well as more recent theoretical work on objects and things, this dissertation argues for an understanding of modernist animations as “animistic fictions,” aimed at producing the effects of animistic experiences, while also foregrounding and self-reflecting upon their artificial status.

Hoffmann, Rainer. *Schulversäumnisse- Am Beispiel des niederen Schulwesens des Kirchspiels Bergstedt vom 17. Bis zum 20. Jahrhundert*. Universität Hamburg, Fachbereich Geschichtswissenschaft. Advisors: Rainer Hering, Franklin Kopitzsch. January 2013.

In unserer Zeit verursacht das *Schulschwänzen*, ein längst als erledigt angenommenes pädagogisches Problem, den Schulaufsichten aller deutschen Bundesländer wieder erhebliche Probleme. In der vorliegenden Studie wird untersucht, welche Maßnahmen die Schulverwaltungen in früheren Jahrhunderten zur Eindämmung der Schulversäumnisse bis zur vollständigen Durchsetzung der Schulpflicht im ersten Drittel des 20. Jahrhunderts ergriffen. Ausgehend von den erlassenen Schulordnungen und gesetzlichen Bestimmungen für die niederen Schulen für das ehemalige Herzogtum Holstein wird der prozesshafte Verlauf der Durchsetzung der Schulpflicht in der ehemals ländlichen Region des südlichen Holsteins im Kirchspiel Bergstedt vom 17. bis in das 20. Jahrhundert während der dänischen und preußischen Regierungszeit dargestellt. Dabei muss als ein Ergebnis der Studie hervorgehoben werden, dass die Leistungsfähigkeit des schleswig-holsteinischen Schulsystems dem vielgepriesenem preußischen weit überlegen war. Die mehr auf Konsens ausgerichtete dänische Schulverwaltung erreichte schon 1825 eine 100prozentige Einschulungsquote im Untersuchungsgebiet, während Preußen eine Quote von 82 Prozent bewirkte.

Holzappel, Kathrin. „*Ich liebe nur wenige Bilder!*“ *Georg Forster; die Kunst und ihre Beschreibung* („I only love a few pictures!“ Georg Forster, art and its description). Universität Kassel, Institut für Germanistik (Fachbereich 02 Geistes- und Kulturwissenschaften). Readers: Stefan Greif, Georg-Michael Schulz. February 2013.

This dissertation focuses its analysis on Georg Forster’s views on art in his work *Ansichten vom Niederrhein*. The central thesis is based on the view that Forster not only valued direct experience over indirect experience; but also he developed a radically modern description of aesthetic in which no linguistic substitute could be sought for sensual-visual impressions. Thus, this work positions itself decisively against the commonly accepted view that Forster was politically a revolutionary and that his aesthetic was underdeveloped. In this connection, a further result of this dissertation is that Forster’s descriptive-aesthetical reflections correspond to actual image theoretical positions. Since it can be demonstrated in Forster’s writings that he clearly distanced himself from a semiotic image concept, this analysis

will orient itself theoretically also towards the position of the ‚pictural turn’. In addition, Forster’s descriptions will be placed within the context of contemporary positions and will be discussed with respect to the antique tradition of classical ekphrasis. The proximity to enthusiastic description of expression has been taken into account in research as a special shaping of description of paintings in the 18th century. This method will be utilized inasmuch as noting the basic distinctiveness of Forster’s painting, architectural and landscape descriptions.

Imbrigotta, Kristopher. *Framing Brecht: Photography and Experiment in the Kriegsfibel, Arbeitsjournale, and Modellbücher*. University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of German. Advisor: Marc Silberman. August 2013.

Theater is not just a visual art form but also a performative and interactive one. Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956) developed an innovative theater aesthetic that engaged in distinct ways with visual imagery – especially photographs that were vital to both the performance aspect and dramaturgical reception of his craft. Photographs figure significantly in his prose and poetry as well as his essayistic work. The study investigates how photography and mixed-genre experimentation impact his conception of the epic theater, especially in the *Modellbücher*, examines Brecht's engagement with photography, looking at how the image-texts interrelate in his *Kriegsfibel* photograms and autographic entries in the *Arbeitsjournale*, and locates instances in the corpus of textual and visual materials relating to his thoughts on and artistic production with images. This study argues for a visual approach to Brecht's work, providing new insight into his dramatic theories (Gestus, Verfremdungseffekt), theatrical praxis, and his contributions to visual historiography. Brecht developed techniques to redefine how we "read" mass media images in order to expose contradictions and re-function history.

Jacob, Frank. *Die Thule-Gesellschaft und die Kokuryūkai - Geheimgesellschaften im global-historischen Vergleich*. Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen, Department of Japanese Studies. Advisors: Stephan Köhn, Wolfgang Schwentker. February 2012.

The dissertation compares German and Japanese secret societies of the first three decades of the 20th century to show that the foundation of more radical secret societies in the 20th century was a consequence of internal and external crisis. Due to this, the transnational reasons for a similar development of secret societies in Germany and Japan were examined.

Kaakinen, Kaisa. *Minding the Gap: Reading History with Joseph Conrad, Peter Weiss, and W. G. Sebald*. Cornell University, Comparative Literature. Advisors: Leslie A. Adelson, Dominick LaCapra, Natalie Melas. August 2013.

The dissertation explores how the increasingly global reading contexts of the twenty-first century raise new analytical questions about specific effects that occur

when literary writing meets a heterogeneous readership. Through an analysis of works by three European writers, Joseph Conrad, Peter Weiss and W. G. Sebald, the study highlights postimperial, postgenocidal and post-Cold War reading positions that challenge traditional understandings of literary analysis in the putative service of national cultures or universal ideals. The notion of the implied reader, central to reader-response criticism based on hermeneutic conventions of interpretation, must be rethought to account for readers who cannot engage with a given text in an unimpeded relationship of dialogue, especially when literary texts revolve around transnational histories of violence. Historical pressures in the twentieth and twenty-first century require comparative literature to address various "unimplied" reading positions that engage twentieth-century history in displaced yet material ways that manifest in literary form.

Keller, Peter. *"Die Wehrmacht der Deutschen Republik ist die Reichswehr". Die deutsche Armee zwischen Reform und Reorganisation 1918-1921*. Universität Augsburg, Philologisch-Historische Fakultät. Advisors: Andreas Wirsching, Günther Kronenbitter. May 2013.

Die Jahre zwischen 1918 und 1921 gehören zu den interessantesten Abschnitten der deutschen Militärgeschichte: Das Kaiserreich war untergegangen, seine Streitkräfte in Auflösung begriffen, das berüchtigte 100.000-Mann-Heer noch nicht errichtet. Doch mit der „vorläufigen Reichswehr“ verfügte die junge Republik bereits über eine provisorische Armee. War diese Truppe nur ein 'Staat im Staate'? Oder wäre es möglich gewesen, aus ihr eine verfassungstreue Streitmacht zu formen? Anhand neuer Quellen werden Entstehung und Entwicklung der „vorläufigen Reichswehr“ im Spannungsfeld von politischem Erneuerungswillen und militärischem Sicherheitsstreben erforscht. Schritt für Schritt entsteht dadurch das erstaunlich facettenreiche Bild einer zu Unrecht vergessenen Armee.

Kowalczyk, Katarzyna M. *Gendering Eastern Europe in German-Jewish Ghetto and Village Tale Writing (1848-1919)*. University of Illinois, Chicago, Department of Germanic Studies. Advisor: Dagmar C.G. Lorenz. December 2013.

The study presents a reading of four collections of German-Jewish ghetto and village tales in which Eastern Europe is constructed in gendered terms. My analysis seeks to examine how the visualizations of the cultural setting of Eastern Europe are manifested within the gender role division in Jewish family in general and in the portrayal of Jewish female characters in particular. It is argued that through different depictions of family relations Karl Emil Franzos (1848-1905), Bertha Pappenheim (1859-1936) and Leopold von Sacher Masoch (1836-1895) create a new concept of 'femininity.' I demonstrate how the 'feminine' realm accounts either for cross-cultural and cross-religious expansion (Masoch) or for spatial restrictions and cultural decline (Franzos, Pappenheim). The depiction of gender relations presumes cultural inferiority of Eastern Europe the discussed Western (Jewish) writers place their own hopes for redefinition of Jewish culture within the changing strata

of modern Western society. The questions raised include: How does the gender discourse shape the awareness of Eastern Europe in turn-of-the-century German-Jewish tale writing? What message with regard to the Jewish cultural legacy do the aforementioned writers convey by gendering Eastern Europe?

Kralik, Christine. *A Matter of Life and Death: Forms, Functions and Audiences for "The Three Living and the Three Dead" in Late Medieval Manuscripts*. University of Toronto, Department of Art. Supervisor: Jill Caskey. February 2013.

This dissertation examines approaches to illustrating the Three Living and the Three Dead, a moralizing tale known across Europe in the late Middle Ages. My project engages with questions of form, function, audience, and the relationship between text and image. Following a survey of the wide range of possibilities for illustrating the story, a series of chapters offer close examinations of individual fifteenth-century manuscripts. Several of these case studies focus on manuscripts produced in the German-speaking areas of Europe, and they include a compendium from St. Emmeram in Regensburg, a courtesy manual made for a woman of Straßburg, and a Book of Hours made for Duchess Mary of Burgundy. These case studies reveal how the imagery of the story was transformed in response to the context in which it appeared, the function it was intended to serve and the audience for which it was intended. My project sheds light on the importance of the imagery of death and more specifically of the Three Living and the Three Dead in late medieval devotion and culture.

Kuss, Mark D. *Collective Security or World Domination: The Soviet Union and Germany, 1917-1939*. Louisiana State University, Department of History. Advisor: Suzanne Marchand. March 2012.

Since the end of World War II, a rather consistent narrative has appeared regarding the origins of this terrible conflict: Hitler started it. The victorious western powers emerged as innocent victims in the titanic struggle while the USSR, once allied to both Hitler and the west, took on the role of principal villain during the Cold War. With the collapse of communism and the partial opening of Soviet archives, a re-assessment appeared, principally under the heading of the "Collective Security School." As politically incorrect as it may seem, sober reflection indicates that the Soviet Union was actually the peacemaker in the inter-war period, while Britain and France engaged in a dangerous game of deception and underhandedness regarding the USSR. The USSR was undergoing massive internal upheaval in economic, social, political, and military spheres. Soviet leaders could not risk an open contest for fear of losing the bigger prize: the Soviet Revolution. Soviet diplomacy pursued a consistent path of collective security until western intransigence became too great. The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact of August 23, 1939, far from being a goal of Soviet policy, was simply a last resort.

Lahusen, Christiane. *Zukunft am Ende. Autobiographische Sinnstiftungen von DDR-Geisteswissenschaftlern nach 1989*. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Insti-

tut für Geschichtswissenschaften. Advisors: Martin Sabrow, Dorothee Wierling. April 2013.

Alles Ostalgie? 1989 stellte für viele eine Zäsur dar – eine große Zahl an sogenannten Nachwende-Erinnerungstexten sind daraufhin entstanden, anhand derer sich die Auswirkungen der Wende auf die kulturellen Sinnsysteme analysieren lassen. Im Mittelpunkt dieses Buches stehen als Untergruppe solcher Texte die Autobiographien von DDR-Geisteswissenschaftlern. Christiane Lahusens Analyse zeigt, dass diese nicht als rückwirkende Verklärungen der DDR-Wirklichkeit abgetan werden können. Vielmehr ergibt sich ein wesentlich komplexeres Bild: Die Autobiographien sind weniger Vergangenheits- als Zukunftstexte, denn erst der Zusammenbruch des Staatssozialismus erlaubte den Autobiographen den Rückbezug auf eine politische Utopie, die ihnen zu DDR-Zeiten längst abhanden gekommen war.

Landry, Olivia. *The Performance of Berlin School Cinema: Movement, Affect, Presence*. Indiana University, Bloomington, Germanic Studies. Advisor: Claudia Breger. February 2014.

This dissertation has two principal goals. First, it examines the still emergent German film movement, the *Berliner Schule*. This examination focuses on the theatrical, affective, and performance qualities of the films associated with this movement that play out in effects of “liveness,” presence, interactive movement, and worldmaking. The second and conceptual goal of the dissertation is to create a methodological pathway between film and performance studies. Positioning film and live theater in dialogue, it considers the consonant role of phenomenology in film and performance theories. From early materialist approaches to the later haptic theories, the influence of phenomenological experience is pivotal to film theory. Phenomenology has an equally crucial role in performance studies, where spatial and temporal actor-spectator co-presence is traditionally viewed as paramount to performance. Other performance scholars, however, have also opened up these parameters to include mediated events, such as film. Engaging all of these trajectories, this dissertation advances the thesis that film can perform, or at least can produce performance effects. The performance of the *Berliner Schule* is explored in a comprehensive analysis of over forty films by eleven different filmmakers (Christian Petzold, Angela Schanelec, Thomas Arslan, Christoph Hochhäusler, Maren Ade, Valeska Grisebach, Benjamin Heisenberg, etc.).

Lazer, Stephen. *The State with Two Centers: The French Monarchy and the Dukes of Pfalz-Zweibrücken in Early Modern Alsace, 1648-1789*. University of Miami, History. Mary Lindemann. April 2014.

My dissertation focuses on the interaction of French and German political cultures in Alsace from the Peace of Westphalia to the French Revolution through a case study of the Alsatian territories ruled by the dukes of Pfalz-Zweibrücken. It remakes and redefines our understanding of the early modern state by stripping it of the

teleological expectations that historians have projected backwards onto it. *The State with Two Centers* has two primary arguments. First, the French monarchy shared power with Alsace's local rulers, including the dukes of Pfalz-Zweibrücken, in a successful bid to develop and maintain political legitimacy. The decentralized political culture of the Holy Roman Empire combined with that of a putatively "absolute" France to create a new model for Alsace's political balance. Second, my dissertation argues for the critical role of ducal and seigneurial officials in building the state in Alsace. They bound together the ducal government that appointed them, the French administration that approved them, and local communities that accepted them into an indissoluble whole. In short, they were the mediators of authority for both state centers, a process I call state building through the middle.

Linden, Ari. *Between Complicity and Critique: The Limits of Satire in Karl Kraus, Elias Canetti and Else Lasker-Schüler*. Cornell University, German Studies. Advisors: Patrizia McBride, Paul Fleming, Geoff Waite, Anette Schwarz. June 2013.

This dissertation addresses the discourse of twentieth-century, German-language satire through a close reading of three dramas: Karl Kraus's *Die letzten Tage der Menschheit* (1915-1922), Elias Canetti's *Komödie der Eitelkeit* (1934) and Else Lasker-Schüler's *Ichundlch* (1940-1941). Using a wide range of theoretical approaches – from the Frankfurt School to contemporary theories of satire, laughter, parody and irony – and situating these dramas against the background of the two World Wars, this dissertation isolates a particular historical moment (1915-1941) in order to illuminate the hermeneutic predicament raised by modernist satire. Guided by the observations of Walter Benjamin, Chapters 1 and 2 analyze Kraus's "absolute" satire (Hermann Broch), specifically his at times ambiguous use of quotation and repetition in *Die letzten Tage*. Chapter 3 shows how Canetti's allegorical drama attempts to abandon the Krausian model and produce a less problematic satire of totalitarianism. Chapter 4 shows how Lasker-Schüler's grotesque parody of National Socialism is informed by the perspective of exile, considered here as a structural element of her drama. *Ichundlch* thus provides a model of how the comic disposition can maintain its legitimacy during times of terror without formally capitulating to its object of critique.

Lux, Anna. *Räume des Möglichen. Germanistik in Leipzig, Berlin und Jena zwischen Novemberrevolution und Mauerbau*. Universität Leipzig, Historisches Seminar. Directors: Ulrich von Hehl, Manfred Rudersdorf. May 2012.

Anhand der Germanistik in Leipzig, Berlin und Jena beschäftigt sich die Dissertation mit dem Verhältnis von Wissenschaft und Politik zwischen Novemberrevolution und Mauerbau. Dabei leistet sie vor allem für Leipzig Grundlagenforschung. Ein zentraler Ertrag ist die Darstellung und Diskussion der bemerkenswerten personellen Kontinuität und institutionellen Stabilität in Leipzig während des Untersuchungszeitraums. Die doppelt vergleichende Perspektive der Arbeit macht es möglich, die empirischen Ergebnisse vor dem Hintergrund der wechselnden

politisch-gesellschaftlichen wie der jeweils lokalen Bedingungen zu interpretieren. Auf diese Weise werden wissenschaftshistorische Muster freigelegt, hinsichtlich der institutionellen Prozesse, des Elitenwechsels sowie der Frage nach Konstanz oder Veränderlichkeit wissenschaftlicher Konzeptionen. Ein Schwerpunkt der Arbeit liegt auf der personellen Ebene. Mittels gruppenbiographischer Überblicke sowie an Hand konkreter Fallbeispiele werden so Berufungspraxis, Entlassungsfrage sowie der Komplex „personelle Kontinuität“ systematisch analysiert. Die Arbeit ist ein Beitrag zur Fachgeschichte wie zur Leipziger Universitätsgeschichte. Darüber hinaus ist sie auch ein Analyseangebot für die Wissenschafts- und Universitätsgeschichte allgemein.

McEwen, Kathryn E. *Hand/Arbeit/Buch/Schrift: Approaching the Female Hand*. Vanderbilt University, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages. Director: Barbara Hahn. March 2013.

My dissertation investigates the persistent absence of the female hand from humanist discourse. This absence is, I argue, an effect of humanist discourse itself, which positions the hand as not only uniquely human, but also uniquely superior. Against this narrative, an analysis of lesser-known works and original archival research, alongside canonical texts, uncovers an alternate history, which finds evidence of the female hand in manual accomplishments excluded from most accounts of the hand. I examine works by Hannah Höch and Sigmund Freud, Rahel Levin Varnhagen and Friedrich Nietzsche, and Charlotte Wolff and Rainer Maria Rilke to investigate the hand as implicated in questions of gender, genre, and authority. By attending to the variety of gendered, handed experience, I restore the hand to the cultural body and position it as central both to a gendered reading of the embodied subject, as well as to a more general reconsideration of the cultural body as a space for negotiation.

Magnusen, Kaia L. *“Ghastly Females” and “Wanton Corrosion”: The Appropriation and Modernization of German Old Master Motifs in Otto Dix’s Images of Weimar Women*. Rutgers University, Department of Art History. Advisor: Andrés Zervigón. March 2014.

During Germany’s chaotic Weimar Republic (1918 – 1933), *Neue Sachlichkeit* artist Otto Dix appropriated Old Master motifs and manipulated them in order to address both his personal anxieties and Germany’s unstable present. Dix was intrigued by Old Master motifs linking women, sex and death as these themes coincided with key elements of the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche. He adapted themes relating to the *Totentanz*, *vanitas* motifs, the Judgment of Paris and witches to engage interwar concerns about gender politics and the changing roles of women. Weimar’s economically and sexually liberated *Neue Frau* was perceived as a threat to Germany’s patriarchal social order. “Deviant” women, including New Women and prostitutes, were regarded as being morally suspect and were condemned for corrupting society and emasculating German men. Dix updated

the traditional subjects of death and decay by using images of “fallen” women. In these ambiguous representations of “deviant” females, in which the distinctions between prostitutes and non-prostitutes were blurred, Dix deliberately referenced and ambitiously manipulated Old Master motifs and incorporated elements of Nietzsche’s philosophy in order to make a case for his own artistic legacy and to propagate a public persona that fulfilled Nietzschean ideals of the *Übermensch*.

Malczyk, Kathryn. *"A Lock upon All Conduct: "Modesty in German Courtly Literature (c. 1175-1220). University of Pennsylvania, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Advisors: Catriona MacLeod, David Wallace. April 2013.*

This dissertation examines notions of modesty in behavior and appearance as represented in romance and conduct literature of the German Middle Ages. I look to the Winsbecke poems and Thomasin von Zirclaria's *Der Welsche Gast* as representative samples of conduct literature, considering them alongside the four core courtly romances: Hartmann's *Iwein* and *Erec*, Gottfried's *Tristan*, and Wolfram's *Parzival*. My analysis relies on three primary keywords in locating medieval modesty: zuht, kiusch, and scham. I show that, compared to the French originals, the German romances demonstrate a far greater interest in the display of the naked or partially naked body. These scenes, which appear with regularity, follow particular patterns according to gender: for example, a naked man is uncourtly, but a partially-naked woman has a high status. Gender is also a determining factor in the overall importance of modesty, particularly as seen in conduct literature: for a man, it is one of several critical components for knightly success, while for a woman, it provides the fundamental structure for her life. I also find unexpected complexities in the relationship between romance and conduct literature. Each genre has its distinct areas of permissiveness and regulation with regard to modest behavior.

Meyertholen, Andrea. *Blurring the Lines: The Invention of Abstract Art in German Literature Since 1800. Indiana University- Bloomington, Department of Germanic Studies. Advisor: Fritz Breithaupt. February 2013*

In December 1911, the public exhibition of Kandinsky's *Komposition V* shattered the world of Western illusionism as audiences knew and understood it – or so the traditional tale goes. This project argues against this traditional narrative, claiming instead that the invention of abstract art in the 1910s was neither abrupt nor unprecedented, but was already being described, theorized, or created in the 19th century, only in literature rather than painting. Through close reading and literary analysis, I present three moments in the German literary canon in which abstract art is imagined or becomes theoretically possible in a 19th-century *literary text* prior to the visual actualization of abstract art in the early 20th century: Heinrich von Kleist's *Empfindungen vor Friedrichs Seelandschaft* (1810), Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's poem “Howards Ehrengedächtnis” (1821), and Gottfried Keller's *Der grüne Heinrich* (1855, 1879). With such images in circulation well before 1911, this

study features the crucial role of literature in foregrounding the cultural developments essential for abstract artworks to “speak for themselves” in the medium of painting by establishing certain preconditions involving need, spectatorship, and the self-awareness of the artist.

Miller, Nicholas Baker. *Difference and Progress: The World History of the Family in the Scottish Enlightenment*. Universität Potsdam, Historisches Institut. Advisors: Iwan-Michelangelo D'Aprile, Günther Lottes, Daniel Carey (National University of Ireland - Galway). February 2014.

This dissertation reconstructs the vibrant discussion about the global and historical diversity of family form, gender norms and social structure that occurred across the Enlightened world of the eighteenth century. Taking Scottish Enlightenment discussions as the point of departure, five case-study chapters (polygamy, matrilocality, the Amazons, inter-racial mixing in the Americas, and family political reforms) explore the complex transnational debates of the Enlightenment on matters such as source critique, gendered essences, social laws and historical methodology. The work insists on a transnational conceptualizations of the Enlightenment as a historical context of information exchange and examines the writings of Scottish thinkers alongside the contributions of those of other contexts, including those from German-speaking Europe. In particular, the Cameralist thinker Johann Heinrich Gottlob von Justi, the scientific traveler Alexander von Humboldt, and the early race theorist Johann Friedrich Blumenbach are explored.

Montenegro, Giovanna. *Textual and Visual Representations of the New World: German and Spanish Perspectives of the Conquest of Venezuela in the Sixteenth Century*. University of California, Davis. Department of Comparative Literature. Advisors: Elisabeth Krimmer, Ivonne Del Valle, Gail Finney. September 2013.

This project investigates the Welser period of governance in the Province of Venezuela through maps and travel narratives (Martin Behaim's *Erdapfel*; Niklaus Federmann's *Indianische Historia* [1557]). It differs from projects on German colonialism as it considers the economic and cosmographic interests of German merchants in light of their desire to construct a noble genealogy. The latter part looks at Spanish criticism of the Welsers. Beginning with Las Casas's pun of *animales/ alemanes* (animals/Germans), the Spanish depicted the German conquistadors as barbaric heretics. The repercussions of this polemic show diverging national interpretations: In Venezuela, the myth of an independent *Spanish-American* nation drives the anti-German effort to cast colonial history as purely Iberian. In nineteenth-century Imperial Germany the Venezuelan colonization venture fuels the desire for German colonization in Africa. The Welser episode, I suggest, causes Germany to reimagine itself as a colonial power in the Imperial era and through the Third Reich.

Ng, Julia. *Conditions of Impossibility: Failures and Fictions of Perpetual Peace*. Northwestern University, Program in Comparative Literary Studies. Director: Peter Fenves. August 2012.

This dissertation identifies and describes the self-consciously impossible character of Kant's "Towards Perpetual Peace" (1795), which ironically makes possible alternative theories of political agency that do not rely on the presumption that human beings can build a world in which they protect themselves from every conceivable threat. One such alternative theory, I argue, develops in the early work of Walter Benjamin and Gershom Scholem, for whom the perpetual peace project turns into an exploration of the fictions that accompany and precede every determination of possibility imposed by the self-organization of embodied subjectivity. Unsettling the logic that grounds action in the organization of human life, a generally unseen dimension of Kant's projection of the just society gives rise to theories of human power and divine violence in Benjamin and Scholem that express a concept of life preceding and exceeding what is deemed "possible" for human subjectivity. The impossibility of perpetual peace thus becomes, for them, a promise that the impossible—figured in the science fiction of Paul Scheerbart, above all—cannot be dismissed whenever human organization breaks out of its self-organization's syndromes.

Nye, Sean. *Teutonic Time-Slip: Travels in Electronic Music, Technology, and German Identity, 1968-2009*. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society. Advisor: Richard Leppert. November 2012.

Teutonic Time-Slip traces intersections of popular electronic music and German identity from 1968 to 2009. Engaging a dual perspective of critical theory and science fiction, it explores cultural constellations of music, modern travel, technology, translation, and body representations that have constructed contemporary German identity in popular culture, especially in exchange with the United States and the United Kingdom. I address here the success of electronic music as German export through multimedial analyses, ranging from Hollywood science fiction films to German pop novels. Focusing on the legacy of Krautrock and the Düsseldorf band Kraftwerk, the dissertation operates from the self-reflective, though fractured, position of German electronic music and techno as sedimented history in 2009, twenty years after German unification. *Teutonic Time-Slip* thus demonstrates that German electronic music, popularly received as an international music of the computer age, has also represented new forms of German identity in regional, national, and global contexts.

Ortner, Jessica. *Poetologie „nach Auschwitz“*. Narratologie, Semantik und sekundäre Zeugenschaft in Elfriede Jelineks Roman *Die Kinder der Toten*. University of Copenhagen, Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies. Supervisors: Birthe Hoffmann, Lillian Munk Rösing, Alexandra Pontzen, Gunther Martens. May 2012.

The main thesis of the dissertation is that Elfriede Jelinek in her writings carries out an aesthetic "after Auschwitz" which culminates in her novel *Die Kinder der Toten* [*The Children of the Dead*] (1995)(*KdT*). In the dissertation I perform an

analysis of the narrative techniques as well as an analysis of the semantics of the novel. Using Gérard Genette's narratological method, I show that the time structure of the texts imitates the traumatic temporality of *Nachträglichkeit*. The theory of structural semantics of Greimas and Rastier is used in order to show how Jelinek upholds the ambiguity of the words by combining the most disparate isotopies. Throughout the text a sub-Code is developed, giving words like "trash" and "ants" idiosyncratic meanings, which *in absentia* point at the victims of the Shoah. Sense in *KdT* is solely to be located at the spatial level of the text: in the digressions from the plot and in the metaphorical or metonymical meanings of single words or group of words. Also, the partial breakdown of language itself demonstrates the impotence to speak of those who did not survive to tell their story.

Panter, Sarah. *Loyalitätskonflikte und Neuorientierungen – Die Aushandlung jüdischer Identitätsentwürfe in Europa und den USA während des Ersten Weltkriegs*. University of Freiburg, Department of History. Director: Jörn Leonhard. April 2013.

The First World War and the question of its impact on the negotiation of Jewish difference have for a long time been neglected and under-researched topics in the field of modern history. In this context, analyses of Jewish war experiences were either non-existent or heavily influenced by the shadow of the history of the Holocaust. This trend has been somewhat countered over the last years. But despite the fact that the dilemma between transnational Jewish solidarity and national (civic) loyalties has gained more attention among scholars working in the field of Jewish as well as general history those studies stay within a national framework. My dissertation that will be published in September 2014 as "Jüdische Erfahrungen und Loyalitätskonflikte im Ersten Weltkrieg" (publisher: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht) overcomes this traditional trend and breaks new ground by writing the first systematic comparative and transnational history of the war-time debates over the meanings and implications of Jewishness in German-speaking and English-speaking countries.

Parrot, Benjamin. *Childhood as Education, Youth as Exploration: The Concepts of Childhood and Youth in Christian Felix Weisse's Works for Young Readers*. University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of German. Advisor: Hans Adler. October 2013.

This dissertation examines developments in the concepts of childhood and youth in late eighteenth-century Europe as reflected in the works for young readers by one of the earliest and most popular German children's authors of the time: Christian Felix Weisse (1726-1804). Building upon the debate surrounding the claim that the concept of childhood itself was "discovered" in the late eighteenth century, it aims to illustrate a highly influential concept of childhood and the related concept of youth. Through a comparative analysis of two periodicals written respectively for children and for young adults: *Der Kinderfreund* (1775-1782) and *Briefwechsel der*

Familie des Kinderfreundes (1784-1792), the study situates Weisse's these concepts within the pedagogical discourse of his time by offering a comparison of Weisse's works with Rousseau's *Émile* (1762), demonstrating not only the broad spectrum of ideas concerning childhood in the eighteenth century, but also the intensity of the discourse on childhood – and its overall significance – for the time.

Petersen, Katelyn. *Literature of Movement: Trends, Developments, and Prospects in Transcultural Literature as Exemplified by Contemporary German-Language Texts*. University of Alberta, Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies (jointly run Ph.D. program with Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich). Supervisors: Elisabeth Herrmann, Carrie Smith-Prei. April 2013.

By analyzing a corpus of contemporary transcultural texts written in German – *Der Weltensammler* (2006) and *Nomade auf vier Kontinenten* (2007) by Ilija Trojanow, *Wie der Soldat das Grammophon repariert* (2006) by Sasa Stanišić, *Alle Tage* (2004) by Terézia Mora, and *Zwischen zwei Träumen* (2009) by Selim Özdoğan – I identify a new literary phenomenon, which transcends existing categories and for which a new descriptor may be necessary. Expanding upon the work of Romance scholar Ottmar Ette, I propose the term “literature of movement” to develop analytical tools to embrace this/a new kind of literature developing out of ever more rapid globalization. “Literature of movement” is defined in this dissertation as literature that reflects the lived practices of movement and travel by using/employing/exerting motion thematically, systemically, and stylistically to facilitate the self-reflexive examination of narrative and narration itself. A crucial product of these instances of movement is an increasing demand placed on the reader to navigate texts without the assistance of conventional narratological strategies. I introduce the term “routeless reading” to describe a reading experience that mirrors, or even reproduces, ever-increasing mobility and the possible sensations of uncertainty, flexibility, and the dis-integration of identity attending it.

Richards, Chase. *Pages of Progress: German Liberalism and the Popular Press after 1848*. University of Pennsylvania, Department of History. Advisors: Warren Breckman, James M. Brophy, Jonathan Steinberg, and Roger Chartier. April 2013.

This dissertation concerns itself with *Familienblätter* during their rapid rise after the Revolution of 1848. General-interest magazines produced for domestic consumption, the *Familienblätter* were inexpensive, illustrated, and appealing, factors that together won them millions of readers in the 1850s and 1860s. The *Familienblätter* belonged to a print market that was dramatically expanding across the industrializing West, but what most set them apart from comparable publications in Great Britain, France, and the United States was their founding impulse. With the *Familienblätter*, not only might enterprising liberals in German publishing make a handsome profit, but they might also galvanize a people whose distance from liberalism had been identified as a principal reason for the revolution's disappointing outcome. Here German liberalism, seen in practice, shows itself a resourceful movement.

Yet it also proves susceptible to the constraints of print capitalism, ideology, state repression, and even the materiality of the text.

Richards-Wilson, Stephani. *Willi Graf of the White Rose: The Role of Bildung in his Decision to Resist National Socialism*. University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of German. Advisor: Marc Silberman. July 2013. □□□□

Willi Graf was a twenty-five year old medical student at the University of Munich who was executed by the Nazis on October 12, 1943, for high treason. Although the history of the White Rose resistance group has been portrayed in numerous books, the more charismatic members of the circle have overshadowed Graf's contributions to their efforts. He was the only member to oppose Nazi ideology from the start. The demands of the Third Reich and war infringed upon his convictions, personal relationships, membership in Catholic youth groups, and ability to reach his full potential, prompting him to seek guidance from authors who shared his humanitarian concerns or Christian faith, such as Ernst Wiechert, Reinhold Schneider, Romano Guardini, Josef Pieper, Johannes Maassen, and Werner Bergengruen. This study assesses Graf's moral courage by examining his self-edification as documented in his diaries and personal correspondence. I explore the role of *Bildung* in his decision to actively resist National Socialism, to question authority and to think for himself, to lead a purposeful life, and to find a way to remain true to his beliefs.

Roessler, Gerrit □. *Tune In To Radio Utopia: A Radiophonic Topography of SF Hörspiel*.

University of Virginia, Germanic Languages and Literatures. Advisors: Volker Kaiser, Benjamin Bennett. June 2013.

This study traces various forms of the Utopian impulse as it manifests in the radiophonic imagination of science fictional worlds. Utopias are defined as self-contradictory critical constructs that are at once impossible and necessary. Science fiction (SF) is treated as a mode of critical reading rather than a genre. The analysis of four radio plays from the 1970s and Bischoff's *Hallo! Hier Welle Erdball* from 1928 treats science fiction as a critical practice, which allows listeners to explore its Utopian desires. Conceived as a topographical exploration of Utopian space, which is a liminal realm in between the actual and the non-actual world, this study is situated at the intersection of literary, sound, and media studies. Specifically, this study examines the effect of the voice on audience identity in Franke's *Papa Joe & Co*; cybernetic narration in Jelinek's *Die Bienenkönige*; sound recording as prosthetic memory in Horstmann's *Die Bunkermann-Kassette*; and dream as analytical metaphor for the visualization of sound narratives in Fassbinder's *Keiner ist böse und keiner ist gut*.

Rotaru, Arina. *Poetics of Resonance and Legacies of Sound in German Literature since 1989*. Cornell University, German Studies. Advisor: Leslie Adelson. May 2013.

My dissertation underscores critical connections between sound studies, performance studies and critical race studies and focuses on four contemporary authors (Thomas Kling, Herta Müller, Feridun Zaimoglu and Marcel Beyer). In my work resonance is a key analytical term denoting historical influences and aesthetic affinities among works of prose, theater and poetry. In German literature since 1990 the concept of resonance evolves along three coordinates. One is a form of contemporary resistance to the destruction of culture and art wrought by fascism and communism (as reflected in the poetic work of Thomas Kling and Marcel Beyer). Another coordinate is a form of resistance to the post-Utopian art of Stalinism. The sound poetry of Oskar Pastior speaks to this legacy as does Herta Müller's productive engagement with Pastior's work in the post-communist West. A third coordinate comes to the fore at intersections between critiques of ethnography and deployment of surrealism as aesthetic practice. Such intersections are featured prominently in the work of Herta Müller and Feridun Zaimoglu to resist hegemonic cultures of totalitarianism and assimilationism. This comparative study asks how the past of experimentation in its colonial, communist, and avant-gardist dimensions transforms and conditions the social and aesthetic textures of the present.

Saha Kamta, Florentin: *“Poesie des Überlebens“: Vom Umgang mit der Krise der Identität in der afrodeutschen Literatur*. University of Paderborn, Fakultät für Kulturwissenschaften. Director: Michael Hofmann. December 2013.

The study focuses the “routes of identity” by Afro-Germans, born black in Germany between 1916 and 1960, and analyses their life narratives and personal photographs as specific “articulations” which aims at attesting to the apparent normality of a Black German self. These narratives are an attempt to *discover* the power of the word which was central for different and often contradictory “black liberation projects” in Jamaica and America. Inspired by critical genealogical approaches, the study reconstructs critically the conditions in which and the way Afro-Germans use black music and black literature and other Western critical traditions as an ideological basis for their struggle for visibility. These narratives help shaping a specific “Black German expressive culture”. Its internal contradictions illustrate an autonomous, critical, intellectual and moral genealogy which aims at challenging mythical representations of identity and Diaspora upon race and culture.

Shepela, Anja. *“Meine kühnsten Wünsche und Ideen“: Women, Space, Place, and Mobility in Late Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Germany*. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Department of German, Scandinavian and Dutch. Supervisor: Ruth-Ellen Boetcher Joeres. December 2013.

This study investigates bourgeois women educators' complex relationships with space and place in late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Germany. These relationships were greatly influenced by the limited mobility and the restricted access to space that women faced within the patriarchal order. At the same time, the very success of women's professional aspirations hinged upon the securing of spaces

for their pedagogical endeavors. I argue that attention to the politics of space and to women's spatial practices can give us new insights into women's initiatives and women's agency. I therefore focus on the ways in which female educators, as portrayed in historical and in fictional texts, were able to use (built and imagined) space subversively to pursue their own interests and on the strategies they employed in order to create places in which to carry out and professionalize their work. Furthermore, this study foregrounds how female authors were using the themes of mobility and women's spatiality as a vehicle for social criticism and as a subversion of hegemonic gender norms. I integrate readings of literary and other historical documents in order to reach a better understanding of German women and their situation in the late eighteenth and nineteenth century.

Sprigge, Martha. *Abilities to Mourn: Musical Commemoration in the German Democratic Republic (1945 – 1989)*. University of Chicago, Department of Music. Directors: Berthold Hoeckner, Lawrence Zbikowski, Philip V. Bohlman. June 2013.

This dissertation examines the experience of World War II and its cultural ramifications in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) with a focus on musical practices of mourning and commemoration. While competing public and private versions of the recent past prevailed in the postwar years, official mourning in the GDR eventually revolved around the selective commemoration of "anti-fascist" heroes. Previous scholarship has neglected the music that accompanied commemorative practices, regarding it as a mere extension of communist propaganda. This study demonstrates that musical compositions contributed a multifaceted space to rituals of commemoration, where competing narratives of the past could coexist, thus offering a "performing cure" for working through the traumas of both personal loss and national destruction.

Steckenbiller, Christiane. *Putting Place Back into Displacement: Reevaluating Diaspora in the Contemporary Literature of Migration*. University of South Carolina, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Director: Yvonne Ivory. August 2013

This interdisciplinary project marries cultural geography and literary criticism to reevaluate traditional notions of what has been described as displacement or diaspora by shifting focus onto emplacement and locality. Responding to the thematic preoccupation with spatiality and movement in representative twenty-first-century texts like Emine Sevgi Özdamar's *Seltsame Sterne starren zur Erde*, Leila Aboulela's *Minaret*, and Teju Cole's *Open City*, it claims that these literary works envision radically new possibilities for migrants to attach meanings and symbolism to their everyday lived space. Migrants construct a sense of belonging in their new environment that manifests in affective or cognitive terms--as a sense of home and comfort and/or as a way of knowing. Employing a critical geographical conceptualization of "place" this dissertation analyzes examples from the German and Anglo-American

context, concentrating in particular on intimate places like dwellings, parks, and neighborhoods, as well as on the city as a larger cultural construct. The last two chapters further develop the idea that new media produce new forms of community and interconnectedness. These bring the multiple homelands closer together than before and drastically alter traditional experiences of migration.

Steitz, Kerstin. *Beyond Closure: The Artistic Re-Opening of Holocaust Trials in Works by Hannah Arendt, Peter Weiss, Roland Suso Richter, and Uwe Timm*. University of Virginia, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Jeffrey Grossman. December 2013.

This dissertation examines how the twentieth and twenty-first century German-Jewish and German authors Hannah Arendt, Peter Weiss, and Uwe Timm, and the filmmaker Roland Suso Richter, engage with historical Holocaust trials, such as the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem (1963) and the Frankfurt Auschwitz trial (1963-1965). The analysis and juxtaposition of legal trials and literary engagements from both first- and second-generation writers and filmmakers seeks to answer the question: How do literary, theatrical, and filmic trials commemorate and convey dimensions of the Holocaust that do not fit easily into the judicial concepts, practices, and purposes of the legal trials? In their attempt to work through the National Socialist atrocities, legal and literary trials relate to and thereby also complement each other. The artistic works criticize and seek to correct what they consider the pitfalls of the legal proceedings. The dissertation argues that the Holocaust narratives created by the legal trials shape in significant ways the literary trials which adapt certain judicial concepts and practices. At the same time, the literary trials move beyond the accusatory and punitive purpose of the legal trials to more fully understand, commemorate, and mourn the suffering of the victims and connect them to the present age.

Sütterlin, Nicole. *Poetik der Wunde. Brentano – E.T.A. Hoffmann – Kleist*. Universität Basel, Deutsches Seminar. Advisors: Ralf Simon, Alexander Honold, Nicholas Saul. December 2013.

This study argues that the wound constitutes a fundamental poetic principle of Goethezeit aesthetics, particularly of Romanticism. It understands the phenomenon ‘wound’ as a poetic *figure of the in-between* which emerged at the advent of the modern episteme. This paradoxical figure is shown to operate subversively in three major thematic fields around 1800: stigmatization (Brentano), psychological trauma (Hoffmann), and cannibalism including its sub-form, vampirism (Kleist, Hoffmann). Close readings of select texts demonstrate that the figure of the wound is the very engine that drives the performance of a fragmented modern textuality. In addressing texts by the Romantics, Kleist, and also Goethe as a *poetics of the wound*, this study challenges existing notions of Romantic ‘fragmentariness’ and Classicist ‘wholeness’. Furthermore, its twofold theoretical background – deconstruction and discourse analysis – adds a new critical bent to the ongoing

debate concerning the ‘friendship’ between Romanticism and deconstruction, while also pointing to the significance of traumatic structures in non-literary discourses around 1800, such as anthropology and psychiatry. Ultimately *Poetik der Wunde* opens up a theoretical framework with which to negotiate specifically modern phantasms such as the vampire or present-day problematics such as trauma from within an overarching *paradigm of the wound*.

Thomaschke, Dirk. *In der Gesellschaft der Gene. Räume und Subjekte der Humangenetik in Deutschland und Dänemark, 1950-1990*. University of Oldenburg, History. Directors: Thomas Etzemüller, Malte Thießen. March 2014.

Die Arbeit untersucht die Geschichte der Humangenetik der zweiten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts in Deutschland und Dänemark erstmals mittels der neueren, kulturgeschichtlichen Methodik einer Raum- und Subjektanalyse. Die Untersuchung von Raum- und Subjektkonstruktionen verweist auf die wechselseitige Verknüpfung von Technologien, wissenschaftlichen Theorien, Anwendungsformen und gesellschaftlichen Ordnungsvorstellungen. Es zeigt sich eine vergleichbare diskursive Formation in beiden untersuchten Ländern: In den 1950er und 1960er Jahren fassten Humangenetiker Bevölkerungen als „genetische Behälter“ auf, die mittels umfassender Erbregister erschlossen werden sollten. Autoritäre Experten überwachten das fragile Gleichgewicht genetischer Abweichungen dieser Behälterräume. Als Sozialingenieure trachteten sie danach, die Bevölkerung zu „genetisch vernünftigen“ Verhalten zu erziehen. In den 1970er Jahren konstruierte die Humangenetik „genetische Versorgungsräume“. Humangenetische Experten wurden zu Anbietern, die eine vorgeblich omnipräsente Nachfrage nach genetischen Dienstleistungen zu bedienen hatten. In den 1980er Jahren schob sich die internationale Konkurrenz von „Standorten“ in den Vordergrund, die sich über ihr Investitionsvolumen bestimmten. Die vorherrschenden Subjektformen zeichneten sich derweil durch eine umfassende „Psychologisierung“ und „Soziologisierung“ aus. Der humangenetische Fortschritt war ambivalent geworden und begann „Betroffene“ unter Experten wie Laien gleichermaßen zu erzeugen.

Tichenor, Kimba Allie. *The Trouble with Women: The Catholic Church, Gender Politics, and the West German Public Sphere, 1959-1989*. University of Chicago, History Department. Advisors: Michael Geyer, Leora Auslander, and John Boyer. April 2013.

The dissertation offers a new interpretation of the Catholic Church’s influence on post-1950s political debates on women’s reproductive rights in West Germany. I argue that the moral crisis of authority experienced by the Catholic Church in the 1960s led to a theological and political transformation within Catholicism that allowed the West German Church to exercise influence disproportionate to its membership numbers. As Vatican pronouncements on sexuality became more stringent, moderate and progressive German Catholics distanced themselves from the Church, leaving a conservative core to promote the Church’s sexual ethics in the

public sphere. By the 1980s, this conservative core had embraced new arguments and issue-specific alliances with political parties other than the Christian parties that proved remarkably successful. In 1987, mainstream Catholic women allied with Green Party feminists in the campaign against new reproductive technologies, leading to Germany adopting stricter regulations than those recommended by the Christian Democratic government. In 2009, neoconservatives won another victory. By linking traditional pro-life arguments with a new argument that abortion violated the rights of the disabled, Catholic parliamentarians garnered sufficient support from Social Democrats and Greens to mandate a 3-day waiting period in cases of late-term abortions where a fetal disability had been diagnosed.

Timpe, Julia. *Hitler's Happy People: Kraft durch Freude's Everyday Production of Joy in the Third Reich*. Brown University, Department of History. Advisor: Omer Bartov. July 2012.

This dissertation traces the Nazi regime's involvement in a large-scale project to provide everyday joy to "Aryan" Germans by examining propaganda and practices of the Nazi leisure organization *Kraft durch Freude* (KdF). From 1933 to 1945, KdF arranged concerts, theater performances, sports classes, entertainment evenings, and vacations within Germany and abroad, for millions of Germans and at inexpensive prices. My analysis focuses on the organization's work in the area of sports, culture and entertainment, and studies its programs and activities (and their reception) on Germany's shop floors and in the countryside in the pre-war years as well as during World War II, when KdF programs were established for German soldiers at the front, for Ethnic Germans in occupied territories and for Germany's population at the home front. Overall, I demonstrate that amidst the murder, terror, and destruction of the Third Reich, there was a strong Nazi concern for happiness and that the KdF activities set up in order to achieve this were mostly detached from direct ideological indoctrination and totalitarian control. I argue that such endeavors, by shaping considerably the German population's perception of the Nazi dictatorship in a positive manner, were crucial for the regime's appeal and stability.

Ülker, Riza Baris. *Taking Care of Oneself and Others: "Ethnic Entrepreneurship" in Berlin*. Central European University, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology.

Directors: Ayse Caglar, Prem Kumar Rajaram, Erik Swyngedouw. June 2012.

The dissertation examines what is concealed and revealed with the concept of "ethnic entrepreneurship" in Berlin, relying on the practices of immigrants from Turkey. What is at stake is the discontinuity - acceptance of "ethnic entrepreneurship" - rather than trying to fit this singular event into a "natural flow of history". Deriving from this goal, the dissertation falls into two parts. In the first part, genealogical, it concentrates on the historical features of "ethnic entrepreneurship" and examine conditions of possibility in Berlin under the context of Germany and its regional and global relatedness through the rationalities and imaginations of policy makers, experts and intellectuals. In the second part (anthropological), it explores first, the

ways individuals perform themselves as “ethnic entrepreneurs”; second, rules for this way doing things; and third, truth claims (as sphere where true and false can be carried out) for providing reasons about this way of doing things. Through this interaction, the dissertation illustrates how human beings have been turned into subjects, “ethnic entrepreneurs.”

Vahldiek, Björn. *Propaganda und Unterhaltung. Wandel und Kontinuität in der Kriegsberichterstattung der Familienzeitschrift „Die Gartenlaube“ (1853-1944)*. Universität Hamburg, Fachbereich Geschichtswissenschaft. Advisors: Rainer Hering, Franklin Kopitzsch. August 2013.

Diese mediengeschichtliche Arbeit über die populäre deutsche Familienzeitschrift ‚Die Gartenlaube‘ beschäftigt sich mit der bisher von der Forschung vernachlässigten Kriegsberichterstattung des Blattes. Berücksichtigt wird der gesamte Erscheinungszeitraum der Zeitschrift, da nur dadurch die im Vordergrund der Studie stehende Frage nach den Kontinuitäten und dem Wandel der Kriegsberichterstattung angemessen beantwortet werden kann. Über die Kriegsberichterstattung hinaus wird außerdem der Frage nachgegangen, welchen Stellenwert militärische Themen, wie zum Beispiel die Wehrpflicht und Militärtechnik, außerhalb der Kriegsberichterstattung im Programm der Zeitschrift besaßen. Im Mittelpunkt der Studie stehen die drei Reichseinigungskriege sowie die beiden Weltkriege, nur untergeordnet wird auch die Berichterstattung des Blattes zu anderen Kriegen berücksichtigt. Analysiert werden neben der äußeren Präsentationsform der Berichterstattung in Wort und Bild verschiedene Themenbereiche der Kriegsberichterstattung, wie etwa die Gewaltdarstellung, das Selbstbildnis der deutschen Soldaten, der Frontalltag, das Bild der Kriegsgegner, die Situation in der Heimat sowie die in den Kriegen vermittelten Kriegsziele.

Voigt, Sebastian. *Zwischen Résistance und Holocaust. Zur politischen Erfahrungsgeschichte von Pierre Goldman, Daniel Cohn-Bendit und André Glucksmann im Nachkriegsfrankreich*. University of Leipzig, Department of History. Advisors: Dan Diner, Susanne Zepp. June 2013.

In der Dissertation untersuche ich den Lebensweg von Pierre Goldman, Daniel Cohn-Bendit und André Glucksmann im Kontext ihrer Familiengeschichte und damit in Zusammenhang zur jüdischen Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Alle drei spielten eine wichtige Rolle im Umfeld der Bewegung des Pariser Mai ’68. Zum Verständnis, wie sich diese Protagonisten in der Linken in Frankreich begegnen konnten, wird ihre Erfahrungsgeschichte rekapituliert, die bei Goldman nach Polen, bei Cohn-Bendit nach Deutschland und bei Glucksmann ins Habsburger Reich führt. Goldman repräsentierte einen Linksradikalismus, der sich offen zu seiner Herkunft bekannte und die Berechtigung seiner partikularen Sichtweise aus der Geschichtserfahrung seiner Eltern im jüdisch-kommunistischen Widerstand ableitete. Cohn-Bendits Entwicklung ist von Staatenlosigkeit gekennzeichnet. Ohne den historischen Hintergrund sind weder seine Rolle in der Mairevolte 1968 noch die zahlreichen Kontroversen um seine Person zu deuten. Die Staatenlosigkeit, die das

Leben seiner Eltern bestimmte, stellt einen gewichtigen Teil der deutsch-jüdischen Erfahrung nach 1933 dar. Die Verschiebung der Koordinaten in der französischen Linken nach 1968 ist aufs Engste mit dem Wirken Glucksmanns verbunden. Die Wandlung vom Maoisten zum antitotalitären Denker lässt sich unter Berücksichtigung seiner familiären Vergangenheit ausleuchten.

Weber, Armin. *Was ist Wirklichkeit? Studien zu Heimito von Doderers Romanwerk*. Universität Potsdam, Philosophische Fakultät. Directors: Helmut Peitsch, Stefan Büttner-von Stülpnagel. November 2012.

Die Frage, wie man die Werke des österreichischen Romanciers Heimito von Doderer (1896–1966) zu bewerten hat, ist bis heute höchst umstritten. Wegen seiner Sympathien für den Nationalsozialismus in den dreißiger Jahren, aber auch wegen der Undeutlichkeit seiner Selbstkritik in den Tagebüchern galt Doderers Schaffen lange Zeit als diskreditiert. Sobald man seine Romane jedoch nicht bloß an den Tagebüchern misst, sondern ihren eigenständigen Geltungsanspruch ernst nimmt, wird sichtbar, dass Doderer seine Verfehlungen sehr wohl analysiert hat und dabei philosophisch wie ästhetisch zu bemerkenswerten Ergebnissen gelangt ist. So entwickelt er etwa eine Analyse der Ideologien, die in vielem mit der Hannah Arendts übereinstimmt, und leitet daraus eine Ästhetik ab, die den Anspruch erhebt, zumindest einen Beitrag zur Bekämpfung dieses spezifisch modernen Phänomens zu leisten. Ob diese Ästhetik in sich schlüssig ist und wirklich zu überzeugen vermag, ist Thema dieser Doktorarbeit.

Wehrs, Nikolai. *Protest der Professoren. Der "Bund Freiheit der Wissenschaft" (BFW) in den 1970er Jahren*. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Philosophische Fakultät I, Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften. Advisor: Martin Sabrow. December 2012.

Die Arbeit sucht eine neue Perspektive auf die „68er“-Studentenbewegung und die von ihr ausgelöste politisch-kulturelle Dynamik, indem sie eine Kerngruppe ihrer Gegner in den Blick nimmt: jene westdeutschen Professoren, die sich 1970 im „Bund Freiheit der Wissenschaft“ (BFW) zusammenschlossen, um die von der Studentenbewegung proklamierte „Demokratisierung“ der Universität – insbesondere die Ausweitung der studentischen Mitbestimmung in der akademischen Selbstverwaltung („Drittelparität“) – zu verhindern. Sahen seine Gegner im BFW ein erzreaktionäres Bündnis zur Bewahrung von Ordinarienprivilegien, verstanden die BFW-Professoren sich selbst als Verteidiger der liberalen Demokratie. Zu ihnen zählten so prominente Wissenschaftler wie Wilhelm Hennis, Richard Löwenthal, Hermann Lübbe und Thomas Nipperdey. Die Arbeit schildert die Strategien der BFW-Professoren im Kampf gegen die studentische Linke und die sozialliberale Hochschulreformpolitik sowie ihr Ringen um diskursive Meinungsführerschaft im politisch-intellektuellen Diskurs – und sie analysiert die Rückwirkungen des Scheiterns der Hochschulreform auf das Ende der „Reformära“ in der Bundesrepublik in den 1970er Jahren („Tendenzwende“). Der Umschlag der politischen Mentalität

von Reformoptimismus zu Reformskepsis, so ihr Fazit, erfolgte nicht erst mit dem Ölpreisschock 1973, sondern bereits um 1970 als gesellschaftliche Reaktion auf die Herausforderung von „1968“.

Wölbern, Jan Philipp. *Der Häftlingsfreikauf aus der DDR, 1962/63-1989. Zwischen Menschenhandel und humanitären Aktionen*. Universität Potsdam, Philosophische Fakultät. Advisors: Martin Sabrow, Thomas Brechenmacher. January 2013.

Between 1963 and 1989 the federal German government ransomed more than 33,000 political prisoners from GDR-prisons, paying more than three billion D-Marks in goods. The negotiations between two Berlin lawyers acting on behalf of their governments were kept strictly confidential. The study mainly focuses on the following aspects: When, why and in which context did the ransoming of political prisoners begin? Furthermore, it examines the process of its step-by-step institutionalization, describes procedures and actors and finally asks about the effect of the Freikauf on GDR-citizens as well as on the SED and the MfS. The study shows that the Freikauf was a deeply ambivalent issue for both sides, in particular for the SED-regime. On the one hand, selling one's own citizens generated income, but on the other hand, the prisoners had to be released from prison and in most cases left the country towards the "class enemy" in the FRG which caused ideological troubles. As for the West, the federal government had to decide how far they could go in the negotiations with the communist dictatorship as the ransom money stabilized the regime itself and the Freikauf scheme encouraged the GDR to "produce" prisoners in order to sell them.

Errata from 2011-2013 list:

With our apologies:

Bessner, David should have been Bessner, Daniel.

Karl von Vogelsang-Staatspreis Awarded to Professor Evan Burr Bukey

Evan Burr Bukey, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Arkansas, received the Karl von Vogelsang-Staatspreis für Geschichte der Gesellschaftswissenschaften on 25 April in a ceremony at the Palais Harrach in Vienna. The event was sponsored by the Austrian Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Wirtschaft and Karl von Vogelsang-Institut zur Erforschung der Geschichte der christlichen Demokratie in Österreich. On 24 April Professor Bukey presented a lecture on “Investigating Judicial Decisions during the Anschluss Era” to the Karl von Vogelsang-Institut.

The Karl von Vogelsang-Staatspreis recognizes Professor Bukey’s total body of work, including his groundbreaking studies *Jews and Intermarriage in Nazi Austria* (New York 2011), *Hitler’s Austria: Popular Sentiment in the Nazi Era, 1938 - 1945* (Chapel Hill, NC 2000), and *Hitler’s Hometown: Linz, Austria 1908-1945* (Bloomington, 1986). In 2000 Bukey received the National Jewish Book Award, Holocaust Category, and in 2001 the Austrian Cultural Institute Prize for the best book on Austrian history.

Professor Bukey is a veteran member of the German Studies Association, having joined its predecessor, the Western Association for German Studies (WAGS), at the time of its foundation. The GSA congratulates him for this signal honor.

Announcements: Other Grants and Awards

2015 German Bundestag Internship Program

Bewerbungsschluss: 30. Juni 2014

Zulassungsvoraussetzungen

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abgeschlossenes Universitätsstudium (B.A., B.S., Diplom-, Magister-, Staatsprüfung oder Promotion); ein Fachhochschulabschluss genügt nicht, der Nachweis des Studienabschlusses kann in begründeten Fällen bis zum 31. Dezember 2014 nachgereicht werden

sehr gute Kenntnisse der deutschen Sprache

Kenntnisse der deutschen Politik, Gesellschaft und Geschichte

Berufsziel: Anstellung im Staatsdienst oder anderweitige Tätigkeit im öffentlichen Leben des Heimatlandes bei Medien, Parteien, Verbänden, Hochschulen usw.

Altersgrenze: Zum Zeitpunkt des Programmbeginns darf das 30. Lebensjahr noch nicht vollendet sein. Bewerben können sich Interessent/innen, deren Geburtstag nach dem 1. März 1985 liegt.

Stipendium

Die Teilnehmer/innen erhalten ein monatliches Stipendium in Höhe von 450 Euro. Zusätzlich werden die Kosten für die studentische Krankenversicherung, für Unfall- und Haftpflichtversicherung sowie Verwaltungsgebühren und Sozialbeiträge übernommen. Darüber hinaus wird freie Unterkunft oder - bei eigener Unterbringung - ein Zuschuss zu Wohnkosten in Höhe von 300 Euro/Monat gewährt. Die Kosten der An- und Abreise nach und von Berlin werden erstattet.

Auswahl der Teilnehmer/innen

Die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer werden in einem zweistufigen Verfahren ausgewählt. Eine erste Auswahl trifft die deutsche Botschaft in Washington. Die verbleibenden Bewerber werden zu einem persönlichen Auswahlgespräch im Herbst/Winter 2014 vor Ort eingeladen, wo eine unabhängige Auswahlkommission des Deutschen Bundestages eine zweite Auswahl auf der Grundlage fachlicher, sozialer, sprachlicher und interkultureller Kompetenzen der Bewerber trifft.

Kosten der Anfahrt zum Auswahlgespräch

Aufgrund des Bewerbungsgespräches entstandene Reisekosten können teilweise erstattet werden.

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Die vollständige Bewerbung muss folgende Unterlagen in deutscher Sprache enthalten:

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Sehr gute deutsche Sprachkenntnisse (entsprechend der Stufe B des Gemeinsamen Europäischen Referenzrahmens für Sprachen) können nachgewiesen werden:

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Heidelberg Alumni US: HAUS Scholarship

Heidelberg Alumni U.S. (HAUS) is pleased to invite applications for the HAUS Scholarship, available to a qualified student from the United States to study at Universität Heidelberg. The scholarship award is \$5,000 per semester for Masters program students and \$3,000 per semester for Bachelors program students. Scholarship recipients may re-apply for a subsequent semester. The application deadline for the Winter semester 2014-15 is June 6, 2014. The HAUS Scholarship is funded by Heidelberg alumni residing in the U.S. We are seeking candidates with a strong academic background who can also fulfill the role of ambassador for Heidelberg Alumni U.S. upon their return from their study abroad experience.

Universität Heidelberg is consistently ranked as one of the best universities in Germany and one of the top rated institutes of higher education and research in the world. It has been distinguished twice as an elite university in the framework of the German Excellence Initiative. Heidelberg University sees itself as a research university with a strong international orientation. Besides enhancing its disciplinary strengths, the University places special emphasis on maintaining the dialogue across traditional subject boundaries.

Heidelberg University has twelve faculties with a total of more than 30,800 students and a research and teaching staff of more than 5,000 scholars, among them 420 full professors. Its wide range of study programs makes Heidelberg University an attractive choice for students from all over the world: roughly one-fifth of the university's students and one-third of doctoral candidates are foreign nationals.

For more information on Universität Heidelberg, please see http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/index_e.html or contact Heidelberg University Association at info@HeidelbergUniversity.org or 212-758-3324.

Institute for Advanced Study, School of Historical Studies, Princeton: Opportunities for Scholars 2015-2016

The Institute is an independent private institution founded in 1930 to create a community of scholars focused on intellectual inquiry, free from teaching and other university obligations. Scholars from around the world come to the Institute to pursue their own research. Candidates of any nationality may apply for a single term or a full academic year. Scholars may apply for a stipend, but those with sabbatical funding, other grants, retirement funding or other means are also invited to apply for a non-stipendiary membership. Some short-term visitorships (for less than a full term, and without stipend) are also available on an ad-hoc basis. Open to all fields of historical research, the School of Historical Studies' principal interests are the history of western, near eastern and Asian civilizations, with particular emphasis upon Greek and Roman civilization, the history of Europe (medieval, early modern, and modern), the Islamic world, East Asian studies, art history, the history of science and philosophy, modern international relations, and music studies. Residence in Princeton during term time is required. The only other obligation of Members is to pursue their own research. The Ph.D. (or equivalent) and substantial publications are required. Information and application forms may be found on the School's web site, www.hs.ias.edu, or contact the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Einstein Dr., Princeton, N.J. 08540 (E-mail address: mzelazny@ias.edu). Deadline: November 1 2014.

IN MEMORIAM

SUSAN LEE RIDDLE PENTLIN**February 9, 1947-December 25, 2013**

We are profoundly sorry to inform you that Susan Lee Pentlin, a long-time member of the German Studies Association, died at her home in Warrensburg, Missouri, on Christmas day, 2013, of a massive heart attack after enduring a series of debilitating illnesses and conditions. Pentlin was a creative and dogged researcher, an original thinker, a scrupulous documentarian, and a talented writer. She was deeply committed to higher education, particularly to Holocaust education. Her life, like her work, was devoted to discovering, publishing, and preserving truth by exposing malfeasance, prejudice and hate as a teacher, scholar, and concerned citizen.

Susan Pentlin was born, lived, wrote, taught, and died in Warrensburg, Missouri, a mid-sized town outside Kansas City. In 1970, she joined the Modern Languages faculty at Central Missouri State College in Warrensburg (shortly to become Central Missouri State University and now the University of Central Missouri). From 1973-1974 she served as a Fulbright Exchange Teacher at Dom Gymnasium, Freising, West Germany and also spent a year in 1974 as an instructor at the University of Kansas while working on the doctorate that she earned in 1977. She taught German and Holocaust Studies at Central Missouri until her retirement in 2005 when she was honored with the title emerita.

Pentlin was an inspiring teacher and a prolific scholar. In addition to German courses, in 1979 she created and taught the first Holocaust course on her campus and chaired the CMSU Holocaust Committee for several years. She also was deeply committed to women's issues and served as a founding member of the CMSU Women's Studies Committee as well the Steering Committee of the "Women in Contemporary Society" symposium.

Pentlin published 34 scholarly articles, 29 book reviews, and presented approximately 70 papers at academic conferences. In addition, she was awarded eight grants and participated in a number of seminars and travel programs. As a Holocaust scholar, she is best known for editing *Mary Berg's Diary: Growing up in the Warsaw Ghetto* and, at her death, had almost completed *I Jumped to Life: The Story of Bronia Roslawowski. Witness to the Gas Chambers* with Maureen Wilt. She also served as editor of the newsletter of the Johnson County Historical Society, 2002-2009.

Among other offices, in 2009 Susan Pentlin was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Annual Scholar's Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches, the policy-making body of one of the most prestigious conferences in the field of Holocaust Studies. She also was a member of the Board of Governors of the Midwest Holocaust Center beginning in 2005, a longtime Advisory Board member of the Remember the Women Institute, and, since 2000, served as the expert on Holocaust denial for the Middle Tennessee State University Holocaust Studies Program.

While she was not belligerent, once Pentlin committed herself to a cause she deemed worthy of fighting, she was an indefatigable campaigner. In 1993, when a racist, neo-Nazi organization called “The Champions of Reason” attempted to gain recognition at her university, Pentlin, along with anthropologist Cathy Hodge McCoid, exposed the true nature of the organization and prevented their leaders from establishing a beachhead of hate at CMSU. Similarly, Pentlin worked with her friend Shelly Shapiro, Director of the Holocaust Survivors and Friends Education Center in Albany, New York, who discovered that Holocaust internet searches prominently included hate sites that denied the fact of the Holocaust in their search results. After contacting several search engine companies, they succeeded in helping to delineate Holocaust denial so that it was not included as a subset of the history of the Holocaust. This resulted in the search engines both vetting and describing the Holocaust denial websites more carefully.

Beyond academics, Pentlin worked tirelessly to preserve both human rights and animal rights. She lived by a wooded area where she fed the wild deer, birds, turkeys and other animals every day and supported animal rights organizations. In 2007 she discovered that Warrensburg city officials appeared to be willing to allow hunters to kill deer at the Lion’s Lake wildlife preserve. Working with her friend Fay Evans, Pentlin led a campaign in the local newspaper and elsewhere that successfully saved the deer and other wildlife.

In response to Pentlin’s work in the fields of academic, human and animal rights, In 1996 she received statewide recognition when she was appointed as the Commissioner for the 4th District, one of eleven members of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights. As a commissioner, she evaluated several important cases to restore justice to people who had been abused or discriminated against.

Obviously, Susan Pentlin’s was a life well lived. She loved and respected her husband, family, and friends, made important contributions to her profession, and made her University, her community and her state better places in which to live and work.

All who knew her and many who did not but benefitted from her intelligence, vigor, kindness, and honor will mourn her passing.

Nancy Rupprecht
Professor of History
Chair, Holocaust Studies Program
Middle Tennessee State University
and

Gerhard L. Weinberg
Professor of History, emeritus
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill