

# WiG Women in German

Newsletter - Winter 2007 - Issue 104

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## ~~~~~ About WiG ~~~~~

The **Coalition of Women in German** is an allied organization of the MLA. Students, teachers, and all others interested in feminism and German studies are welcome! Subscription and membership information is on the last page of this issue.

**Mission Statement of the Coalition of Women in German**

Women in German (WiG) provides a democratic forum for all people interested in feminist approaches to German literature and culture or in the intersection of gender with other categories of analysis such as sexuality, class, race, and ethnicity. Through its annual conference, panels at national professional meetings, and through the publication of the *Women in German Yearbook*, the organization promotes feminist scholarship of outstanding quality. Women in German is committed to making school and college curricula inclusive and seeks to create bridges, cross boundaries, nurture aspirations, and challenge assumptions while exercising critical self-awareness. Women in German is dedicated to eradicating discrimination in the classroom and in the teaching profession at all levels.

**Women in German President:** Julie Klassen, Carlton College, [president@womeningerman.org](mailto:president@womeningerman.org)

**Vice-President and President-Elect:** Nora M. Alter, University of Florida, [president@womeningerman.org](mailto:president@womeningerman.org)

**Women in German Steering Committee:** [steering@womeningerman.org](mailto:steering@womeningerman.org)

Katharina Altpeter-Jones, Lewis & Clark College (2005-2007) [altpeter@lclark.edu](mailto:altpeter@lclark.edu)

Jennifer Drake Askey, Kansas State University (2005-2007) [jaskey@ksu.edu](mailto:jaskey@ksu.edu)

Amy Young, University of Arkansas (2006-2008) [adyoung@ualr.edu](mailto:adyoung@ualr.edu)

Jill Suzanne Smith, Bowdoin College (2006-2008) [jsmith5@bowdoin.edu](mailto:jsmith5@bowdoin.edu)

Mareike Herrmann, College of Wooster (2007-2009) [mherrmann@wooster.edu](mailto:mherrmann@wooster.edu)

Allie Merley, University of Massachusetts Amherst (2007-2009) [amerley@german.umass.edu](mailto:amerley@german.umass.edu)

**Treasurer:** Vibs Petersen, Drake University; Waltraud Maierhofer, University of Iowa

[membership@womeningerman.org](mailto:membership@womeningerman.org)

**Yearbook Editors:** Helga Kraft, University of Illinois at Chicago; Maggie McCarthy, Davidson College,

[yearbook@womeningerman.org](mailto:yearbook@womeningerman.org)

**Conference Organizers (2006-2008):** Denise Della Rossa, Notre Dame University; Michelle Stott James, Brigham Young University, [conference@womeningerman.org](mailto:conference@womeningerman.org)

**Webmistresses:** Beverly Weber, University of Rochester; Kristin E. Thomas-Vander Lugt, Iowa State University, [webmistress@womeningerman.org](mailto:webmistress@womeningerman.org)

## ~~~~~About the WiG Newsletter~~~~~

The *WiG Newsletter*, published online four times a year, contains information about the organization, announcements of upcoming conferences, plans for conferences, contains news from abroad, personal news about members, conference reports, a bibliography, reviews of online resources, and selected items culled from the WiG-L list. Periodically a list of members is published. Reviews from past issues of the *WiG Newsletter* are available on the "Publications" page of the Women in German Website, [www.womeningerman.org](http://www.womeningerman.org)

**Subscription:** The *WiG Newsletter* is automatically part of WiG membership. All issues are e-publications and each new issue is available on a password-protected area of the Women in German website. Members receive notification by email (which includes access information and passwords) when a new issue is out.

**Submissions:** Students, teachers, and all others interested in feminism and German studies are encouraged to submit relevant material to the *WiG Newsletter*. Please email your submission to the appropriate section editor (see list below). General questions should be addressed to the co-editors.

**Submission Deadlines:** For the fall (October) issue, September 15; for the winter (January) issue, December 15; for the spring (March) issue, February 15; for the summer (June) issue, May 30.

**Co-Editors:** Rachel Freudenburg, Boston College, and Maria Stehle, Connecticut College  
[newsletter@womeningerman.org](mailto:newsletter@womeningerman.org)

### **Section Editors:**

**Calls for Papers:** Elizabeth Mittman, Michigan State University, [mittman@msu.edu](mailto:mittman@msu.edu)

**Conference Reports:** Michelle Stott James, Brigham Young University, [michelle\\_james@byu.edu](mailto:michelle_james@byu.edu)

**European News:** Tanja Nusser, Universität Greifswald, [nusser@uni-greifswald.de](mailto:nusser@uni-greifswald.de), and Christina Gerhard, University of California, Berkeley, [gerhardt@berkeley.edu](mailto:gerhardt@berkeley.edu)

**Personal News:** Karen R. Achberger, St. Olaf College, [krach@stolaf.edu](mailto:krach@stolaf.edu)

**Fascinating Clicks:** Jennifer Askey, Kansas State University, [jaskey@ksu.edu](mailto:jaskey@ksu.edu)

**Bibliography:** Jennifer Hosek, Stanford University, [jhosek@stanford.edu](mailto:jhosek@stanford.edu), and Sarah McGaughey, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, [smcgaughey@german.umass.edu](mailto:smcgaughey@german.umass.edu)

**Book Reviews:** Rachel Freudenburg, Boston College and Maria Stehle, Connecticut College, [newsletter@womeningerman.org](mailto:newsletter@womeningerman.org)

**Note:** Rachel Freudenburg and Maria Stehle are the co-editors for the *WiG Newsletter*. **Do not** send them texts or materials which should be sent to a section editor as listed above.

**To join WiG and subscribe to the *WiG Newsletter*, visit us at: <http://womeningerman.org>**

~~~~~ Dear Readers! ~~~~~

Happy 2007! We wish everyone a successful, productive, and exciting new year! This issue of the *Newsletter* contains the conference reports from the Women in German Annual conference in Snowbird in October 2006. We hope you enjoy reading the summaries. We also include all the calls for papers, for the 2007 WiG conference, WiG-sponsored panels at other conferences and panels of interest to WiG members. We also have an exciting list of calls for articles and conferences in Europe. We welcome out new section editor, Christina Gerhard, who agreed to join the European News team.

We are proud to be able to include another book review in this issue of the Newsletter. We will keep you posted on our progress in organizing a WiG book review system. For now, feel free to send book reviews that are of interest to WiG members to us. The deadline for our March issue is coming up soon, on the 15th of February, so please submit any news, calls, and other information you would like to see published in the Newsletter to the appropriate section editors.

Just a reminder: WiG is still looking for a membership coordinator; please check the WiG Announcement section for details!

Again, happy 2007 and have fun reading through the 194th issue of the WiG Newsletter!

Best wishes from

Rachel Freudenburg, Boston College and Maria Stehle, Connecticut College

[newsletter@womeningerman.org](mailto:newsletter@womeningerman.org)

## ~~~~~President's Column~~~~~

As I look forward to the upcoming WiG tasks for the year, I want to stress the importance of the next big endeavor, the search for a new *WiG Yearbook* co-editor. Shortly I will be starting this process with the nomination committee, whose members will identify and talk to potential candidates, read applications, and recommend a final choice. If you are interested in this significant post, I urge you to let me know! We can be rightfully proud of and grateful to the host of past and present editors who have made this yearly journal such a respectable success. If you need more information, they can testify to the benefits and joys of the job as well as give you a realistic assessment of the time commitment and institutional support necessary. Also, Jeanette Clausen is working on initiatives for short-term and long-term WiG fund-raising, so if she contacts you, please lend her your suggestions and your support!

I'm finding out that the duties of president of WiG seem to come in fits and starts and sometimes overlap with other professional duties. After the flurry of activity following the October WiG conference and the end of my fall trimester, my next enterprise was preparing for and attending the Delegate Assembly (as a new representative for the Great Lake States) during the recent MLA conference in Philadelphia. Among the various agenda items, the DA spent its official discussion hour addressing two topics: a) the Department of Education's efforts to introduce outcome-based assessment for institutions of higher education and b) the initiatives for internationalization of the classroom. The minutes are not yet available for this meeting, but in short, delegates were understandably concerned about the potential for governmentally mandated, standardized measurements that are inappropriate and unwieldy. Delegate responses ranged from suggestions that the MLA express opposition to the Department of Education's efforts, to deliberations about the kinds of creative responses that disciplines and institutions can make to establish measurement on our own terms. Since many of you are already involved in such efforts, you will know the many wrinkles involved—and may well have some good solutions we all should know about and discuss!

Among the materials for the discussion of internationalization of the classroom was the report by the Committee on Economic Development, which—surprise, surprise—stresses the importance of foreign language proficiency and cultural knowledge for business enterprises and diplomatic/governmental affairs; it supports new funds for new initiatives to teach languages earlier and with equal attention to cultural literacy. Beyond any helpful ideas, what concerned me most was the identification of those languages now deemed “critical,” to the exclusion of German, French, and Spanish. While granting the crucial significance of Arabic et al, I still find it short-sighted to embrace a policy that doesn't float all boats and thereby creates new oversights in areas of communication. I see a potential for one more kind of curricular mandate from above. Furthermore, the debate leaves out the significant issue that Sara Lennox had tried to make this debate's focus, the issue of transnationalism. Once more, here is an issue that concerns all foreign language/literature and cultural studies programs, where debate needs to acknowledge the qualitative change in focus and the work that is being done (for example, by WiG members).

In an historic vote, the DA voted to change the dates of the MLA from December 27-30, to the first Thursday through Sunday that follows January 2 of a given year. It was hoped that this schedule would provide more predictability (always beginning on a Thursday, always allowing for weekend attendance), cheaper airfares and hotel prices than over the holidays, and a less-hecktic challenge for combining personal holiday plans with professional duties. The problem of institutions starting new courses during that week was seen to be outweighed by the other factors that benefit the most members. This change will not take effect until three years from now.

Attending the breakfast meeting of the Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession gave me some good insight into this group's ongoing work. It continues to address the inequities of the adjunct and contingent hirings across the profession. It has also done surveys I need to look into, such as the one on the status of publications in the electronic media for tenure evaluations. Due to a flu bug that was coursing among attendees, I missed the breakfast meeting for affiliated organizations

(i.e. like WiG), but the discussion was reportedly fairly general. I'll be happy to reply to any specific questions about the other MLA events, particularly in thinking about our affiliated relation to this huge organization –how it can help us and how we can best voice our positions and concerns. Initiated by the Women's Caucus of the Modern Languages and Sara Lennox, we are already planning a joint cash bar for the next MLA, with WCML, WiG, Women in French, and Feministas Unidas as co-hosts. We look forward to this opportunity for contact among women's organizations.

I would also welcome your suggestions for projects or concerns that WiG should take up. Much of WiG's efforts are deliberately decentralized, and I am grateful to the Steering Committee, Newsletter staff, and Yearbook editors and editorial board for their ongoing work that keeps the whole enterprise running well. In the meantime, all the best to everyone for keeping up with the many professional and personal responsibilities that challenge but also fulfill us. May you find ways to practice some of our Thursday night panel members' suggestions for keeping sane under pressure!

Julie Klassen

~~WiG 2006 Conference Report~~

**Panel: *Overworked, Underpaid, and Full of Joy? The Dilemmas and Delights of German Professors Today***

Organizers: Heike Henderson, Boise State University, and Beret Norman, Boise State University

Presenter: Sabine Smith, Kennesaw State University

Title: "*It's Progress, Not Perfection That We Strive For': Thoughts on Burn-out From a Recovering Perfectionist*"

Scholarship differentiates between "adaptive" and "maladaptive" perfectionists (McGarvey, 1996). In the best case scenario, adaptive perfectionists are, for example, educators who demand much, encourage and inspire by example, and motivate students to excel and exceed expectations in a constructive and productive way.

Maladaptive perfectionism, however, can be linked to under-achievement, clinical depression, and personality disorders (Peters, 1996). In a self-defeating circuit, maladaptive perfectionists strive to attain virtually impossible goals, yet tend to measure their own worth almost exclusively in terms of productivity and accomplishment. Not surprisingly, maladaptive perfectionism adversely impacts interpersonal relations (Parker/Adkins, 1994). Maladaptive perfectionism appears to be linked with professional burnout; educators are among the professionals most prone to experience this (Hutman, et.al., 2005).

In managing my own perfectionist tendencies, I derived life-management-skills from a twelve-step-program. Additionally, I heeded Parker Palmer's counsel to explore my spiritual identity as educator (Palmer, 1998). I have also tried to adopt Boyer's model of the "integrated professoriate" (Boyer, 1990). As a feminist, I have grown with the challenge of linking my private and public self. All of these influences have converged for me, as I advocate a holistic view of the roles and responsibilities of an academician, one that has the values of overall wellness and of a healthful balance of competing exigencies at its core.

Presenter: Helga Thorson, University of Victoria

Title: "*Going for Broke: Making the Move from Associate to Adjunct.*"

In this talk, I discuss my decision to leave a secure tenured position in order to emigrate to Canada. In 2004, I became a permanent resident of Canada, and a year later I moved with my family to Victoria, British Columbia—although neither my spouse nor I knew what sort of work we would do when we got there. I touch on some of the factors that came together at the time of the decision-making process, and also highlight the personal benefits and stress factors involved in the move. Currently I am a sessional instructor of German, employed semester to semester, and making nowhere near my former salary. Yet I couldn't be happier with the move.

**Panel: *Pre-20th Century: Women, Health and Medicine***

Organizers: Lisabeth Hock, Wayne State University, and Tracie Matysik, University of Texas

Presenter: Katja Altpeter-Jones, Lewis and Clark College

Title: "*Love me, Hurt me, Heal me—Women as Medical Practitioners and Healers of the Wounds of Love in the Middle Ages*"

"It hurts a lot when someone loves dearly," writes Heinrich von Morungen, one of the most *wehleidig* of all German minnesingers. Heinrich, like many of his contemporaries, stylizes himself in this poem as suffering intolerably from the pains of love that have been inflicted upon him by the lady he loves. But in *Minnesang* poetry, women not only inflict injury, they are also frequently fashioned as the ones who alone can heal the wounds of love.

Referencing Heinrich's love poetry as well as Gottfried von Straßburg's *Tristan*, this paper examines how deeply gendered the literary representations of love, the pains of love, and the healing of the wounds of love are in medieval German literature. Interestingly, it is primarily women who are fashioned as the expert healers of the wounds of love, and their capacities as healers are frequently presented as superior to those of male medical professionals. The paper argues that, while ostensibly elevating women and their skills above men and the craft of male practitioners, in effect these texts bespeak a significant ambivalence with regard to female healing powers, and deep anxieties regarding the vulnerability of men and masculinity. Referring to historical evidence that documents the increasingly systematic exclusion of women from the medical profession in Europe beginning in the thirteenth century, the paper concludes that, rather than constituting praise for women's superior medical skills and admiration for the female healer, these texts perform a compensatory gesture by portraying women as possessing superior medical skills precisely at a time when their actual involvement in the practice of medicine was severely curtailed.

Presenter: Maya Gerig, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Title: "‘Fast nur eine einzige lange Krankheitsgeschichte’: Erzählen als Therapie in *Therese Hubers Luise*"

In *Therese Hubers (1764-1829) Roman Luise von 1796*, gibt die Protagonistin ihrem subjektiven Leiden Ausdruck. Luises psychologischer Report, geschrieben in der dritten Person, wird von der Autorin als katastrophale Folge der Konvenienzehe bezeichnet, was auch bereits zeigt, dass der Leser einerseits Luises Selbsteinschätzung erfährt und andererseits der Kommentar der Autorin bzw. des Herausgebers beigelegt ist. Nebst individueller Leidensgeschichte ist *Luise* aber auch die literarische Umsetzung des zeitgenössisch brisanten Themas der Pathologie der Melancholie. Zudem wird bei einer genaueren Analyse klar, dass Luises Krankheit im Grunde genommen als Folge häuslicher Gewalt betrachtet werden muss. Die Geschichte von Luises „Leiden und ihres Unglücks“ wird im Vorwort als „fast nur eine einzige lange Krankheitsgeschichte“ bezeichnet. Die Krankheit der Protagonistin erhält im Verlaufe des Romans viele Namen: „Schwermuth, Melancholie, Hypochondrie. Mißmuth, völlige Verstandesverwirrung, Bild des Blödsinns, zerrüttete Phantasie, Gemüthskrankheit, Raserey, Wahnsinn und Tollheit.“

Es stellt sich die Frage nach dem Bezug der Fiktion zum zeitgenössischen medizinischen Diskurs sowohl im Hinblick auf den Grund der Erkrankung als auch auf das Krankheitsbild, die Therapieformen und die Frage, weshalb *Luise* nicht genesen kann. Die Gegenüberstellung von Fiktion und medizinischer Fachliteratur zeigt, wie sich medizinische Theorien in *Luise* widerspiegeln. Zur melancholischen Disposition der Protagonistin kommt ein Sturz als auslösendes Ereignis dazu. Das Krankheitsbild Luises – Fieber, wirres Reden, Wahnvorstellungen – entspricht demjenigen der medizinischen Diagnosen für Manie, steht jedoch in einem gewissen Kontrast zu den üblicherweise in der Literatur porträtierten Melancholikern der Zeit, bei welchen Melancholie gern als Bewusstseinsweiterung beschrieben wird. Die Therapieformen, sowohl in der Fiktion als auch der Medizin, unterscheiden zwischen psychologischen und auf den Körper der Kranken einwirkenden Maßnahmen. In der Tradition von Karl Philipp Moritz' „Journal zur Erfahrungsseelenkunde“ (1783-93) und seines *Anton Reiser* (1785) soll auch in *Luise* der psychologische Report der Behandlung des Leidens dienen. Zusätzlich widerspiegeln Massnahmen wie Isolation, Wasserschock, Essensentzug und Schmerzzufügung schlussendlich ziemlich präzise zeitgenössische Verfahren.

Die Tatsache, dass die bei *Luise* angewandten Behandlungen trotz Übereinstimmung mit der um 1800 üblichen medizinischen Praxis nicht fruchten, bestätigt die These, *Luise* könne nicht gesund werden, da diese so genannten Therapien im Grunde genommen häusliche Gewalt darstellen. Der Kreis wird somit geschlossen, indem die Gewalt, die *Luise* erfährt, sowohl Ursache ihres Leidens ist als sie auch die Heilung verhindert, denn von Kindheit an bereiten repressive Erziehungsmaßnahmen das traurige Schicksal vor. Der Zwang zur Ehe sowie die als Therapien getarnten Misshandlungen geschehen in der Folge auf Veranlassung von Gatte und Mutter. *Luise* steht der Gewalt machtlos gegenüber, denn Erziehung, internalisierte Tugendvorstellungen und die effektive Abhängigkeit der

Frau in der Gesellschaft haben Luise zur Einsicht gebracht, Auflehnung sei undenkbar und es bleibt nur die Flucht in die Krankheit.

Presenter: Lisa Roetzel, University of California, Irvine

Title: "From the Tubercular Heroine to the Insane Asylum, or is this Progress? Fantasy, Illness, and Feminine Identity in Droste-Hülshoff's *Ledwinia* and Hedwig Dohm's *Werde, Die Du Bist!*"

The catalogue of affects commonly used in the 18th century to describe what we today would call psychological processes, equates fantasy with the feminine, and so-called "gesunder (Menschen-) Verstand" with the masculine. Once feminized, fantasy becomes associated with the opposite of *Verstand*: illness; affective imbalance; and corresponding bodily illnesses.

Women writers in the late 18th and 19th centuries were keenly aware of this opposition, and the tropes associated with a feminized fantastic. As we know, romantic women writers appropriated fantasy, changing it into a way of overcoming deeply imbued social norms and conventions. The out-of-body experience of fantasy becomes a way to transcend, critique and deconstruct.

This paper explores a possible shift in discourse surrounding fantasy and feminine illness, by examining two women writers from the early and late 19th century, Annette von Droste-Hülshoff and Hedwig Dohm. Droste-Hülshoff's *Ledwinia* is a novel fragment (written between 1819-1826) that deals with a young heroine who is slowly dying of tuberculosis. My argument is that Droste-Hülshoff understands fantasy and the body in a way that harkens back to the 18th-century catalogue of affects, and is in many ways romantic. Like other women romantics, Droste-Hülshoff appropriates and refashions fantasy and illness to construct an alternative type of femininity. *Ledwinia* suffers from tuberculosis, and uses fantasy and her uncertain bodily boundaries to transcend everyday reality. Taking long, fantasizing walks, she constructs an alternative identity where she can live "für sich", and where she questions the norms of femininity, class, and identity. The wasting disease that is tuberculosis, which spawned countless depictions of fainting females in literature, drama, and opera, is rethought by Droste-Hülshoff as an opportunity for the protagonist to claim inner strength and a unique, separate identity not exclusively determined by society's concepts of femininity.

Hedwig Dohm's *Werde, Die Du Bist!* (1894), written 75 years after Droste-Hülshoff's initial conception of *Ledwinia*, also explores the thematic of a woman questioning traditional notions of feminine identity through fantasy. Dohm's protagonist, a recent widow, uses fantasy to create a new sense of identity and to challenge ageism. At 54 years old, Agnes Schmidt, a kind of everywoman, is seen as old and useless. (!) The fantasizing self becomes a strong antidote to bourgeois German society's misreading of Agnes as "eine drollige Alte," and allows her to grow and change. Like *Ledwinia*, she takes liberating walks, where she fantasizes an alternative identity. Agnes Schmidt eventually gains the courage to travel the world on her own, and develops a new, dynamic sense of self.

However similar to the Droste-Hülshoff text the thematic may initially seem to be, Dohm's narrative displays a keen awareness of the developing science of psychology, and the concomitant movement of fantasy toward the pathological. Unlike the romantic view of the power of fantasy and illness, Dohm's view is one in which fantasy is circumscribed and contained by the new science. In a psychologized world, fantasy becomes an illness. Dohm makes careful use of the new structures and terminology of psychology. Agnes' liberation lands her in the insane asylum, where she is hovered over by so-called experts: male doctors and psychiatrists. Agnes constantly analyzes herself, questioning her illness as possible paranoia, wonders whether her fantasizing is mental illness, and speaks of suicidal tendencies. Her new identity is thus contained and circumscribed by the discourse of psychology.

In my reading of these two texts, I examine what I see as a fascinating shift in the 19th century in the understanding of fantasy, and the resulting implications for constructions of feminine identity, as thematized by two of the 19th century's most significant women writers.

**Panel: Gendered Cities**

Organizers: Karen Eng, University of Cincinnati, Alexandra Merley Hill, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and Beret Norman, Boise State University

Presenter: Jennifer Drake Askey, Kansas State University

Title: “‘*Der Preußenkönig naht, in mir zu wohnen*’: *The Gender of Geography in nineteenth-century Töchterschulen*”

As part of a larger project on girls and nationalism in the nineteenth century, I present an analysis of a short play, a *Sedanfeier*, performed by the girls of a *Töchterschule* in Berlin in 1880. The play illustrates the feminization and sexualization of the German landscape by casting school girls in the roles of German and French towns, rivers, and other places of import to the foundation of the German Empire under Prussian leadership. The cast of the *Sedanfeier* includes a number of anthropomorphized cities and places important to the foundational myths of the German Empire: Ems, Charlottenburg, the Rhein, etc. Moreover, the play (which parallels closely in spirit the historical instruction girls received in school) suggests to the girls acting in it an emotional attitude toward their German fatherland that is constructive—and constitutive—for the success of Prussian nationalism in the nineteenth century.

The anthropomorphizing of geography in the play suggests a symbolic role for girls within the emerging nation. When “Ems” declaims “*Der Preußenkönig naht, in mir zu wohnen, Und still zu ruh’n in Wald und Thal und Au’./Und Stärkung bietet ihm mein Wunderquell--/Wie blickt sein Auge jugendlich und hell,*” she articulates her position as both the landscape of Prussia and Prussia’s love object. This represents an intertwining of the *Heimat* discourse with the patriarchal and positivist discourse of nineteenth-century German nationalism. *Heimat*, as Peter Bickle contends, “is so much like the ideal woman that it is a trope for each specific period’s idealization of femininity.” The *Sedanfeier* reinforces the feminine images of *Heimat* as well as the image of the German nation-state as a family, in which women—and especially the girls—participate in the life of the nation-state on an emotional and symbolic level.

This *Sedanfeier* repeatedly suggests a wooing of Germany’s regions and cities parallel to the wooing of a maiden. In doing so, it encourages girls to conflate love of country with romantic and filial love, and suggests a specific feminine mode of being within the nation that equates duty with love.

Presenter: Maria Stehle, Connecticut College

Title: “‘*Es entstehen Ghettos*’ *From Berlin, Kreuzberg, to the Banlieues of Paris*”

In this talk I theorize racialized and gendered constructions of German city-spaces, by comparing different narratives of the ghetto. The comparison focuses on German media discourses about ghettoisation and analyzes the tension between discourses of integration and containment at two historical moments: the mid-1970s, when laws were passed to restrict work-migration to West Germany, and the year 2005/2006, when the effects of European Immigration policies were discussed again in the aftermath of riots in the Paris banlieues. My tools for this media discourse analysis are borrowed from feminist political geography.

A comparison between the discourses of the 1970s and the 21st century shows how the meaning of the concepts of “integration” and containment, as two of the central tropes of the ghetto, change over time. However, certain discursive tropes overlap: the ghetto as a site of emergency and exception relies on gendered and racialized forms of exclusion. In the 1970s, racialized and gendered nightmares of the crisis of the city co-existed and overlapped, but had not yet merged. When these two nightmares are linked analytically, their central tropes can be traced to the narratives of the European ghetto in the 21st century, where gender and race intersect with concepts of religion, sexuality, and age. In the 21st century, internal borderlands of Europe are defined by the construction of a particular kind of violent, non-white masculinity that rules the inner-city or banlieues/ghetto. ‘Ghetto-Islam’ further comes to mark the “other,” the non-integrated, and the non-European space. White Europe asserts itself by creating a particular internal borderland, a “ghetto” where patriarchy, violence, social

injustice, racism, and other forms of exclusion are supposed to be contained and upheld as a permanent site of contrast and emergency.

Examples of counter-discourses show that the constructions of such ghettos are central to a set of questions that challenge Europe in the 21st century: How did Europe “become white”? What does a post-Eurocentric Europe look like? Counter-knowledges show, not only how these narratives operated historically and what kinds of effects they produce today, but they also suggest ways to transgress these borders, to expose the traps of identity politics and of gendered and racialized stereotypes, and to transform the narratives of the ghetto and the narratives of Europe.

**Panel: “What’s Up With the Fräuleins? Voices from the New German Literature”**

Organizers: Monika Fischer, University of Missouri, and Patricia Herminghouse, University of Rochester

The panel presented four talks on different aspects of recent German literature written by women. As the title suggests, we were looking for papers that critically reflect on the consequences of the term “literarisches Fräuleinwunder,” as well as discussing upcoming women writers, some of whom have gained, to a certain degree, celebrity status simply because they are women and young. Among the issues raised was the younger writers’ lack of identification with the feminist issues of the 70s and 80s, as well as the importance of understanding both young German women’s literature and transnational literature as equal participants in the contemporary literary scene.

The papers in this lively session were characterized by divergent views on what is meant by “post-feminism” and “European identity,” and by consideration of the impact (or lack thereof) of the feminist experience of the 70s and 80s on the new generation of women writers in Germany.

Presenter: Hester Baer, University of Oklahoma

Title: “*Frauenliteratur ‘After Feminism’?*”

In this paper, I argue for the renewed relevance of feminism, with a double vision or vital new lens that includes young women writers (*Fräulein*) in the investigation of a new national/European identity. Critical of contemporary feminist theorists who ignore young women writers while concentrating on minority writers, I advocate viewing the “*Fräuleins*” side by side with contemporary minority writers. In my view, the disinterest in feminist concerns (of the 70s and 80s) is a result of the general depoliticization of culture since unification, which moved feminism and gender issues out of mainstream concerns. This paper defines post-feminism as apolitical in its failure to analyze or offer constructive criticism. It also makes a case for the continued relevance of the category *Frauenliteratur*, as well as for feminist engagement with women’s literature in order to avoid relegating women’s writing to the “chick lit” phenomenon of pop culture.

Presenter: Erika Berroth, Southwestern University

Title: “*Memory and Identity in Transnational Writing in German: ‘Touching Tales’ by Rumjana Zacharieva, Carmen Francesca Banciu, and Marica Bodrozic.*”

My paper on Rumjana Zacharieva, Carmen-Francesca Banciu and Marica Bodrozic asks for inclusion of transnational authors in the contemporary literary scene. It argues against the implicit exclusivity of the perception of the “home-grown Germanness” of the “*Fräuleinwunder*” writers, stressing the importance of transnational narratives that intervene in the construction of German national memory. The three women authors create identity narratives in a language that is not their first, and write in a country that is not their country of origin. Identity is constructed through memory narratives about childhoods in communist countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia). The childhood perspective of the country of origin is challenged when the adult autobiographical voice reflects on the meanings of returning to the country of origin after living in Germany (before and after unification). This process of shuttling back and forth between the host nation and a place of origin (both ever-changing) forces us to rethink our use of the term “diaspora.” What has been viewed as an advantage to transnational writing – using the German language *without* the burdens of German history (“Ich schreibe ohne Hitler im Kopf.” – Zacharieva) is contested in the various confrontations with the history of discrimination and racism in the country of origin the writers recognize, once their

sensibilities are trained through their experiences in Germany.

As autobiographical narrators create coherent, continuous selves by tapping into childhood senses and emotions, they merge self-continuity (connecting with the internal other) with practices of creating affective worlds that include external others and offer visions of a shared future. It is this possibility of a shared European future that distinguishes the memory discourse in transnational writing in German.

Presenter: Brooke Kreitinger, Georgetown University

Title: "*Voices of Late GDR Youth.*"

This paper analyzes the experiences of two bestselling women authors, Claudia Rusch and Jana Hensel, whose childhood and youth were divided by the collapse of the GDR and the subsequent reunification of East and West Germany. The analysis points to the new generation's disinterest in feminist claims, and interprets "post-feminism" as the lack of a feminist perspective, that is, as merely the historical time after feminism (the 70s and 80s). It stresses the affinity of "post-feminism" with post-modernity, with its shift to an individualism in which the writer is not confined to the gender struggles of the past or present, but rather focuses on her individual future. Nevertheless, these "Spätgeborene," like the transnational writers, bring a new perspective on the European past and future and thus a new view of national or "East German" identity.

Presenter: Sonja E. Klocke, Indiana University

Title: "*Memory as History in Kathrin Schmidt's Die Gunnar-Lennefsen-Expedition: The Subversive Powers of Non-normative Bodies in Re-telling History.*"

In this paper, I analyze the *Gunnar-Lennefsen-Expedition* by Kathrin Schmidt as a specific feminist journey into the past, through which history is rewritten. Thus, I define "post-feminism" as participation in the feminist project of claiming unheard voices and changing power structures. Schmidt's use of magical realism creates a hybrid sense of time as a subversive strategy. Thus she is able to connect the private and public/political sphere in a way which is anything but apolitical. The paper's exploration of Schmidt's affinity with Irmtraud Morgner, a GDR writer and feminist of the 70s and 80s, demonstrates the younger writer's connection with the past. The novel's view of unified Germany is critical and pessimistic, depicting a Germany that strives for racial homogeneity and fails to achieve a cosmopolitan European identity.

### **Panel: Pedagogy Session: Technology– German Studies– Feminism**

Organizers: Rachel Freudenburg, Boston College, and Jennifer Askey, Kansas State University

Presenter: Jennifer Ruth Hosek, Queen's University, Ontario

Title: "*Towards an Understanding of Digitized Knowledge: Consolidation, Maintenance, and Access*"

Through this project, done as a "field reporter," rather than as an expert, I learned that many issues are similar to those of the age of mechanical reproduction. We already have the tools to analyze this situation, which is largely about ownership and access. I interviewed three experts: Catherine Tierny, Associate University Librarian for Technology Services at Stanford and a Director for the Google Library Project; Henry Lowood, the Curator for History of Science & Technology Collections, Germanic Collections, and Film & Media Collections at Stanford; and Christoph Links, the editor of the academically-oriented Ch.Links Verlag. I thank Jim Spohrer, Librarian for the Germanic Collections at Berkeley, and, particularly, Victoria Szabo and Galen Davis, Stanford technology experts. Their views do not necessarily coincide with mine.

My questions included:

What are the probable effects of digitizing on access to knowledge?

What are the probable effects of consolidation of digitized knowledge on access to knowledge?

Can adequate information management be guaranteed?

What are the incentives to ensure access to information?

How is the digitization of knowledge impacting intellectual property rights?

Three issues came to the fore for me. First, although electronic production can readily overcome space, its democratizing effects have been limited. Access to information must be active, thus it is limited. Censorship is increasing. Moreover, only 10% of the world's population can access a computer with Web connectivity. Second, technology is expensive and infrastructure-intensive. Third, consolidation of content and infrastructure sometimes impedes access. Elsevier and Microsoft are examples of such consolidation.

I support Lowood's call for grassroots action to maintain control over the Internet, the Web, and electronic resources. I hope Links is correct in saying that educated citizens use the Net more than the Net uses them. I believe that as academics, we are well-positioned to further the education of users, whether we train them directly in the use of electronic resources or indirectly in critical assessment and analysis.

Presenter: Dale Askey, Kansas State University

Title: *Moving Beyond the MLA/ Deviant Modes of Scholarly Communication*

This is an attempt to present two library-related topics in one slot. The first topic, glibly summarized as "moving beyond the MLA," is essentially a highly condensed version of a library or bibliographic instruction session that I would typically give to a group of advanced undergraduate majors and/or graduate students and faculty. It covers resources for the discovery of secondary literature that addresses the known shortcomings of the MLA. Additionally, I present various online text collections, both of primary and secondary texts, paying particular attention to the many collections made available in Germany via funding from the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*.

In the second portion of the talk, I turn my attention to scholarly communication, and in particular toward the concept of open-access journal publishing. Open access is a model where the cost of acquiring journals is shifted from the end-user (via subscriptions) to the journal producers, with the primary benefit being a vast expansion of potential readership. Open access is an established practice in the scientific community; in the humanities it has yet to make much of an impact, but scholars in this field should be concerned about the fate of their journal literature and take advantage of these opportunities. The talk explores the four core issues of journal publishing--findability, accessibility, affordability, and sustainability--and closes with a call to found a non-profit humanities publisher in order to raise the profile of what are now widely-scattered journals with static subscription numbers and readership.

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*Submissions policy for the WiG Summaries:* WiG members are invited to submit summaries of conference sessions at the WiG Conference and for WiG sponsored panels to Michelle Stott James, Brigham Young University, [michelle\\_james@byu.edu](mailto:michelle_james@byu.edu)

~~~~~ WiG Calls for Papers ~~~~~

### **Wiggies as Activists**

#### **Women in German Conference, 18-21 October 2007, Snowbird, Utah**

How do you incorporate activism into your life? Is activism a priority for you as a scholar, teacher, Wiggie? How do you define activism? Possible topics include: the role of WiG in your activism; feminism; lesbian/queer; generational differences; cultural difference; political activism; family/motherhood; environmental activism/ institutional; intellectual activism.

Please submit brief abstracts (250-500 words) and a c.v. electronically to both panel organizers by **15 March 2007**: Liesel Allingham (lallingh@indiana.edu) and Lisa Roetzel (lroetzel@uci.edu).

### **Religion, Race, Gender and Class in Pre-20th-Century Encounters with Islam**

#### **Women in German Conference, 18-21 October 2007, Snowbird, Utah**

We are soliciting proposals for the Pre-20 th-Century Panel, on the topic of pre-20 th-century German encounters with Islam. We are interested in papers which examine these transcultural interactions with analysis that engages religion, race, gender and class.

As the heated debates around the Kopftuchstreit and Turkey's potential candidacy for the EU show, (intensely gendered) discussions of the role Islam plays in contemporary Europe are important parts of a current public discourse that seeks to construct Europe against a Muslim other. With this panel we hope to shed light on the historical developments of these constructions through complex explorations of the role of Islam in Europe and the relationship of Islam to Europe in earlier centuries.

How did Europeans and Muslims perceive each other, and to what extent are the narratives of their encounters impacted by their respective ideologies? How are Muslim cultures constructed as other to European? And are they constructed as other? How are notions of Europe constructed by both Muslim and Christian cultures? How are these constructions gendered? In what ways do contemporary constructions of East and West reflect continuities with or departures from historical constructions? To what extent do earlier centuries provide alternative visions of interaction and encounter when compared with today's relationship of Eastern/Muslim and Western/Christian cultures which is frequently portrayed as strained and fraught and presented in starkly binary terms? Do earlier centuries perhaps provide alternative visions that question the very notion of "encounter" and its binary and essentializing tendency?

Studies from all disciplines are welcome, including art, history, literature, language, medicine, music, philosophy, and religion. We also welcome interdisciplinary projects. Possible areas of inquiry may include (but are no limited to): ethnicity and the construction of prejudice in pre-modern Europe, and Muslim-Christian or East-West encounters in travel literature, accounts of war, or colonialist discourse from the Middle Ages to the 19th century.

Please submit brief abstracts (250-500 words) and a c.v. electronically to both panel organizers by **15 March 2007**: Katja Altpeter-Jones (altpeter@lclark.edu) and Olga Trokhimenko (trokhimenkoo@uncw.edu)

### **Contesting Europe: Feminist Critiques and Globalization**

#### **Women in German Conference, 18-21 October 2007, Snowbird, Utah**

The transatlantic tensions in the run-up to the Iraq invasion produced, for a while, the heady possibilities of imagining Europe as counterweight to American-style globalization. And while some believe that that utopian window has closed, we think it is still necessary to explore Europe as contested terrain—caught between colonial, imperialist, fascist, and totalitarian histories and their

legacies (Pim Fortuyn's Europe, as Arjun Appadurai has called it), and the enlightened, post-Eurocentric, antifascist Europe that is committed to learning its lessons from the past (Bassam Tibi's Europe). For this panel, we seek papers that develop specifically feminist strategies for imagining Europe, identify activist movements for alternative globalization, discuss artistic productions envisioning counter-worlds, and consider theoretical perspectives that challenge globalist constructions of Europe, and point towards new feminist critiques and practices.

***The papers accepted for this panel will be made available online before the conference, so be prepared to send in the complete document by 1 October 2007.***

Please send a 100-word abstract by **15 March 2007**, to Jennifer Hosek (jhosek@post.queensu.ca) and Katrin Sieg (ks253@georgetown.edu)

### **The Creative Possibilities of Academic Writing**

***Women in German Conference, 18-21 October 2007, Snowbird, Utah***

What makes our writing powerful? What makes it true, both to ourselves as writers and to the subjects we write about? What makes it enjoyable to write and read? This session aims to revisit questions raised by early second wave feminists—questions of language, of voice, of pleasure, of passion and purpose not constrained by existing models, of alternative sources of authority—and explore their implications for our academic writing.

Point of departure for our discussion are the pressures and problems we face when we come to writing: the increasing emphasis on interdisciplinarity, the boring and/or inaccessible quality of much academic work, the crisis of academic presses and our need to publish. The purpose of this session is to explore the creative possibilities inherent in these very problems. Contributions may be practical, analytical, theoretical, or speculative, or any combination thereof. We are open to—indeed welcome—heterodox forms of presentation.

Send proposals of no more than 250 words by email to both session organizers: Angelika Bammer (abammer@emory.edu) and Juliette Brungs (jbrungs@german.umass.edu). Deadline for proposals: **15 March 2007**.

### **Women in the RAF: Gender, Political Violence and Their Representations**

***Women in German Conference, 18-21 October 2007, Snowbird, Utah***

By 1981, two thirds of those depicted on RAF wanted posters were women. As the prevalence of women among German left-wing terrorist groups was noted, so, too, a discourse arose that underscored how unnatural it was for women to be violent evidenced by articles in Spiegel, Stern, and other popular media. Additionally, a gendered discourse arose that fixated on how antithetical motherhood and terrorism were, focusing particular attention on Ulrike Meinhof and Gudrun Ensslin. This panel (to be held on the 30 th anniversary of the "Deutscher Herbst") will focus particular attention on women in the RAF and engage the gendered discourse around women, political violence, and their representations. Papers that examine representations in popular media, such as newspapers and newsmagazines, or film, or self-representations in autobiographies or memoirs are welcome.

Please send a 200-word abstract via email by **15 March 2007** to Jill Suzanne Smith (jsmith5@bowdoin.edu) and Dinah Dodds (dodds@lclark.edu)

### **Gendered Pasts – Gendered Memories?**

***Women in German Conference, 18-21 October 2007, Snowbird, Utah***

In recent years we have seen the growth of a significant body of work exploring the role of collective memories for nations and ethnic communities. With the exception of the analysis of how the preservation of cultural memory is often located in the figure of a woman, gender has largely been left out of the discussion. For this panel we invite proposals for papers that specifically address or theorize the gendering of collective memories in relationship to the historical/political context in which those memories are produced. More specifically we are asking:

- How does gender play a role in what histories serve as the basis for public memory discourses?
- How does gender shape the ways in which histories are being remembered?
- In what ways is history / are histories gendered in discourses of memory?
- How is the participation in public memory discourses gendered?
- In what ways do memory discourses construct gender roles?
- What strategies exist to challenge normative understandings of gender via discourses of memory?

Papers that address these questions might analyze memory discourses in literature, film, oral histories, memorials, commemoration ceremonies or other public events that interpret the history of Germanspeaking Europe and German – transnational encounters. Topics might include, but are not limited to, discourses of memory constructed around the persecution of women as witches in the Middle Ages, experiences of war, expulsion, the Holocaust, the division and unification of Germany, migration, and colonialism.

Please send proposals to all three panel organizers by **15 March 2007**: Kai Herklotz (kai.herklotz@tufts.edu); Waltraud Maierhofer ([waltraud-maierhofer@uiowa.edu](mailto:waltraud-maierhofer@uiowa.edu)); and Kirsten Kumpf (kirsten-kumpf@uiowa.edu)

### **Poster Session: Open Topic**

#### ***Women in German Conference, 18-21 October 2007, Snowbird, Utah***

The organizers of the WiG Poster Session welcome proposals for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Coalition of Women in German. The poster session gives researchers the opportunity to conceptualize their current research, teaching or academic life in visual form. Proposals must include a brief abstract describing the project and a detailed description of the poster's layout, design, and materials. A poster presentation traditionally consists of one or two posterboard-sized displays incorporating pictures and texts. However, we are interested in redefining the "poster" by including other media. We especially welcome proposals in the categories of 3-D art, interactive exhibits, and multimedia presentations.

Posters from past sessions have dealt with such topics as teaching, literature, film, cultural studies, history, and balancing career and family. "Posters" have taken the shape of PowerPoint presentations, websites, dioramas, sculpture, and of course, cardboard. To view photos of posters presented at WiG conferences in recent years, visit:

<http://womeningerman.org>

Many universities support the production of posters as a way of publicizing research. You may want to find out what your institution offers in terms of audiovisual support. Show us all how creative you really are! Present your current book project! Get valuable feedback on your newest, brilliant research idea! Share teaching techniques!

Submit your proposals electronically to all three organizers by **15 March 2007**: Brenda Bethman, University of Missouri-Kansas City (brenda.bethman@gmail.com); Kyle Frackman, University of Massachusetts Amherst (frackman@german.umass.edu); Laurie Taylor, University of Massachusetts Amherst, (lktaylor@german.umass.edu).

## WiG-Sponsored Panels at Other Conferences

### Women, Violence, and Islam

**German Studies Association, 4-7 October 2007, San Diego, CA**

This panel grows out of concerns about how certain notions of Islam are used to legitimize domestic and international policies and racist discourses in Europe. It aims to find feminist language capable of critiquing the violence of racism/culturalism and of so-called Islamism. In this spirit, we seek papers analyzing gendered representations of Islam that justify violence against Muslims or people marked as Muslims. We also welcome papers that investigate alternative paradigms, particularly those of activist groups. Transnational / non-European perspectives are encouraged.

Please send abstracts of 250-500 words by **12 January 2007** to Monika Shafi (MShafi@udel.edu) and Jennifer Ruth Hosek (jhosek@post.queensu.ca)

### Women and Crime

**Modern Language Association, 27-30 December 2007, Chicago**

When thinking about women's relationship to crime, the woman is depicted largely as the passive object, as the victim of a violent act performed by a male perpetrator. This perception of the woman as the eternal victim raises a number of questions about the relationship of women to crime. We seek papers that both analyze and challenge the notion of the passive female in crime. Topics might include but are not limited to:

- Women in crime narrative: representation of women as victims, perpetrators, spectators, and/or detectives
- Women as victims of crime: the gendered crime (rape, domestic violence, and women as spoils of war)
- Changing notions of crime: religious aspects (crime vs. sin) and the development of the judicial system
- Women as perpetrators: becoming a criminal; prosecution vs. persecution; the female terrorist; issues of prostitution or abortion

Please email a 250-500 word abstract including your contact information to all editors by **15 March 2007** to Lisabeth Hock, Wayne State University (lhock@wayne.edu), Pauline Ebert, Wayne State University (pauline.e@wayne.edu), and Alexandra Pakh, Wayne State University (alpakh@wayne.edu) Feel free to contact us with any questions.

### New Women Writers in the "Berlin Republic"

**Modern Language Association, 27-30 December 2007, Chicago**

The "Berlin Republic" has become the key concept of post-Cold War Germany, symbolized by the move of the German government from Bonn to Berlin in 1999. For some it signaled the beginning of normalization and a Germany less burdened by its past. For others it signified the opportunity to inquire into Germany's relationship with its immigrants, its young people and to nationalism. At the same time, the founding of the new "Berlin Republic" exposed the challenges of modernization, integration, and globalization while it unleashed great social, economic, and political upheaval. Key debates exist today which are shaping the identity, politics and culture in Germany today. Literature and film are rich sources for investigating the relationship Germans have to the new Germany. This panel seeks to investigate how post-Wende women writers explore the key debates which are shaping the identity, politics and culture in Germany today. Possible authors to consider are: Karen Duve, Jenny Erpenbeck, Carmen-Francesca Bancin, Rumanja Zachariva, Maria Bodrozic, Renan Demirkan, Julia Franck, Julie Zeh, Thea Dorn, Jana Hensel, or Alexa von Hennig-Lange.

The questions and issues in which we are interested include, but are not limited to the following:

- How to categorize these new women writers?
- Identity of the (re)unified Germany/Berlin from a female perspective.
- Definitions of "feminism", "post-feminism", "post-modern feminists" and the tensions among these terms within the "Berlin Republic" context.
- Who are the writers related to Frauleinwunder, Popliteratur, Ostalgie-Literatur, Frauenliteratur, and Chick Lit and what are they accomplishing in their works?
- How do literature and film by women express the relationship Germans have to the new Germany?
- How do new women writers reflect upon the German/German state in their work?
- In what ways, if at all, is the minority writer experience of the new "Berlin Republic" different?
- Women writers engaged in "Ostalgie" and its associated concept "Westalgie."
- What are the discourses of post-1990 German women writers?

Please email a 250-500 word abstract including your contact information to both panel organizers by **15 March 2007**. Feel free to contact us with any questions. Denise M. Della Rossa, University of Notre Dame ([dellarossa.1@nd.edu](mailto:dellarossa.1@nd.edu)) Corinna Kahnke, Indiana University ([ckahnke@indiana.edu](mailto:ckahnke@indiana.edu))

***Teaching German-Speaking Countries as Multi-Ethnic Cultures***  
**AATG 16-18 November 2007, San Antonio, TX**

We invite contributions to this pedagogy session on multi-ethnicity in German-speaking countries that go beyond teaching units presented in standard textbooks and other instructional materials. We are looking for innovative multi-media teaching modules on representations of minority cultures in German-speaking countries that reflect a critical perspective vis-à-vis the respective country's sense of national identity. The thematic unit should clearly reflect ACTFL standards and identify specific learning outcomes and assessment tools. It may include lesson plans, student worksheets, exercises, web activities, or other resources. Presenters should not focus on any one text or single author/artist, but rather present a meaningful teaching unit on a minority culture (e.g. Roma and Sinti, German-Turkish, Afro-German, Jewish, etc. cultures), or on an issue that addresses several cultures (e.g. a topic related to minority policies, religion, refugee children, women, etc.). A compilation of ancillary materials (e.g. hand-outs including references to online site/s, if applicable) is required so that session participants may implement the proposed teaching unit in their classrooms. Teaching modules of publishable quality may be submitted for online publication at the Women in German or AATG Teaching Resources web sites.

Please send a 200–300 word abstract to Michaela Grobbel ([grobbel@sonoma.edu](mailto:grobbel@sonoma.edu)) and Sabine Smith ([ssmith2@kennesaw.edu](mailto:ssmith2@kennesaw.edu)) by **1 December 2007**.

## ~~~~~ Other Calls for Papers ~~~~~

***LGBT Issues in the German Classroom*****AATG/ACTFL Conference, San Antonio, Texas, 16-18 November 2007.**

American popular culture has been experiencing something of a "queer moment" over the past decade. Fictional gay characters abound in TV shows and movies, while reality and talk shows feature openly queer competitors, hosts, and celebrities. On university campuses, meanwhile, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) student centers have begun to thrive, and some institutions have even started up LGBT Studies programs. It is clear that students are more aware than ever of queer issues; what is less clear is how this change has affected pedagogical practices in the foreign language classroom. This panel will deal with the way LGBT or queer issues are approached (or not approached) in the German language classroom at all levels. Possible topics include teaching literary texts with LGBT content; queer movies in the German classroom; whether the emphasis on diversity in German-language textbooks (Anders gedacht, Kaleidoskop, Was ist Deutsch? etc.) has neglected sexual orientation; differences between experiences in public / private institutions, urban / rural colleges, or "red state" / "blue state" contexts; being closeted or out as an LGBT instructor; treating LGBT issues at the High School level; creating a safe and comfortable environment for LGBT students; free speech issues.

Given the rich and complex history of LGBT culture in the German-speaking world (the earliest gay rights movement was based in Germany, the world's first gay magazine was German, the first known gay-themed movie appeared in Germany in 1919, Weimar Berlin was a mecca of gay and lesbian culture, homosexuals were persecuted in during the Nazi era, and so on), it seems important not to underplay or ignore LGBT experience in the modern German classroom. But how do we negotiate what can still be quite thorny ground in the contemporary American classroom?

Please email a 200-300 word abstract by **1 December 2006** to Yvonne Ivory, Assistant Professor of German, University of South Carolina, [yivory@sc.edu](mailto:yivory@sc.edu)

***Germany's Colonialism in International Perspective*****International Interdisciplinary Conference on German Colonialism and Post-Colonialism, San Francisco State University, 6-9 September 2007**

Papers should be 20 minutes long and must be presented and discussed in English.

Please submit a paper proposal of no more than 400 words and a brief CV simultaneously to Volker Langbehn ([langbehn@sfsu.edu](mailto:langbehn@sfsu.edu)) and Mohammad Salama ([mrsalama@sfsu.edu](mailto:mrsalama@sfsu.edu)). For complete description and details, see: <http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=152972>

Abstract deadline: **1 December 2006**

***Performing Identity/Crossing Borders*****Nicosia, Cyprus, 3-6 May 2007**

As national borders become more porous and more restrictive, identity politics and the body—in all its manifestations—have once again become a critical concern. As the body crosses borders between nations and identities, corporeality is interpellated, fictionalized, reconfigured, and detained within a socially sanctioned construction of security and necessity. This performance symposium will address how bodies pass between identities, across borders, and how the constraints of gendered, sexualized and racialized imperatives might be interrogated, challenged, or inverted.

For more detailed description, see:

<https://po.missouri.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A2=ind0611&L=german-cfp-l&T=0&P=10057>

Abstracts due by **15 December 2006**

***Women, Sexuality, and Early Modern Studies*****42nd Annual Comparative Literature Conference, California State University, Long Beach, 15-16 March 2007**

Paper and panel proposals on a full range of topics addressing writings by and about women and the feminine in the Medieval and Renaissance periods. Papers with comparative topics and methodologies are

especially welcome.

Please limit proposals to 150- 300 words. Areas of interest include but are not limited to:

- Medieval and Early Modern female authors and/or figures
- Depictions of the feminine in Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern = literature
- Contemporary invocations of medieval femininity
- The medieval woman as cinematic object
- Women and hagiography
- Religious education and women
- Queens
- Women and the Arts
- Notions of selfhood, beauty and representation of the feminine
- Mothers, daughters, and matriarchy
- Femininity, female sexuality, and cultural anxiety

Please e-mail proposals to: [cgoldst2@csulb.edu](mailto:cgoldst2@csulb.edu) OR [nserrano@csulb.edu](mailto:nserrano@csulb.edu)

Deadline for paper and panel proposals: **15 December 2006.**

### ***Negotiating Identity: Navigating through Different Times and Spaces***

**Sixth Biennial Graduate Student Conference, Department of Germanic Studies**

**Indiana University, Bloomington, 16-18 February 2007**

*Keynote Address by Julia Hell*

*Plenary Address by Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm*

The term "identity" bears various meanings, individual and collective, familial and generational, imposed or perceived by others and self-chosen. The problems and possibilities of identity, whether personal, communal or national, exist among every group of people, but have found particularly interesting and at times alarming manifestations in German regions and culture throughout the centuries. From the wide variety of regional identities present within German speaking countries, to the rampant assertion of Germanic identity in the Third Reich, and to the problems of identity facing post-WWII and post-reunification Germans today, there is a great deal of ground to cover on this topic in German Studies.

This conference aims to consider questions such as the following: What constitutes identity on the personal and collective levels? Which mechanisms are involved in the adoption and rejection of a particular identity? How is identity defined by language and literature? How do language, literature, music, and the visual arts define gender, cultural, social, and national identities? To what extent do multiple identities either interfere or collaborate with each other to make up a single entity? How is identity construction influenced by and conceptualized in the digital media? On a linguistic level, how is an individual's identity reflected in and affected by the language he or she uses?

For more detailed description, see:

<https://po.missouri.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A2=ind0611&L=german-cfp-l&T=0&P=2067>

Abstracts due by **20 December 2006**

### ***Resentment In/Of Women's Studies***

**CUNY, New York, NY, 23 February 2007**

King Richard's opening remark "Now is the winter of our discontent" (Shakespeare, 1597) resonates with the discourse of our postmodern age of uncertainty. The historical reiterations of resentment as a zeitgeist suggest something about its very nature, of its ironically competing pulls towards morbidity and hopeful calls for faith and love. Nietzsche, in his autobiography, considers that "nothing on earth consumes a man more quickly than the passion of resentment," alluding to its erotic and masochistic power, and its paradoxical potential to destroy and generate. Resentment fuels wars, infects relationships, splits people internally but may also act as a catalyst for positive expression and productive action.

This conference seeks to gain purchase on and work through this elusive, multivalent concept by exploring how economies of resentment are configured in multiple disciplines and varied mediums. Suggested paper topics include (but are not limited to):

- Knowledge production; feminist aesthetics
- Psychology, philosophy, religion
- Cultural studies
- Socio-legal-political

For more detailed information, see:

<https://po.missouri.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A2=ind0610&L=german-cfp-l&T=0&P=7300>

Abstracts due: **31 December 2006**

***An international conference in the area of law, gender and sexuality***

**Keele University, Staffordshire, 9-11 July 2007**

Plenary Speakers: Hazel Carby, Sander Gilman, Rosemary Hennesy, Carol Smart, Sylvia Tamale

This is an international, inter-disciplinary conference in the area of law, gender, and sexuality, broadly defined. We particularly encourage papers exploring the intersections between gender and sexuality, as well as how other social relations (eg, race, disability) impact on and are shaped by these. While there is no requirement to adopt any specific theoretical stance, we do expect contributions to have some theoretical content and not simply present material. While papers should engage with the broad theme of law (or governance or regulation), gender, and/or sexuality, we encourage papers from all disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. We also welcome proposals for panel sessions, and we encourage participants and sessions to consider non-traditional formats. Abstracts Due by: **31 December 2006**

Abstract Submission Form available on our website:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/clgs/events/genderunbound.htm>

For further information about the conference please see the website (link above), or to contact us, please email: [clgsunbound@kent.ac.uk](mailto:clgsunbound@kent.ac.uk)

***In the Flesh: Revisiting the Body in German Literature, Film, and Culture***

**Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 21-22 April 2007**

The graduate students of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University invite proposals on the theme of the body in German-speaking literature, culture, and film that explore the material aspect of the body in all periods, from the Middle Ages to the present. This conference is particularly interested in questions of:

- Topologies of the body
- Body experiences
- The sick body
- The grotesque body
- Between bodies
- The ritualized body
- The political body
- Body movements
- The performing body

For more detailed description, see:

<https://po.missouri.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A2=ind0611&L=german-cfp-l&T=0&P=74>

Abstracts due: **1 January 2007**: [bodylit@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:bodylit@fas.harvard.edu)

***Intersections of Race and Gender: (Re) Imagining the Family***

**The Seattle University Wismer Center for Gender & Diversity Studies, 12-14 April 2007.**

Continuing with the theme of our 2005 conference--(Re) Examining Race and Gender--this upcoming conference will provide an opportunity for scholars and activists from a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds to engage in discussions concerning race, gender, and their intersections. Narrower in scope than the 2005 conference, (Re) Imagining the Family will focus on the roles of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and/or sexual orientation in the context of the family.

While we welcome submissions from family scholars that address any of these identities, we are particularly interested in work that examines intersections of two or more of these identities. We hope to attract a variety of perspectives -- historical as well as contemporary, domestic as well as global, theoretical as well as empirical.

Possible topics include cross-cultural and international adoption; health care disparities by race, gender, and class; welfare reform; same-sex marriage; family law; care of the young, the old, and the disabled; motherhood; fatherhood; social mobility; reproductive technology and rights; immigration; the concept of love as a commodity; queer theory; ethics, spirituality, and religion; third world and global feminism; and representations of the family in art, literature, and the media.

Please submit abstracts for papers or panel proposals to Vanessa Casta-Fleda ([wismer@seattleu.edu](mailto:wismer@seattleu.edu)) by **2 January 2007**. For submissions and proposal forms, please download: [http://www.seattleu.edu/wismer/intersections07\\_callforpapers.pdf](http://www.seattleu.edu/wismer/intersections07_callforpapers.pdf). For more information, please visit: <http://www.seattleu.edu/wismer>

***Monsterisms: Monsters and Monstrosities in Literature***

**Fifth Annual Graduate Colloquium, Concordia University Department of English, Montreal, Quebec, 23-24 March 2007**

The colloquium will explore how the beastly affects our picture of the human, threatening to turn the Angel of the House into the monster in the attic. Considering a broad range of frightful subjects, from abominations of science to supernatural horrors, we ask: to what degree are we the products of our nightmares? This two-day conference seeks papers that examine the creation, mutation, repression, expression, mythologizing, fabulation, exorcism, primordial belief in or stubborn rejection of the Monstrous.

For more detailed description, see:

<https://po.missouri.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A2=ind0611&L=german-cfp-l&T=0&P=5586>

Abstracts due by **5 January 2007**

***Sensing and Feeling: The Embodiment of Experience in the Eighteenth Century***

**Sixth Bloomington Eighteenth-Century Workshop, 23-26 May 2007**

Connecting mental and social practices to bodily sensation became crucial in many different venues during the eighteenth century. How were cognition, experience, and feelings understood to be linked to the body? What were the mediations between the sensorium and religious, social, and political practices? Our aim is to go beyond the Foucauldian notion that the body is above all a medium of power - suffering its consequences or heroically offering resistance to it. We seek to provide a more nuanced perspective on the body by investigating sensation, embodiment, and the connections between them, at the levels both of experience and of conceptualization of experience. How did understandings of the embodiment of cognition and affect shift over time? What sort of social and psychological practices were enabled by thinking of the senses in certain ways? How, in turn, did these practices prompt a rethinking of the nexus of psychic and physiological realities? And how did representational practices (visual, musical, textual, scientific, dramatic, etc.) respond to such shifts?

Applications due by **8 January 2007**. For further information please go to:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~voltaire/>

***History of Sexuality in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance***

**International Symposium on History of Sexuality in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, University of Arizona, 3-6 May 2007**

Selected papers will be published by de Gruyter (Berlin and New York).

Submit an abstract, or for further information, please send an abstract by **31 January 2007** to Dr. Albrecht Classen, University of Arizona ([aclassen@u.arizona.edu](mailto:aclassen@u.arizona.edu))

<http://www.gened.arizona.edu/aclassen>

***Utopias, Human Rights, and Gender in Twentieth Century Europe***

**Freud Museum, Vienna, Austria, 13-16 December 2007**

Institute for Contemporary History, University of Vienna in association with the Freud Museum (Vienna) and Cooper Union (New York).

Conveners: Prof. Dr. Atina Grossmann (Cooper Union, New York) and Prof. Dr. Carola Sachse (University of Vienna)

Twentieth century European history has been marked by catastrophic violence and persecution unleashed by movements and regimes promising to create racial, political, and social-economic utopias. It has also brought an unprecedented recognition and articulation of concepts of human rights, formulated in individual or collective (national, ethnic, or cultural) terms. Both utopian visions and conceptions of human rights have been inflected by, and shaped, definitions of gender. The workshop will focus on the tensions and contradictions between models for social utopias and concepts of individual human rights, between visions of utopia and gender equality, and between individual and collective rights and

obligations.

We welcome contributions dealing with the most prominent social movements, political regimes, and economic models in twentieth century Europe. These in part overlapping, in part competing, and in part uncompromisingly opposed movements, regimes, and models include Fascism, National Socialism, Communism, liberalism, Zionism, Americanism Social Democracy, and laissez faire capitalism.

For a more detailed description, see: <http://www.easst.net/node/1130>

Abstracts due by **31 January 2007**. Papers of no more than 15 pages must be submitted, in either English or German, by 31 October 2007.

### ***Historical Perspectives on Engendering War, Peace and Justice***

**Georgian Court University, Lakewood, New Jersey, 19-20 October 2007**

The PEACE HISTORY SOCIETY invites paper proposals for its fifth international conference that focus on the interrelationships between gender and war, peace and justice. For details, see below. Deadline for abstracts is **1 February 2007**.

Contact: [kjcallahan@sjc.edu](mailto:kjcallahan@sjc.edu)

URL: [www.peacehistorysociety.org](http://www.peacehistorysociety.org)

<http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=153554>

### ***Gendered 'I's in Literature and Film***

**Rocky Mountain MLA in Calgary, Canada, 4-6 October 2007**

The Women's Caucus Seminar panel focuses on the manner in which modern literature and film from various cultures and time periods address themes associated with a woman's quest for emancipation. In his influential essay "What is Enlightenment" (1784) Immanuel Kant explains that emancipation from mentors entails "an individual's departure from self-imposed dependence." Given the accusatory tone in light of women's unrelenting struggle for autonomy, writers/film directors may be conflicted when representing the transformation from girl to an autonomous individual. Some understand the quest for independence as part of an individuation process, while others read it as a move toward indoctrination. Presenters in this panel trace the manner in which women (characters) talk about and/or make sense of the quest for autonomy.

Email a 250-500 word abstract with contact information to Bernadette Hyner and Lisa Byrd by **1 March 2007**: [hynerbh@wsu.edu](mailto:hynerbh@wsu.edu) and [lbyrd4@utk.edu](mailto:lbyrd4@utk.edu).

## **Miscellany**

### ***Salon 21***

Ein neues Internet-Forum fuer europäische Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung

Calls for Papers, Veranstaltungen, Berichte, Kommentare, Diskussionen

Das Internet-Forum *Salon 21* bietet die Möglichkeit, Veranstaltungen, Tagungen, Workshops und Seminare aus dem Bereich der Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung anzukündigen (in den Tagungssprachen und, sofern nicht ident, in Deutsch oder Englisch) sowie Berichte, Calls for Papers und Kommentare zu veröffentlichen.

Der *Salon 21* ist eine Hommage an die Salonieren des 18. und frühen 19. Jahrhunderts, obwohl er virtuell und von professionellen Interessen strukturiert ist. Der *Salon 21* will dennoch auf die Möglichkeit der offenen Diskussion nicht verzichten - die Rubriken "Diskussionen" und "Kommentare" bieten Raum für die Präsentation von Forschungsinteressen sowie für feministisches und zivilgesellschaftliches Engagement.

Der *Salon 21* ist Teil der an der Universität Wien angesiedelten Forschungsplattform "Neuverortung der Frauen- und Geschlechtergeschichte im veränderten Europäischen Kontext".

Der *Salon 21* ist ab sofort geöffnet und unter folgender Web-Adresse zugaenglich:

<http://www.univie.ac.at/Geschichte/Neuverortung-Geschlechtergeschichte>

Mag. Dr. Nikola Langreiter

L HOMME Redaktion

c/o Institut für Geschichte, Universität Wien

Dr. Karl Lueger-Ring 1, 1010 Wien, Austria

Tel. +43 / (1) / 4277 40813

[www.univie.ac.at/geschichte/LHOMME](http://www.univie.ac.at/geschichte/LHOMME)

## ~~~~~WiG Call for Articles~~~~~

**Women in German Yearbook**

Contributions are invited for the *Women in German Yearbook*. The editors are interested in feminist approaches to all aspects of German literary, cultural, and language studies, including pedagogy, as well as topics that involve the study of gender in different contexts: for example, work on colonialism, postcolonial, and transnational theory, performance and performance theory, film and film theory, or on the contemporary cultural and political scene in German-speaking countries.

The deadline for receipt of manuscripts to be included in the next issue is 15 January 2007; early submission is strongly encouraged. Please prepare your manuscript for anonymous review. The editors prefer that manuscripts not exceed 25 pages (typed, double-spaced), including notes. Please follow the 6th edition (2003) of the MLA Handbook (separate notes from works cited) and the detailed specifications on our Website. While the *Yearbook* accepts manuscripts for anonymous review in either English or German, binding commitment to publish will be contingent on submission of a final manuscript in English. For more information on *Women in German*: <http://womeningerman.org>.

Please send an electronic copy (word document attachment) to both editors:

**Helga W. Kraft** (kraft@uic.edu)  
Professor of Germanic Studies  
Department of Germanic Studies  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
1520 University Hall (M/C 189)  
601 South Morgan Street  
Chicago, IL 60607  
Phone 312-996-3205

**Maggie McCarthy** (mamccarthy@davidson.edu)  
Associate Professor of German  
Department of German and Russian  
Davidson College  
P.O. Box 6991  
Davidson, NC 28035-6991  
Phone: (704) 894-2266

~~~~~Other Calls for Articles~~~~~

***Book: A History of Sexual Perversion 1650-1850***

We specifically need articles within the boundaries of history of sexuality which examine so-called sexual 'perversions'; this might include any sexual behaviour which was considered perverse or 'abnormal' for its time and would include certain heterosexual, homosexual, lesbian, transgender, transvestite etc. practices; and why was such behaviour was seen as 'abnormal', 'perverse' or threatening; subjects for discussion might be considered include bestiality, flagellation, sex with children, fetishes, sado-masochism etc.

We are particularly interested in historically based articles but interdisciplinary approaches are welcome.

We are looking for clearly written essays on instances of so-called 'abnormal' sexual behaviour in historical texts which predate the official naming events or labels such as 'perversity' 'homosexuality', 'lesbianism' "inversion," "masochism," et. al, thereby complicating the historical picture of discursive and sexual practice; and in articles which address the constructionalism verses essentialism debate.

Preference will be given to eighteenth-century sources, but 1650-1850 is the general range.

Please submit articles between 6-9000 words with a hard copy by **31 January 2007** to:

Julie Peakman  
2 Kings Garth  
29 London rd  
London SE23 3TT  
England

And an e-mail version to [juliepeakman@btinternet.com](mailto:juliepeakman@btinternet.com)

***Forces of Nature: Natural(-izing) Gender and Gender(-ing) Nature in the Discourses of Western Culture***

*Forces of Nature* will be a peer-reviewed, academic book that fills the gap left by scholars of Gender Studies, Queer Theory, film and literature of Western cultures. The co-editors are under contract with Cambridge Scholars Press (<http://www.cambridgescholarspress.com/>).

*Forces of Nature* will analyze the connections between the natural world, gender, and sexuality as found in modern "texts" drawn from Western literature such as myths, fairy tales, poetry, novels, drama, and film. Contributors to the book specifically explore the myriad ways in which earth, wind, water, fire, and even animal life serve to acknowledge and/or question conceptions of gendered experience. Given that *Forces of Nature* blurs the margins between masculinity and femininity, all the while exposing gender as an artificial construct, the book will be a thought-provoking resource for students and scholars engaged with criticism of literature, film, and gender.

*Forces of Nature* will feature several chapters authored by researchers whose studies of Western literature and film explore the human connection to the earth at its most elementary level. Contributions are edited by Bernadette Hyner and Precious McKenzie. *Forces of Nature* will span over approximately 300 pages and will be ready for publication in December 2008.

Submit detailed abstracts for consideration (Word doc, 500 words) with contact information no later than **1 February 2007** to: [pmmckenz@mail.usf.edu](mailto:pmmckenz@mail.usf.edu) and [hynerbh@wsu.edu](mailto:hynerbh@wsu.edu). Completed manuscripts are due no later than **15 August 2007**.

***Membranous Topographies: Special Issue of Discourse: Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture (Wayne State University Press)***

An upcoming issue of *Discourse* will examine the ways in which membranes both expand and delimit the operation of frontiers, borders, and margins by engaging the interplay between permeability and impermeability. These literal and figurative membranes also suggest the return of the corporeal or the animal, thereby inviting reflection on questions of visibility, disease, third spaces, and sexuality, among others. For example, what happens to the viability of the membrane when it is radically crossed, probed,

inhabited, or violated? *Discourse* seeks articles that address the membrane's movement of crossing over or translating through the realms of literary, filmic, and other modes of cultural production, in addition to law, politics, history, philosophy, queer and gender studies, psychoanalysis, interdisciplinary studies, physics, M-theory, etc. Articles must be formatted in MLA style. The deadline for receipt of articles is **15 September 2007**. Please email all materials and queries to *Discourse* Guest Editors, Jess Boersma and Scott Weintraub ([membranoustopographies@yahoo.com](mailto:membranoustopographies@yahoo.com)).

***National Women's Studies Association Journal***  
**Call for Proposals to Edit a Special Issue of *NWSA Journal***

*The National Women's Studies Association Journal* invites proposals from scholars/activists who would like to edit a special issue or cluster issue for the *NWSAJ*. Through these special issues, we will continue *NWSAJ's* tradition of publishing multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary articles on topics that are critical to the understanding of women's lives.

While special issues about any topic related to Women's Studies may be submitted, we are especially looking for scholars and topics that focus on the following areas:

- Pedagogical and Institutional Issues Related to Women's Studies
- Science, Technology, and Gender
- Gender, Place, and Culture
- Leadership and Activism

In order to promote exploration of various aspects of women's lives, we welcome proposals in any area if they explicitly foreground the diversity of women's experiences. For example, these may include those related to race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, national/international identification, and ability, but also family membership, professional and community engagement, access to social services, globalization, and participation in political spheres.

Proposals should consist of the following information:

- Proposed theme and rationale, especially as it relates to the topics noted above
- Potential outline of key topical areas
- Proposed call for papers and publicity plan for soliciting articles
- Description of peer review process
- Proposed timeline
- List of co-editors with curriculum vitae

Questions should be addressed to Becky Ropers-Huilman, 225-578-2892, or [broper1@lsu.edu](mailto:broper1@lsu.edu).

Please send your completed proposals to:

*National Women's Studies Association Journal*

Becky Ropers-Huilman

College of Education

121C Peabody Hall

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

**Deadline: March 1, 2007**

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*Submissions policy for Calls for Papers and Articles:* WiG members are invited to submit calls for papers and articles that are of interest to WiG members to Elizabeth Mittman, Michigan State University, [mittman@msu.edu](mailto:mittman@msu.edu)

~ ~ ~ WiG Announcements ~ ~ ~

## Hito Steyerl is WiG Conference Guest for 2007!

We are excited to announce that Hito Steyerl, filmmaker, video artist and author in the area of documentary film, postcolonial criticism, producer and theorist has agreed to be our guest at the Women in German Annual Conference in Utah 2007!

Hito Steyerl's work is situated at the nexus of film and other art, and is informed by feminist theory, postcolonial and subaltern studies, and feminist engagements with globalization. Topics in her films include cultural globalization, global feminism, and the complex histories of migration. Her films have received international awards and have been screened at festivals and on TV in many countries. She co-edited the volume *Spricht die Subalterne Deutsch* and published essays in *Mythen, Masken und Subjekte Kritische Weißseinsforschung in Deutschland; Globalisierung Hierarchisierung: Zur Konstruktion und Funktion kultureller Dominanzen; Gouvernementalität, and Differences and Representations*. Hito has held several positions as a visiting scholar in Germany and the UK.

Please contact one of us if your institution would be interested in inviting Hito Steyerl for a visit in October 2007!

We hope to see many of you in Utah to engage with the exciting works and political interventions of Hito Steyerl!

Maria Stehle, Beverly Weber, and Christina Gerhard

Contact:

[beverly.weber@rochester.edu](mailto:beverly.weber@rochester.edu), [maria.stehle@conncoll.edu](mailto:maria.stehle@conncoll.edu), or [gerhardt@berkeley.edu](mailto:gerhardt@berkeley.edu)

## Women in German seeks Membership Coordinator!

As of 2007, the group of WiG officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Steering Committee Members, Yearbook Editors, Newsletter Editors, and Webmistresses) will be augmented by a Membership Coordinator.

The first membership coordinator will work with the webmss and treasurer to implement an organization-wide migration to an automated online system for recording new members, renewals, address changes, fee payments, and conference registrations. Continuing responsibilities: work with treasurer, webmss, conference organizers and NL editors to maintain and update the WiG membership database and online directory of WiG members and send occasional announcements to membership.

The Membership Coordinator will attend the annual steering committee meeting and will serve a 4-year term, with the option to renew.

The qualifications for Membership Coordinator are:

- Record of active participation in WiG
- knowledge of database creation & management
- excellent proofreading skills
- strong institutional IT support is an asset!

If you are interested in this opportunity to get involved in WiG, please send an email to Rachel Freudenburg ([freudenr@bc.edu](mailto:freudenr@bc.edu))

## Creative Talent?

We're currently looking for a simple b/w flyer announcing the Women in German conference that can be sent around to members and posted in their departments. The flyer should use the WiG logo, but is otherwise open to your imagination. Please submit your design electronically to the WiG Steering committee by **April 2007** ([steering@womeningerman.org](mailto:steering@womeningerman.org))

## ~~~~~WiG Prizes and Awards~~~~~

**WiG Dissertation Prize**

**About the WiG Dissertation Prize:** Every year Women in German issues a call for dissertations by WiG members to be considered for the *Women in German Dissertation Prize* of \$500. The 2006 award will be conferred at the 2007 WiG conference. The recipient's name will be published in the *Women of German Newsletter* and on the web site.

**Eligibility:** We invite submission of dissertations by WiG members filed during the calendar year beginning January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2006. For information on how to join WiG, and for a list of previous winners, visit our home page: <http://www.womeningerman.org>

**Criteria for Selection:** We are looking for dissertations that:

- reflect the values of the Women in German Mission Statement (see below);
- make a substantial contribution to the current dialogue in the given area;
- demonstrate solid and innovative scholarship.

**How to Apply:** You may either apply yourself, or be nominated. The application package must include:

- a cover letter (either by the author or by a nominator) describing the strengths of the dissertation and any other reasons why it deserves consideration for the award;
- three hard copies of the dissertation, each with an abstract, plus an electronic version (in Microsoft Word on a CD-Rom);
- the applicant's mailing and email addresses and phone numbers.

Send the application to the Chair of the Dissertation Prize Selection Committee:

Linda Kraus Worley  
Director of Graduate Studies  
German Studies Program  
University of Kentucky, POT 1063  
Lexington, KY 40506

Postmark Deadline: **31 March 2007!**

**Zantop Research Travel Support Award**

***About the Zantop Research Travel Support Award:*** Inspired by the work of Susanne Zantop, Women in German established an award in her honor to help nurture and sustain research and publication in feminist cultural studies. The award provides partial support (\$500 maximum) for research travel by WiG graduate students.

***Eligibility:*** Graduate students who have not yet completed the Ph.D. Applicants must be WiG members with a project approved by a faculty advisor for research on a topic in feminist cultural studies that requires travel to consult specific archives, libraries, cultural centers, or authors. The primary criteria are the proposed project's potential to contribute to the field of feminist cultural studies and its significance for the applicant's scholarly development. In a statement of no more than three pages, applicants should articulate their research question(s), explain why travel to the specified site(s) is necessary, and describe their qualifications for successful completion of the research. A one-page budget statement listing the projected cost of travel to the site, the amount of the travel cost requested from WiG, and support anticipated from other sources must be provided. A letter of support from a faculty advisor addressing the applicant's qualifications is also requested.

Send applications to the WiG President:

Julie Klassen  
Professor of German  
Carleton College  
1 N. College St.  
Northfield, MN 55057  
E-Mail: ([president@womeningerman.org](mailto:president@womeningerman.org))

Deadlines: **1 November** and **1 March** of each year.

**WiG Prize for Best Article**

*About the WiG Prize for Best Article:* Women in German invites nominations and submissions for our new Best Article award. The purpose of the award is to recognize excellent research and scholarship in the field of feminist German studies. The award will be conferred annually. The author of the article selected will receive a \$500 cash award and a certificate of recognition.

Eligibility:

- For 2007, the article must be published in a journal issue or collection with a 2006 publication date,
- The work must present original new research that makes a significant contribution to the field of feminist German studies,
- The author must be a current WiG member.

Articles may be written in either German or English. The award will be formally announced at the WiG Conference. Questions may be addressed to Katrin Sieg ([ks253@georgetown.edu](mailto:ks253@georgetown.edu)) or to the WiG President, Julie Klassen ([president@womeningerman.org](mailto:president@womeningerman.org))

Send 3 copies of the article to:

Katrin Sieg  
Associate Professor  
Center for German and European Studies  
ICC-509  
Georgetown University  
Washington, DC 20057

Deadline: **30 April 2007**

## ~~~~~ Book Review ~~~~~

**Fadumo Korn with Sabine Eichhorst. *Born in the Big Rains. A Memoir of Somalia and Survival.* Translated and with an Afterword by Tobe Levin. The Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 2006.**

This book, published in German in 2004 (*Geboren im Grossen Regen*, Rowohlt), tells Fadumo Korn's story, from her early childhood in a nomadic Somali family to her present life in Germany as an activist in FORWARD, a human rights organization that works to stop the practice of female genital cutting. Fadumo, like countless others, experienced female "circumcision" and infibulation in Somalia at about age 7. For years afterward, she endured painful infections and illnesses, including stress-induced rheumatoid arthritis. With the help of well-to-do relatives, she is eventually sent to Germany for treatment. During her second stay in Germany, she marries her German husband, with whom she has a son. A visit to Somalia with her husband is made more difficult because of her relatives' involvement in the political conflicts that end in civil war. Fadumo's efforts to find ways to help her relatives in war-torn Somalia lead her to human rights organizations and, increasingly, to activism on behalf of other women.

Fadumo is a woman who was proud to be circumcised—despite the physical suffering—and is now glad to have had the surgery reversed, to the extent possible. She speaks, as the translator puts it, "on two fronts": of the need to respect the values and beliefs of women who undergo the operation and choose it for their daughters, and of the need to oppose this harmful practice. Some of the episodes and dialogues in the book may strike readers as contrived, but Fadumo's sincerity and passion come through. Tobe Levin, a co-founder of FORWARD and long-time activist, provides useful information about the international campaign to end female genital cutting in her afterword to the translation. She is also an editor of *Feminist Europa. Review of Books*; the latest issue has reviews of several other books on FGM—check it out at:

[http://www.ddv-verlag.de/issn\\_1570\\_0038\\_FE%2005\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ddv-verlag.de/issn_1570_0038_FE%2005_2006.pdf)

Jeanette Clausen  
Indiana University Purdue University  
Fort Wayne

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Submissions policy for Book Review: WiG members are invited to submit book reviews that are of interest to WiG members to Rachel Freudenburg, Boston College and Maria Stehle, Connecticut College, [newsletter@womeningerman.org](mailto:newsletter@womeningerman.org)

## ~~~~~ WiG Bibliography ~~~~~

## WiG Bibliography

This is a listing of books that may be of interest to WiGgies. The cataloguing period is from May 31, 2006 to Dec 1, 2006. There is generally a time lag of 2.5 months until releases are in US databases.

A note on the creation of this list:

I used primarily two electronic search engines with the following search terms:

*Melvyl*, the University of California nine library search engine, with the terms: German\*; Austria\*; Swiss; Switzerland in both keyword and in title searches.

The catalog of the *Gemeinsamer Bibliotheksverbund* with the terms Geschlecht\*, Feminism\*, and Frau\* as "series keywords," which is the keyword rubric open to me as a user. These searches netted ca. 1500 citations, from which I culled the following list.

While the initial computer selection is algorithmic, my human selection is "expert" to some degree or another. Using the recent WiG Bib questionnaire as a guide, I made selections based on the general area of feminist Germanist interest, as well as on topics of special significance for respondents.

The formatting of the Bibliography, which is in accordance with Chicago 15A, is not entirely internally consistent due to the differences in cataloguing between *Melvyl* and the *GBV*. These differences have the advantage of revealing the origin of the citation.

Based on the small press suggestions of WiGgies and Jim Spohrer, Germanic Collections at UC Berkeley, I have also searched the new books listed on the websites of the following presses. Consider browsing, especially as occasionally web searches did not reveal the publication dates of volumes.

<http://www.unrast-verlag.de>

<http://www.argument.de/>

<http://www.querverlag.de>

<http://www.orlanda.de/>

<http://www.verlag-frauenoffensive.de/>

<http://www.litverlag.de/>

[http://www.christel-goetttert-verlag.de/php/verlag\\_presse.php](http://www.christel-goetttert-verlag.de/php/verlag_presse.php)

[www.ulrike-helmer-verlag.de](http://www.ulrike-helmer-verlag.de)

<http://www.konkursbuch.com/>

<http://www.milena-verlag.at/frames.htm>

<http://www.plutobooks.com/>

<http://www.scarecrowpress.com/>

I compiled this Bibliography and take full responsibility for its content and omissions. Sarah McGaughey is partnering on this project and will be compiling a bibliography of recent literature and film. Our thanks to many WiGgies, notably Beverly Weber, Lisabeth Hock, Kris Thomas-Vanderlugt, and our fearless instigator, Sara Lennox.

Jennifer Ruth Hosek

Ackerly, Brooke A., Maria Stern, and Jacqui True. *Feminist methodologies for international relations*. 1st ed. Cambridge, England; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Arons, Wendy. *Performance and femininity in eighteenth-century German women's writing: the impossible act*. 1st ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

Ashe, Fidelma. *The new politics of masculinity*. London: Routledge, 2006.

Assmann, Aleida. *Generationsidentitäten und Vorurteilsstrukturen in der neuen deutschen Erinnerungsliteratur*. Wien: Picus, 2006.

Auga, Ulrike, and Christina Von Braun, eds. *Gender in Conflicts: Palestine - Israel - Germany*. Berlin: LitVerlag, 2006.

Bal, Mieke. *A Mieke Bal reader*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006.

Banaszak, Lee Ann. *The U.S. women's movement in global perspective: People, passions, and power*.

Lanham, Md. [u.a.]: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2006.

- Bardsley, Sandy. *Venomous tongues: speech and gender in late medieval England*. Philadelphia, Pa: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2006.
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Submissions policy for the WiG Bibliography: WiG members are invited to submit bibliographical info on books they have found indispensable to their work or which they think will be of particular interest to Sarah McGaughey, University of Massachusetts Amherst [smcgaughey@german.umass.edu](mailto:smcgaughey@german.umass.edu).

## ~~~~~ Personal News ~~~~~

**New Position**

Brenda Bethman has been appointed Director of the Women's Center at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, beginning on January 2, 2007. She can be reached at [bethmanb@umkc.edu](mailto:bethmanb@umkc.edu) or 816.235.1638 and hopes that Wiggies passing through Kansas City get in touch and stop by.

**Promotion**

After over ten years as adjunct and lecturer, Paula Hanssen was promoted to assistant professor in the International Languages and Cultures department at Webster University.

**Awards, Grants, Distinctions**

Christina Gerhardt (Berkeley) has received generous grants from the UC-Berkeley and the DAAD for the summer of 2006, as well as year-long grants from the Berlin Program (2006-2007) and the Fulbright Commission (2007-2008) for a new research project, "Critique of Violence: The Trauma of Terrorism," which examines representations of the Red Army Faction (RAF) in literature, film and art.

For his outreach efforts, Albrecht Classen, University of Arizona Distinguished Professor of German Studies since 2004, received the AATG University-College Level Award for 2006. He also received the Charlie Checkpoint Foundation Award.

**Retirement**

Helga Madland retired on June 30, 2006 after six years as chair of the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Linguistics at Oxford University. She had joined the department as an assistant professor in 1981. In the spring of 2006, she presented a paper on maternity leave policies at the Oxford Round Table. In the meantime, she and her husband have been traveling, and she is writing a novel.

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*Submissions policy:* Have you recently moved, been promoted, won a prize, had a baby, gotten married or tried out a new job? Are you a new member who would like to introduce yourself to the rest of us? These are the kinds of **Personal News** items that we would like to hear about. Editor: Karen R Achberger [krach@stolaf.edu](mailto:krach@stolaf.edu), St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057, Phone: 507-646-3381; Fax: 507-646-3732.

~~~~~ European News ~~~~~

**CFP: Anthology**

**Frauen, Philosophie und Bildung im 18. Jahrhundert**

**Deadline: 31 December 2007**

Sabine Koloch und Ulrike Zeuch planen einen Sammelband zu "Frauen, Philosophie und Bildung im 18. Jahrhundert" und suchen Beiträger/innen. Der Band soll 2008 erscheinen, die Beiträge müssen bis 31. Dezember 2007 den Herausgeberinnen vorliegen. Im Mittelpunkt des Sammelbandes steht ein Desiderat der Forschung, nämlich die Klärung folgender Fragen:

1. Welche Faktoren haben dazu geführt, dass philosophische Bildung im 18. Jahrhundert nicht nur die großen Eigendenkerinnen und gelehrten Frauen erreicht hat, sondern eine breite Wirkung unter dem weiblichen Lesepublikum entfalten konnte?
2. Wie sah diese philosophische Bildung im einzelnen aus?
3. Welche der zahlreichen heterogenen philosophischen Richtungen des 18. Jahrhunderts (Empirismus, Epikureismus, Libertinismus, Materialismus, Pantheismus, Rationalismus, Skeptizismus, (Neo-)Stoizismus usf.) sind vorzugsweise - aneignend oder ablehnend - rezipiert worden und warum?

*Ein Desiderat stellt die Klärung dieser Fragen bislang dar, da in der Forschung immer noch die Meinung vorherrscht, es gebe keine seriösen Zugänge zu diesem Thema (Stichwort "Damenphilosophie") und somit nichts wissenschaftlich Bedeutungsvolles und Wegweisendes zu entdecken. Der Betrachtungsraum ist der deutschsprachige.*

Der Band sieht vier Themenkomplexe vor:

1. Philosophische Bildungskonzepte: Denk- und Lernfähigkeit der Frau als anthropologisches Konzept; Rezeption und Transformation von gender-Konzepten der Antike (Platonismus) und der Frühen Neuzeit (Humanismus, Aufklärung); "galante Gelehrsamkeit"; Philanthropismus; Popularisierung philosophischen Wissens (praktische Philosophie, Naturlehre, Naturtheologie), zugeschnitten auf weibliche Zielgruppen.
2. Textsorten, die die philosophische Bildung von Frauen fördern oder dokumentieren: Abhandlungen, Autobiographien, Biographien, Briefausgaben, Briefwechsel, Dissertationen, Erzählungen, Essays, Lehrbücher, Leseempfehlungslisten, Litterärsgeschichten, Maximensammlungen, Nachrufe, Predigten, Programmschriften, Romane, Sittenlehren, Tagebücher, Verhaltenslehren, Zeitschriften etc.
3. Gesellschaftliche Voraussetzungen für die Popularität von philosophischer Bildung im 18. Jahrhundert: Alphabetisierung; Leseförderung; Kulturtransfer durch Übersetzungen; Adaption rationalistischer pädagogischer Konzepte; Verlagspolitik; Ausdifferenzierung des Medienangebots; Pluralisierung der Moralvorstellungen; Lockerung des kirchlichen Lehrverbots bzw. Schweigegebots für Frauen; Verbürgerlichung höfisch-aristokratischer Kommunikationsideale und Geselligkeitsformen
4. Einzelne Fallbeispiele für philosophisch gebildete Frauen: Adelige, bürgerliche, geistliche und gelehrte Frauen, Stiftsdamen, Pädagoginnen und Philosophinnen

Vorschläge für Beiträge werden bis 31. März 2007 entgegengenommen und sind zu richten an:

SKoloch@yahoo.de oder

Zeuch@hab.de

PD Dr. Ulrike Zeuch

Herzog August Bibliothek

Postfach 1364

38299 Wolfenbüttel

**CFP: Journal Issue**

**Gender and Illness**

**Deadline: 31 March 2007**

For the completion of a special issue on "Gender and Illness," the multidisciplinary online journal "gender forum" (<http://www.genderforum.uni-koeln.de>), affiliated with the University of Cologne, Germany, seeks

2-3 articles discussing the intersection and mutual implications of gender and illness. We welcome contributions all disciplines.

Completed articles should be submitted via email to [gender-forum@uni-koeln.de](mailto:gender-forum@uni-koeln.de), preferably in .doc, .rtf. Articles should conform to the "gender forum" style sheet (available for download at <http://www.genderforum.uni-koeln.de/stylesheet.pdf>) and should not exceed 8,000 words in length. Please include an abstract of your article (10 to 15 lines). Use endnotes and fully documented references at the end of the article. For further information on the journal, please visit our homepage at <http://www.genderforum.uni-koeln.de> or contact us via email at [gender-forum@uni-koeln.de](mailto:gender-forum@uni-koeln.de).

Astrid Recker, Editorial Assistant

gender forum

Prof. Dr. Beate Neumeier (Editor)

Universität zu Köln

Englisches Seminar

Albertus-Magnus-Platz

D-50923 K-In

Tel. +49.(0)221.470.3030

Fax +49.(0)221.470.6931

E-Mail: [gender-forum@uni-koeln.de](mailto:gender-forum@uni-koeln.de)

Internet: <http://www.genderforum.uni-koeln.de>

## **CFP: Conference**

### **Familie und Identität in der deutschen Literatur**

**University of Oxford – May 11-12, 2007**

**Deadline: 18 December 2006**

Veranstalter: Sub Faculty of German, University of Oxford, in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Institut für Germanistik: Lehrstuhl für ND, Universität Regensburg

Organisation: Dr. Claudia Nitschke (Oxford), Dr. Thomas Martinec (Regensburg)

Die Literaturwissenschaft bedient sich verschiedener Parameter, um gesellschaftlich konstruierte Identitäten von Figuren und AutorInnen zu untersuchen. Neben prominenten Faktoren wie Gender oder Nationalität zieht dabei in zunehmendem Maß die "Familie" das Interesse der Forschung auf sich. In der Tat ist es offenkundig, daß jede Identität immer auch durch einen ganzen Komplex von verwandtschaftlichen Verhältnissen und Funktionen konstituiert wird. Dabei machen insbesondere die rasanten Veränderungen tradierter Familienstrukturen seit dem ausgehenden 20. Jahrhundert die historische Dimension von familialen Verbindungen unübersehbar. Die Tagung möchte das Bewußtsein für die Bedeutung der Familie als Identitäts-Parameter in der Literatur schärfen, indem sie die vielfältigen Wechselwirkungen von unterschiedlichen Familien- und Identitätskonstitutionen in der deutschen Literatur von der Frühneuzeit bis in die Gegenwart reflektiert. Hierzu werden Vorschläge für Referate erbeten, die sich z. B. mit einem der folgenden Problemfelder auseinandersetzen:

I. Familie und Individualität:

Welche Funktion erfüllt die "Familie" in der Herausbildung des Habitus sowie bei der Erfassung und Deutung der eigenen Individualität? Werden Rollenvorgaben formuliert, impliziert, angenommen oder abgewiesen? Inwiefern wird Individualität familiär konstituiert?

II. Die Familie zwischen Natur und Kultur:

Wird Familie als anthropologische Kategorie wahrgenommen oder in historischer Perspektive als performatives Modell dargestellt, das bestimmte Rollen- und Verhaltensmuster generiert? Welchen historischen Wandel erfährt das Konzept der Familie als Prämisse der Identitätsstiftung?

III. AutorIn und Familie:

Welchen Einfluß haben familiäre Beziehungen, in denen sich ein Autor bewegt, auf dessen Werk? Wie verhält sich das literarische Werk zum eigenen Familienleben? Werden Wege der Vereinbarung von (eigener) Familie und Literatur gesucht?

Die Vorträge in deutscher oder englischer Sprache sollen maximal 30 Minuten dauern und im Anschluß (ca. 15 Minuten) diskutiert werden. Entsprechende Vorschläge (ca. 200 Wörter) bitten wir bis zum 18. Dezember zu richten an: [claudia.nitschke@lincoln.ox.ac.uk](mailto:claudia.nitschke@lincoln.ox.ac.uk)

Die Publikation eines Tagungsbandes ist beabsichtigt. Die Veranstalter bemühen sich um einen Reisekostenzuschuß.

Lincoln College

Oxford

OX 1 3DR

U.K.

Dr. Claudia Nitschke

Tel.: 0044-(0)-1865-279846

Fax: 0044-(0)-1865-279802

e-Mail: claudia.nitschke@lincoln.ox.ac.uk

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## **CFP: Conference**

### **12th Swiss Gender History Conference 2007**

#### **Gender in Trans-it: Transcultural and Transnational Perspectives.**

**University of Basel, Department of History – September 6-8, 2007**

**Deadline: 22 January 2007**

In recent years static concepts of society, culture, nation and state have been revealed as lacking in explanatory power and have thus started to lose their appeal within historical studies. In order to develop new areas of research as well as to approach established areas with new questions, historians have begun to show an increasing interest in concepts and questions that emphasise movements and interrelations.

Transnational and transcultural research perspectives are perceived as being amongst the most promising approaches for research in the field of historical studies. These approaches are equally concerned with the transfer, appropriation and acquisition of ideas and cultural practices as with the circulation of material objects and capital and the movement of people. They focus on thinking beyond national, cultural, social and political borders and their meaning for the multiple relationships and mutual observations across such borders. Transnational inquiries have become increasingly relevant due to accelerated processes of globalisation, whilst transcultural research approaches have located the encounter with 'the Other' as constitutive for the formation of 'modern worlds'. Under these conditions the conceptualisation and understanding of individual and collective identities has become increasingly complex.

The turn in historical research to Cultural Studies and World History has been accompanied by strong interdisciplinary tendencies. Fields such as Postcolonial Studies, Migration Studies and Cultural Anthropology are representative of this as is the renewed interest in concepts of space and representation. These approaches have contributed to a revitalisation of social science research methodology. Gender Studies, with its simultaneous emphasis on gender difference and gender relationships, has advanced this change of perspective. As much as gender history has contributed to the development of transnational and transcultural perspectives, it is also necessary to bring into view the possible deficits of these concepts and to open up new research fields. Simultaneously, it is confronted with the task of using gendered perspectives to challenge transnational histories that often present themselves as 'gender neutral'.

The conference seeks to promote the gendering of transnational and transcultural historical approaches, to recognize the advantages of these methodological approaches for historical analysis and to investigate the challenges transnational and transcultural approaches pose to gender history in particular.

The following themes and conceptual questions will shape the direction of the conference:

1. The construction of gender, identity and community. How have gender roles and identities changed in response to, or been shaped by, transnational movements? To what extent has the transnational nature of individuals' lives led to a reconstruction of concepts of gender and how has individual agency played a role in this? How have feminist receptions and uses of concepts from postcolonial theory such as 'orientalism', 'hybridity' and 'diaspora' furthered the critique of gendered economies of representation and their powerful effects?
2. Power. To what extent do concepts of power and privilege change when their focus is broadened to include encounters between gendered subjects from differing cultures and nations in addition to the study of relations between 'men' and 'women'? In what way does a transnational perspective assist in bringing the unequal and differential circulation of cultures, capital, work, information and goods into view? In what

way have transnational historical developments such as colonialism influenced specific gendered practices and in that way either strengthened or weakened (a)symmetrical and (un)equal relationships? How can the study of international networks of racist organisations and different forms of slavery, slave trading and human trafficking be improved through the use of transnational methodological approaches?

3. Space. The 'spatial turn' has revealed social relations and narratives to be constitutive for the construction of spaces, and it challenges conceptions that social life and culture are necessarily tied to a specific locality. How can one portray a world 'from below'? How can one elucidate that global tendencies increasingly become influential and are constantly being adopted and appropriated at a local level? How should processes of denationalisation and nationalisation be investigated? What effect do these processes have on the understandings and meanings of gender?

4. Methodological and theoretical questions. How should concepts such as citizenship, political and state action be reconceptualised in view of the transnational ways of life of gendered individuals? How can transnational perspectives be integrated into historical approaches and representations in a way that brings horizontal interactions as well as power structures into focus? Why are macro-level analyses of globalisation often gender blind, whilst micro-level analyses have consistently highlighted the participation of women in the global economy? To what extent have transnational and transcultural approaches challenged the often nationally orientated curricula of women's, men's and gender history?

5. Politics and Emancipation. How do differing cultural, political and methodological concepts of nationalism and nation-states influence the political and academic debates concerning globalisation? What is the emancipatory potential of transnational movements and practices and in what way can these developments be analysed?

All interested persons (including graduates) are invited to submit proposals for possible contributions.

Proposal must include: Abstract (max. 1 page), a short CV which includes contact details.

Languages: German, English, French

Contact Address: Lea Bühlmann

Historisches Seminar der Universität Basel

Schweizerische Tagung für Geschlechtergeschichte

Hirschgässlein 21

4051 Basel

Schweiz

Email: [tagung-histse@unibas.ch](mailto:tagung-histse@unibas.ch)

Homepage: [www.tagung-geschlechtergeschichte.unibas.ch](http://www.tagung-geschlechtergeschichte.unibas.ch)

A conference publication is being planned.

More information will be available on the homepage from autumn 2006.

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*Submissions Policy:* **European News** welcomes announcements of events in the fields of German and Women's studies taking place in Europe. Tanja Nusser, [nusser@uni-greifswald.de](mailto:nusser@uni-greifswald.de) and Christina Gerhard [gerhardt@berkeley.edu](mailto:gerhardt@berkeley.edu)

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