

WiG Women in German

Newsletter – Winter 2007/8 - Issue 107

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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.

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~~~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

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.

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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>

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

We would like to thank everyone for a wonderful conference this fall! But special thanks go out to the organizers, Denise Della Rossa and Michelle Stott James, who did a fantastic job once again, and to all the presenters who so generously shared their insights and research. In this issue of the Newsletter you will find conference summaries, calls for the next WiG conference, and calls for WiG sponsored panels at other conferences. Consider submitting a proposal and encourage your colleagues and friends to attend our conferences and panels!

This issue of the Newsletter also includes a new bibliography feature: "New Titles in German Literature 2007" - we hope you will find it inspiring and useful for your research!

We are pleased to announce that at this year's conference, we successfully distributed a selection of books written and/or edited by WiG members to be reviewed by WiG members. Many of you volunteered to bring or send copies of your books and to read and review books. We look forward to publishing exciting and informative reviews in the Spring 2008 Issue of the Newsletter. If you have published a book you would like to have reviewed by a WiG member, please bring a copy (or at the very least a flyer) to next year's conference and we will find a reviewer for you! You may also send a copy of your book to one of us and we will make sure it makes its way to Utah in the fall of 2008.

As a result of many discussions at the conference we formed an outreach task-force. Don't be surprised to find WiG flyers and posters at professional conferences and on the bulletin board of your department. We will also post our PR materials on the website for you to download. Please help us in the effort to grow our organization, its membership, visibility, and impact in the profession.

In this Issue, you will also find news on WiG prizes awarded in 2007, new WiG officers, and personal news. Happy reading! We wish everyone a successful and happy 2008!

Rachel Freudenburg, Boston College and Maria Stehle, University of Tennessee Knoxville  
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~~~~~President's Column~~~~~

Once again I came away from the annual WiG conference convinced of its ongoing significance for our professional and personal well-being. It's not just that every session had remarkably good offerings and discussions, or that I had a chance to talk to so many people, or that Snowbird's great food, sparkling snow and spa opportunities created a supportive atmosphere. Besides these vital aspects, what I really treasure about WiG conferences is the absence of multiple sessions (with the hectic chase from one session or even one paper to another), the common meal times, and the opportunities for informal gatherings. As a result, the sustained common experience over three+ days really ends up seeming like a retreat. That sets our conference apart from others, and maybe that's why I always feel I've had my batteries charged when I return. It's a great reason to come back every year!

I continue to be grateful for the efficiency and dedication with which the WiG officers run our organization, with the most tangible results at the conference, in the Newsletter and with the *WiG Yearbook*, but also the less visible but vital organizational tasks carried out in the meantime. Moreover, we can all be grateful for excellent results this past year in assuring the regular

succession of the WiG officers who keep our organization running smoothly. As previously announced:

- Waltraud Maierhofer took over from Vibs Petersen as Treasurer;
- the search committee chose Katharina Gerstenberger to succeed Helga Kraft as Yearbook Coeditor;
- WiG conference participants elected Rich McCormick (University of Minnesota) and Barbara Kosta (University of Arizona) to succeed Jennifer Askey and Katja Altpeter Jones as the new Steering Committee members;
- Helga Thorson was recruited to fill the newly resurrected position of Membership Coordinator.

We owe many thanks to those who have served us so well, gratitude to the new officers who have agreed to take their place, and appreciation for WiG members who served on the search and nomination committees!

The work of the Membership Coordinator will really be crucial for us, not only to reorganize effective membership accounting in this electronic age, but also to support the Steering Committee's efforts to expand membership. Helga will have help from Allie Merley (SC) and Waltraud Maierhofer for policy issues and technical support from our Webms's, Kristin E. Thomas-Vander Lugt and Beverly Weber.

Also, the Steering Committee has created an Outreach Task Force consisting of Katja Altpeter Jones, Nora Alter, Allie Merley, and Maria Stehle, with technical help from Kristin E. Thomas-Vander Lugt, to attract new members and bring back old ones. With their input, Rachel Freudenburg has already designed a marvelous flyer describing WiG and the benefits of membership; it is currently being printed for distribution at the MLA and other conferences. Rachel is also designing a poster announcing next year's conference program to be distributed, along with the flyers, to chairs of departments. In addition, the Outreach Task Force also plans to conduct some electronic surveys among members concerning organizational issues, so please respond when the message comes!

Last but not least, if you were at the MLA in Chicago this month, I hope you attended the WiG-sponsored session:

"Women and Crime in the German Context," panel #48, Thursday, December 27, 3:30-4:45, Superior A, Sheraton Hotel. (see <http://www.langlab.wayne.edu/lhock/wigpanel1.htm>.)

On the following evening of the WiG co-hosted a cash bar: Friday, December 28, 5:00 p.m., in the Ontario room of the Courtyard Marriott, arranged by the Women's Caucus for the Modern Languages, Women in German, and Feministas Unidas. We hope to begin a new tradition (and perhaps schedule it next year not to conflict with UC Irvine).

In the meantime, I hope you are still enjoying the holiday season, and best wishes for 2008!

Julie Klassen, Carleton College

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~~~~~WiG Announcements~~~~~

**IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT 2009!**

The current co-organizers of WiG's annual conference invite members who enjoy organizing events to think seriously about taking on the rewarding task of coordinating the 2009-2011 conferences. In the last dozen or so years the conference has been held in Florida, California, Arizona, Kentucky, and at present in Utah. It would be particularly appropriate to move the conference to a location in either the Midwest or Northeast. If you are interested and know of an appropriate site, please contact one of us over the summer about the logistics involved, so that we may choose the new site well in advance.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Utah in October!

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**HELGA THORSON NAMED WiG MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**



I'm delighted to announce that Helga Thorson will be WiG's Membership Coordinator!

Allie Merley and Hester Baer, members of the search committee, happily recommended Helga with the following comment: [We] agree that Helga is a perfect match for the job. As a member of WiG for almost two decades, she brings along a wealth of knowledge and experience with the organization and its members. She also has extensive experience with Excel spreadsheets, a general working knowledge of and willingness to engage with technology, and institutional IT support. Most importantly, Helga is enthusiastic about and willing to take on the

challenges of streamlining the member database, interacting with other WiG organizers, and looking into the move to electronic membership renewal and conference registration."

I heartily second their praise and their wisdom, and I am looking forward to working with Helga, who is eager, as she says, "to give back to WiG a bit –because it has been such an important part of my life since I joined in graduate school."

Congratulations, Helga, and thank you for taking on this position!

Julie Klassen, Carleton College

**ZANTOP GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH TRAVEL SUPPORT AWARDS**

Since November 1, 2006, WiG has awarded two Zantop graduate travel grants:

Monika Moyrer, graduate student at the University of Minnesota, received \$500 to travel to Cologne, Berlin, and Frankfurt in connection with her dissertation exploring the way that the work of Romanian-German writer Herta Müller reflects multiple biographical dislocations and challenges contemporary "German" categories of identity, exile, diaspora, and *Heimat*. Monica's research project, "Who Needs a Hall of Fame? Herta Müller's Portrait in Bettina Flitner's *Europäerinnen. The Hall of Fame Project* (2002)," investigated the way Flitner's multi-media project exhibiting the portraits of sixty European female personalities visually captures Müller's

changes and also places her in a different political conversation about a female canon. Monika presented an overview of this project at the poster session of the 2007 WiG conference.

Katherine Hubler, a graduate student in the Department of History at Boston College, received \$500 to support archival research at the Helene Lange Archive in the *Landesarchiv Berlin*. The material located there is crucial to her dissertation, “Male Allies of the German Women’s Movement, 1865-1919.” Katherine’s project seeks to compensate for the oversight of men’s contributions to and interactions with women’s movements as she explores “how gender discourses—articulations of masculinity and femininity—constituted personal as well as intellectual concerns for these men . . . in their efforts to reconcile their masculinity with their ‘feminism’ within a patriarchal culture of honor.” Katherine’s integration of political and cultural history also contributes to the methodology of her field. She plans to present an overview of her results at the poster session of next year’s WiG conference.

### **WiG DISSERTATION PRIZE FOR OLGA TROKHIMENKO**

Olga Trokhimenko received the dissertation prize for *Women’s Laughter and the Performance of Virtue in Medieval German Discourse*. Clearly impressed with her work, evaluators wrote that Trokhimenko “reviews several theoretical orientations to the study of laughter/the performance of laughter as it is represented (in texts, in images), how texts attempt to elicit laughter, how laughter is interpreted or responded to—and how the response is gendered, i.e., control of women’s laughter corresponds to male control of female sexuality. She examines medieval religious, political, didactic, and literary discourses to uncover a tradition connecting laughter and “other activities of the female mouth” to sexual activity. She presents close readings of an impressive range of literary examples that reflect the contradictory messages to/about women (be virtuous and seductive at the same time). She concludes by examining the use of smiles on several sculptures depicting the wise and the foolish virgins to further support her arguments. The study focuses on intersections of gender with other categories of analysis, and it demonstrates solid and innovative interdisciplinary scholarship. It is an ambitious research project and we hope the author will continue to develop and refine the work she has done here.”

### **KATRIN PAHL WINS BEST ARTICLE PRIZE**

The winner of the 2006 WiG Prize for Best Article, which was announced at the 2007 annual conference is Katrin Pahl, Assistant Professor at the Johns Hopkins University, for her article “Transformative Translations: Cyrillizing and Queering,” which appeared in *Transit* 2:1 (2006). Pahl’s article, a witty and sophisticated analysis of the video *Copy Me: I want to Travel* by Brigitte Kuster, Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz, struck the Prize committee as a well-argued, bold, and innovative piece of feminist scholarship. It raises important issues about gender and science, socialist memory, and fantasies of resistance in postsocialist Europe.

### **RAFFLE PROCEEDS SUPPORT GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL**

Allie Merley announces the happy news that we raised \$400 for graduate student travel through the sale of raffle tickets this year! Thanks to everyone for their generous donations!

### **FILM SERIES**

The WiG Film Series, initiated by Christina Gerhardt at the 2005 WiG conference, will be organized in the future by Sara Hall (University of Illinois, Chicago) and Barbara Kosta (Arizona State University). Each year, two films will be screened at the WiG. Films are selected for their thematic relevance to conference panels, the guest speaker or for the interest they have generated on the WiG-L list. Those interested in helping co-organize the Film Series in subsequent years are invited to express their interest at this fall’s WiG Business Meeting at Snowbird in Utah. Thanks to all who helped to keep this welcome addition to the annual Women in German conference going!

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## ~~~2007 Conference Summaries~~~

**Wiggies as Activists**

**Organizers: Liesl Allingham, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Lisa Roetzel, University of California, Irvine**

***Introduction by Lisa Roetzel, University of California, Irvine***

This informal session addressed activism and how the presenters and WiG members incorporate activism into their lives. The coordinators encouraged multiple and personal definitions of activism, and asked members of the audience to reflect on their own activism(s) in discussion groups that followed the presentations. I opened the session by talking about the fact that activism has been a cornerstone of WiG since its beginnings. The question of “what is my activism as a feminist?” has arisen at past conferences at least once a decade. Discussions of political and other forms of activism have been a red thread running throughout WiG conferences. However, there have been several past sessions that dealt specifically with activism that explored the topics of: activism within WiG (1983); generational differences in activism (1985); activism and coalition building (1996). Using information from past WiG Newsletters (which are a great read, and can be found on the WiG website), I touched on the history of activism in WiG, and how it has been discussed over the years. Past WiG Newsletters detail the complex and fascinating history of WiG and of feminism in our field and in our lives. This panel thus arises out of a proud tradition, and we hope that the discussion will continue over many years to come.

***Confessions of a Lapsed Activist by Julie Klassen, Carleton College***

To contribute to this conversation about activism I identified some of the factors in my own experiences: the motivations for becoming involved in causes, the incentives for maintaining participation, and reasons for disengaging or changing the forms of engagement. I described the beginnings of my own activism in the Vietnam War era and how the satisfaction of interacting with like-minded people and the inspiration of personal role models influenced, in part, my participation in other causes, ranging from the peace movement to environmental causes and human rights efforts. Factors which gradually lead to a reduced or different kind of involvement include a certain “activism exhaustion.” However, the cumulative demands of academic and professional life and the ever-expanding numbers of causes deserving attention have had a more significant effect. At the same time, the kinds of causes and the strategies of many organizations for attracting and mobilizing members have changed. What I once paid for in sweat equity, I now contribute in dollars. The price for this is that I have often substituted financial input for the quality and satisfaction of human interaction. Nonetheless, I have continued some forms of direct action and have also found legitimate ways to include environmental and moral issues in teaching and research. Once I am retired, I plan to become more involved again, and to regain the emotional as well as intellectual satisfaction of working with others on causes that matter.

***“We Who Believe In Freedom Cannot Rest Until It Comes” Radical Politics in A Conservative Age by Sara Lennox, University of Massachusetts, Amherst***

This paper attempts to explore how a radical academic functions in a conservative age, and what she might advise others to do. Very early on, as a grad student at the University of Wisconsin, I had an illumination in the Madison cafeteria, that the personal was political, that all the ways I was deformed personally were in fact socially produced and that, though it was too late for me to

change what I had become, I would determine to spend the rest of my life building a world in which what had happened to me would no longer happen to others. Though the title of my talk comes from a song important during the Civil Rights movement, it's perhaps not surprising that passages from German and other literatures have punctuated my passage through the academy, helping me to figure out how to engage in effective political action, maintain my integrity, and survive and even thrive in the U.S. academy, aims that often seemed entirely at odds with each other. I learned from Brecht that, in the world we envision, heroism should not be demanded from those who wish to act morally, but it *is* demanded in the world today, so we must devise strategies to contest what we despise while simultaneously protecting ourselves so that we survive to continue the struggle. On the other hand, when Brecht, as in *Die Mutter*, demands complete self-sacrifice in the present in the service of the future, I learned from feminism to declare: "Ohne mich!"

In Nadine Gordimer's *Burger's Daughter* I found a moving formulation of the ambiguous positionality of middle-class white radicals and feminists like myself—while we endeavor to situate ourselves on the side of justice, we also cannot deny that we inherit the privileges of those responsible for the injustices against which we struggle—and what about our own very personal needs, *right now*??? I would counsel my younger sisters and brothers thusly: You yourself must find the proper balance between the political and the personal, between the expenditure of energy in the cause of freedom that inspires and enables you and that which exhausts and enervates you. In my own experience, my intellectual work is best and I am personally the happiest when my political and personal goals are most closely aligned. I urge you to write and teach passionately about ideas that you live by because you believe they matter—the quality of your own work will be the better for it. I also urge you to retain a firm commitment to "prefigurative formations" (or "concrete utopias," as I have often described WiG to be) by trying, in so far as it is possible today, to model in your own behavior the way you hope human beings will treat each other in the world to come. But I also warn you that, if you have made the choice for oppositional politics, you need to recognize that more work will also be demanded from you in less political arenas because your enemies will remain alert for your failings. The world as it is still has great need of heroes, and it's probable that there won't be a lot of rest for you till freedom comes.

### ***Excitable Speech in the Public Sphere? Butler, Habermas, Spectres* by Jennifer Ruth Hosek, Queen's University**

My paper addressed "Excitable Speech in the Public Sphere? Butler, Habermas, Spectres." The piece was inspired by the American Historical Association's decision to take a public stance against the Iraq War in March 2007. My line of inquiry, which formed one axis of discussion in the break-out sessions, was "Why, when, how, and on what issues should professional organizations take public stances on overtly political issues." Using Butler's notion of excitable speech, I proposed that "language whose meaning is out of control" in this way has the capacity to resignify within the public sphere, indeed, such spectral hauntings can resignify that sphere itself. Butler uses the notion of excitable speech to critique legal restrictions on hate speech; such restrictions can variously squelch the articulation of dissent. I find it useful to restate the above questions to ask how excitable speech pushes the envelope of what constitutes appropriate speech in the academy and what constitutes the academic purview. Accordingly, I presented viewpoints from leadership or members of the AHA, Historians against the War, WiG, GSA, WIGS, Canadian Association of Teachers of German, and the MLA. Some responses were semi-official statements of the organizations, some were personal opinions informed by experience in the following criteria relevant: the public profile – the higher the profile, the more that taking a stance is perceived to risk the credibility of the organization; the proximity of the particular political issue – the closer the proximity, the higher probability that taking a stance is perceived to be influential in the larger arena; the membership – a particular stance should appropriately represent

the members; relatedly, taking a stance that may weaken an organization by its divisiveness is seen as imprudent. The strategic character of these responses suggests to me that effective organizational activism is carefully tailored to particular situations. Their pragmatic character suggests that work done towards strengthening the tradition of public intellectuals and widespread critical debate is critical in order to push what is perceived to be the current limits of articulation.

***Activism, Subversion and the Queer-Friendly Classroom* by Ellie Kennedy, Queen's University**

This paper concerned three areas where my private and professional lives intersect, namely activism, subversion and queerness. I am seeking ways to connect these areas more strongly to one another. Although my original title was "Activism, Subversion and the Gender Agenda," I found the paper taking a queer line rather than a gendered one. In fact, the first question I raised was how to be more out in the classroom. As a Butler scholar who sees doing gender and doing sexuality as political acts, I am keen to provide a positive queer role model for students. In the latter respect, my paper outlined the relative "ease" of taking a feminist or queer line in cultural instruction and the many barriers to doing the same in the language classroom.

I then discussed activism and subversion as two possible strategies for creating a more queer-positive university. Subversion can mean doing identity in a way which exposes or disrupts the political motivations underlying dominant norms. Activism tends to be more overtly political, involving campaigning, lobbying and sometimes direct action. I suggested that activism is more effective as a "global" strategy, and can be employed to build university-wide structures which support the queer-friendly classroom. I then considered subversion as a "local strategy" which can be deployed within the classroom to challenge heteronormative assumptions. Finally I discussed some pitfalls of both subversion and activism. I concluded by asking Wiggies for help in negotiating the path between activism and subversion in order to seek a more queer-positive academy.

**Contesting Europe: Feminist Critiques and Globalization**

**Organizers: Katrin Sieg, Georgetown University and Jennifer Ruth Hosek, Queen's University**

This panel considered 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). Its papers described specifically feminist strategies for imagining Europe through art, activism, and theory.

***Europe's Empty Center: Hito Steyerl's Video Work* by Barbara Mennel, University of Florida**

In her talk, Barbara Mennel argued that Steyerl's *The Empty Center* and *Normality* make the following important interventions: 1) The explicit perspective on racist, ethno-centric and anti-Semitic violence creates a temporal continuity across the modernism/postmodernism and national/transnational divide. The historical narrative that emerges from the connections that Steyerl draws across time and space differs from the dominant narrative of German national history and the role and place it presumes to take in the processes of Europeanization and globalization. 2) By excavating the signifiers of individual and institutional violence associated with particular places, Steyerl's videos re-imagine German national and transnational space. 3) Her videos explicitly foreground the cinematic techniques in the filmic construction of temporality and spatiality. 4) Steyerl also points to the production of place, space, and time through architectural fantasies and urban topographies. 5) By connecting conventions of long-term documentary with the immediacy of the digital medium of video, her videos work against

the space/time compression and its potential of historical and political amnesia. 6) Paradoxically Steyerl intervenes in the contemporary political moment in Germany and in Europe through her engagement with the past and the creation of a global archive of marginal and peripheral voices that are, as her work implies, central to Germany in the context of newly emerging European global space and time.

***Contesting Europe: A Call for an Unenlightened Feminism* by Jennifer Petzen, University of Washington**

European debates surrounding Muslim and migrant women signify the ways in which racialized conceptions of women and men have come to define acceptable and unacceptable ways of being European. In her paper, Jennifer Petzen argued that discourses concerning the wearing of the headscarf and honor killings are particular ways in which ‘Muslim’ genders are produced, condemned and held responsible for posing a threat to the European values of the Enlightenment. For her, it is vital to examine these debates as an extension of historical racism and not as an innocent defensive posture provoked by migrants and their so-called inability to integrate into Europe. She concluded with a call to end feminist work based on the vision of the Enlightenment as a guide. Work to ban the veil or the wholesale denunciation of Islam as a cause of violence against women will only further entrench unequal power relations, obscuring neocolonial feminist practices and creating divisive fissures where strength is needed. Making honor crimes and veiling the focal points of Muslims’ and migrant women’s lives serves to deflect attention away from the more pressing issues of structural racism and poverty.

***Queering Ethnicity. European Colorblindness and New Minority Activism* by Fatima El-Tayeb, University of California, San Diego**

Fatima El-Tayeb’s paper was based on a larger work-in-progress exploring translocal, “postethnic” youth cultures in European urban centers and the ways in which they use new media to challenge the stubborn myth of the mono-ethnic European nation state and the gender, racial, and sexual identities attached to it. She argued that the European case represents racialization with a twist: rather than visible mechanisms by which race is implemented or referenced in interactions within and between communities, the ideology of “colorblindness” appears as the process by which race and its effects are made invisible. This is a form of racialization that can be defined as specifically European in its attempt to *externalize* race by explicitly categorizing as not (really) European all those who violate Europe’s implicit but normative whiteness. It is this formation, the challenges it poses to our understanding of racialization as well as the challenges posed to it by those who are racialized, that Fatima El-Tayeb was exploring. She argued that their common configuration as illegitimate and alien to the nation fosters co-operations between different racialized groups, making possible a “postethnic” understanding of identity that is not built around racial identification but nevertheless challenges the European dogma of colorblindness by deconstructing processes of racialization *and* the ways in which these processes are made invisible.

***Commentary***

Several themes were raised through Jennifer Hosek and Katrin Sieg’s commentary and the ensuing discussion. One was the question of where human rights discourses fit into the contestations of Europe articulated by the panelists. This question was based on the recognition that while notions of human rights are criticized for their universalism and uneven application, recently even arguably “post-subject” theorists have been employing human rights logics in their critiques of hegemonic practices. What might post-Enlightenment alternatives look like?

Another point of discussion was the status of material resources in the ability to mount powerful resistance in the form of art and activism. This brought up questions of how to reach

particular types of audiences and why this should be done, as well as what effects government, corporate or other forms of support might have.

A third issue was how to avoid the current rhetorical traps identified in or implied by the papers: that many feminist and queer identities and agendas have been coopted for a racist vision of Europe, and that, therefore, in order to describe Europe as inclusive, hybrid etc., one must perhaps distance oneself from them. If this is the case, what might be the most appropriate and effective roles for feminists in various subject positions to play?

Finally, the notion was entertained that perhaps it is precisely in minorities' artistic and activist endeavors (as exemplified by the work of Steyerl, *Kanak Attak* and *Strange Fruit*) that models for strategic navigation between the straits of Enlightenment and women's human rights can be found.

### **Women in the RAF**

**Organizers: Dinah Dodds, Lewis and Clark College, and Jill S. Smith, Bowdoin College**

#### ***Introduction by Jill S. Smith, Bowdoin College***

For those of you who have been following the German news media lately, you've likely noticed that it's filled with reports on events that took place "heute vor 30 Jahren." Thirty years ago today the body of the German Employment Minister Hanns Martin Schleyer was found in the trunk of a green Audi in Mühlhausen—his assassination was the work of the *Rote Armee Fraktion* (RAF). Thirty years ago from yesterday, three of that movement's leaders, Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin, and Jan-Carl Raspe committed suicide in their cells at the Stammheim prison in Stuttgart. Ulrike Meinhof had died under mysterious circumstances in the same prison in the spring of 1976.

This panel, held on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Deutscher Herbst," focuses particular attention on women in the RAF and engages the gendered discourse around women, political violence, and their representations in the popular news media and film as well as in self-representations in autobiographical writings.

With a Baader-Meinhof film currently in the works and set for release at the 2008 Berlinale in February, this topic is clearly one that has provoked renewed interest and discussion in German culture.

#### ***Maternal Ethics and Political Violence: the "Betrayal" of Motherhood among the Women of the RAF and Movement 2. June by Patricia Melzer, Temple University***

It appears that because society views women and motherhood as inseparable, and because motherhood is tied to the assumption of nonviolence, the concepts of terrorism (violence) and women (mothers) can only be imagined as irreconcilable. This paper addresses the discursive contradictions created by a set of feminist theories that conceptualize non-violent feminist politics as growing from "maternal ethics" or "maternal thinking" on the one hand, and the decisions of women in the RAF and Movement 2. June to abandon life as a mother on the other. These women's decisions either to leave behind their children when going underground, or to terminate pregnancies instead of giving up their own illegal existence, challenge the ideological construction of motherhood as a woman's primary identity, which is at the center of these feminist theories, while also decoupling strategic violence from a naturalized masculinity.

In my discussion of case studies such as Ulrike Meinhof and Gudrun Ensslin, I draw on published letters and interviews, as well as on personal interviews with former members of the RAF/Movement 2. June. My presentation conveys how these women (as cultural figures and as political agents) resist an unproblematic association of mothers (i.e. women) as non-violent. Instead, they bring into relief a cultural inability to approach the phenomenon of female terrorists

outside the context of mothers-gone-bad. It is through their “betrayal” of motherhood and their claiming of political space through violence that naturalized assumptions about women’s identities as mothers are destabilized – and of mothers as non-violent. This “betrayal” thus calls for both a reconsideration of women’s politics as founded in “maternal thinking” as well as of the forms motherhood can take.

***Women Writing Out of Time: Confessions, Histories, and the Politics of Writing Terror* by Jamie H. Trnka, University of Scranton**

Throughout the 1970s, the West German periodical press represented terrorism as apolitical, socially deviant behavior, thereby closing off key venues for public discussions of terrorism as specifically *political* violence. In my analysis, I explore how gendered, sexualized images of violence mobilized in the press precluded a sustained, political discussion of women’s participation in terrorism. Given the constitutive role these representations played and continue to play in popular understandings of terrorist groups including the Red Army Faction and Movement Second June, it is important to explore the terms of their construction and circulation in public debate. I argue that a feminist perspective is necessary to question how historical media representations linked women’s political participation, deviant sexuality, and violence in highly charged discussions of terrorism as violating a gendered social order.

Media outlets gave voice to numerous government officials who looked to a purported “excess of women’s liberation” as responsible for the rise of terrorism. Any women’s activity beyond conservative political boundaries was held up to public scrutiny in an effort to undermine and delegitimize alternative social and political interventions by women in West Germany. Linking women’s political involvement, lesbianism, and terrorism created a complex system of socially devalued behaviors, in which each element contributed to the delegitimization and criminalization of the others.

As a critical counterpoint to popular representations of women’s participation in political violence, I bring recent, first-person accounts by women terrorists to bear on the discourse of terrorism and women’s political action more generally. These women frequently use confessional strategies popular in feminist political literature of the 1970s to communicate their ideas and experiences in the literary-political landscape of the late 1990s.

The analytic pairing of both media- and self-representations of terrorists serves to draw attention to the processes and implications of how we portray, and thus on what terms we engage with, political violence. By exploring representations produced by subjects occupying radically different political positions, it is possible to destabilize both ends of this spectrum, and to ask what cultural labor different representations perform at the hands of different political subjects. In this way, my paper constitutes a necessary step towards developing a critical position that accounts for diverse understandings of terrorist violence perpetrated by women. In the process, I intervene in literary historical characterizations of women’s confessional narratives and feminine subjectivity since the 1970s, contrasting women terrorists’ accounts to comparable accounts by men from the same terrorist groups to reveal their alternate strategies for constructing political, personal, and ultimately historical accounts of violence in postwar West Germany.

***Is the Personal Political?: Margarethe von Trotta’s Marianne and Juliane (1981)* by Christina Gerhardt, Fulbright Scholar**

Margarethe von Trotta’s films form part of the canon of New German Cinema, known for bringing politics and aesthetic concerns together. In 1975, von Trotta collaborated with Volker Schlöndorff on the filmic version of Heinrich Böll’s novel, *The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum, or on the Origin of Violence and to What it Can Lead*, which examines the collusion between corporate media and the state. This earlier film, indicative of New German Cinema, is well known to German film scholars and to scholars of the RAF.

Von Trotta returned to the subject matter of terrorism in her 1981 film *Marianne and Juliane*, focusing in particular on RAF women. This film depicts the relationship between two sisters, Marianne and Juliane, during the 1970s. The characters are loosely based on Gudrun and Christiane Ensslin. While the film concentrates mainly on the private spheres in which the women move – their family life growing up, their relationship to one another, the relationship of the two women to Marianne’s son, and Juliane’s vexed relationship to her boyfriend – it nonetheless engages vividly the politics of the 1970s.

In my paper, I examine how Von Trotta’s film engages the feminist adage that the “personal is the political,” by focusing on the different routes feminist leftists chose in the 1970s. First, I discuss this by examining the film’s form, that is, its study of personal spaces, in contrast to the depiction of personal spaces in more recent features about the RAF, such as Schlöndorff’s *The Legend of Rita* (2000) or Christian Petzold’s *Die innere Sicherheit* (2000). Second, I discuss the film’s content, that is, its engagement with feminist politics in the 1970s. In this way, while reminding us of the lessons of feminism and the concept that the “personal is the political,” I show how the personal spaces of recent RAF films, which have often been derided for lacking political analysis, do not – *de facto*, by dint of their focus on personal spaces – *have* to lack political critique. To the contrary, as von Trotta’s *Marianne and Juliane* reveals, a focus on personal spaces can lead to a greater understanding of the politics of the RAF.

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

**Organizers: Angelika Bammer, Emory University and Juliette Brungs, University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

This session aimed to explore the creative possibilities inherent in the very problems that currently mark academic writing. In the process, it revisited some of the key 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 explored their implications for how we write now. Points of departure for our discussion were the pressures and difficulties we face when we want to write: 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. Questions explored included: 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? The papers presented addressed these questions in practical, analytical, and theoretical terms. At the same time, they explored their creative possibilities through a rich and heterodox mixture of different forms of presentation.

### ***Finding a Voice in Academic Writing* by Karen R. Achberger, St. Olaf College**

The most meaningful way for me to talk about “Finding a Voice in Academic Writing” was to proceed autobiographically. I described my journey from those years and years and years of dissertation writing to the place I find myself in today: from the alienated graduate student to the committed scholar.

It took me five years to write my dissertation, and I did not enjoy one minute of it. During that time, I wrote long letters to an ever growing list of friends. Unlike my dissertation, my letters were about things I cared about: myself, my friends, and my relationships. I knew that the voice and subject of my letters were not really *salonfähig* — not a legitimate option for academic writing. Far removed from the space I felt at home in, my dissertation research was in a small scholarly compartment of my life that I only rarely — and cautiously — ventured into. The topic was foreign to me, an assignment I knew I had to complete eventually. I didn’t let myself notice or articulate my alienation from it because that might have meant that I didn’t belong in academe.

At one point along this letter-writing, dissertation-avoiding journey, someone in my women's group asked me why I didn't just write a letter about my dissertation topic, or write my dissertation as a letter to someone I cared about. Could I talk about that remote scholarly topic in a way that included some of who I was the way my letters did? Could I imagine anyone I cared about actually wanting to read what I was writing? Was there anything to say about that subject that could matter to me or make a difference in the life of anyone I cared about? My paper charts the process initiated by questions such as these and it remembers those who mentored and inspired me along the way.

***Telling Stories with our Research: The Possibilities of Portraiture in German Studies Today* by Lisa Marie Anderson, Hunter College**

In 1997, the sociologist Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, and Jessica Hoffmann Davis, a visual arts scholar, published *The Art and Science of Portraiture*, in which they flesh out the method of academic inquiry Lawrence-Lightfoot had long been developing, known simply as portraiture. In this hybridized genre of scholarly writing, the portraitist looks for the story which emerges from collected data, and tells that story by featuring not her own narrative strategies so much as the protagonists in that narrative, i.e., the research "subjects." In so doing, she humanizes her inquiry and the figures in it, and adds an aesthetic element to her work which is refreshing to subject, writer and reader alike.

This mode of conducting, writing and publishing research remains unfamiliar to many Germanists, despite its presentation of options more liberating, invigorating, and egalitarian than those otherwise available as we respond to professional pressures. Especially when writing about research conducted in the classroom, or our experience as teachers and mentors, using portraiture to tell an engaging and inclusive story allows us to incorporate multiple perspectives, including, crucially, those of our students. It can also minimize our bias as the arbiters of knowledge which teachers and researchers are often taken to be.

In this presentation, I offered insights not only from Lawrence-Lightfoot and Davis, but also from Joseph Featherstone, who has explored the impacts of portraiture on scholarly publishing and the American education system. I applied these insights to current research trends in German Studies, and in the spirit of the methodology in question, I offered a narrative of my experience using portraiture to prepare a conference paper and submit it for publication.

***Writing that Matters: An E-pistolary Dialogue* by Angelika Bammer, Emory University, and Ruth-Ellen Joeres, University of Minnesota**

In an effort to take a different direction in order to think about the creative possibilities of academic writing, we carried on an e-mail exchange in which we dealt with issues that concern us as members of the academic profession, and as teachers and scholars who place great value and importance on the writing that we and our students do. The varying parameters of our discussion, which moved from obvious topics such as accessibility and elegance to less obvious yet always present ones such as danger, beauty, life and death, even killing, drove us forward until we had to stop and decide how to represent what we were thinking and writing. We made a selection of the e-mails based on various topic clusters and tried to underline what we had realized was the unexpected breadth of our discussion as well as our own recognition of how writing and our thinking about it are essential to all we do as academics. Among other topics, we wrote of the mutual pleasure we take in reading acknowledgments, the enormous importance of stories, the gendering of language and power, the dispiriting nature of much academic writing, and the sorts of writing that do **not** matter to us. To maintain our individual, co[r]-responding voices, we retained the e-mail/letter structure and presented our "paper" as a back-and-forth dialogue.

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

**Organizers: Waltraud Maierhofer, University of Iowa, Kai Herklotz, Carleton College, and Kirsten Kumpf, University of Iowa**

### ***Of Water Closets and Dirty Laundry: The Aftermath of WWII in Recent Women's Literature* by Caroline Schaumann, Emory University**

When Günter Grass professed in *Im Krebsgang*, “Die Geschichte, genauer, die von uns angerührte Geschichte ist ein verstopftes Klo. Wir spülen und spülen, die Scheiße kommt dennoch hoch,” he could not yet imagine how much the scat was going to hit the fan. Grass's toilet-tempered metaphor became painfully true in August 2006, when his previously undisclosed involvement in the Waffen SS made international news prior to publication of *Beim Häuten der Zwiebel* that same year. As Grass was being scrutinized in the literary limelight, I was rereading women's autobiographical writings on Nazi Germany and was struck by the fact that Grass appropriated and at the same time earned publicity for themes and terms that women writers had also used.

My paper seeks to give credit to the contributions of these women writers and elucidates how gender informs memory and the history of the Nazi past. I mention three examples—Barbara Honigmann, Christa Wolf, and Tanja Dückers—all of whom employed and developed metaphors and themes that are usually credited to Grass. As mothers and daughters, all three narrators emphasize how sexism intersects and collides with the aftermath of the Nazi era.

### ***Heimat, Nostalgia & Gender as Analytical Categories for the Study of Multi-Generational Novels: The Case of Dieter Forte's Das Haus auf meinen Schultern* by Friederike Eigler, Georgetown University**

At the outset of my paper, I raised the question of whether the term ‘*Heimat*’ with its national overtones, is still a useful analytical category for studying literary and cultural texts in an increasingly interconnected and globalized world. I argued for retaining ‘*Heimat*’ as an analytical category, precisely because the ‘German’ tradition of *Heimat*-discourses registers regional and national traces which contribute to “the historical uncanny,” (Anne Fuchs) i.e., remnants of traditions, events and traumas that continue to haunt the present.

Drawing on this critical discussion of the changing roles of *Heimat* and related notions of nostalgia, I turned to Dieter Forte's trilogy *Das Haus auf meinen Schultern* (1999) which stands out among the recent wave of family novels because of its historical depth and its trans-national breadth: The three novels trace the history of two families (the Fontanas from Western Europe and the Lukacs from Eastern Europe) from the late Middle Ages through the 1950s. I explored two interrelated dimensions of this trilogy. First, the historicization of ‘*Heimat*’ and second, the feminization of memory.

As the trilogy's title (*Haus auf meinen Schultern*) suggests, *Heimat* is not seen as an immutable place of origin but, instead, as a highly mobile concept. I argued that this constellation represents a significant shift: Traditionally, German notions of *Heimat* have strong feminine connotations and are heavily invested with nostalgia. Forte historicizes *Heimat*, thereby divesting it of its mythical and feminized dimensions, while he figures memory as a mythical woman. In other words, the trilogy's progressive, transnational take on *Heimat* contrasts with its traditional take on the figuration of memory as ‘woman.’ Ultimately, these contravening dimensions in Forte's novel point to the need for an in-depth exploration of the relationship between memory, gender, and places of belonging.

***Memories of the Divided Berlin in Emine Sevgi Özdamar's Seltsame Sterne starren zur Erde* by Sonja E. Klocke, Knox College**

In this paper, I examine Emine Sevgi Özdamar's account of the divided Berlin in 1976/77 as she recalls it in *Seltsame Sterne starren zur Erde*. Employing theories of gender, performance and performativity, my reading emphasizes how *Seltsame Sterne* not only thematizes the staging of various plays on the level of content, but also actually employs an aesthetics of performativity and metaphors related to acting to conceptualize political acts. Following Judith Butler, I stress an understanding of performance that recognizes the complex links between a theatrical and a social role and attributes agency to language as well as to the body and to bodily acts. I argue that in *Seltsame Sterne*, political acts are memorized and conceptualized in terms of ritualized public performance, and thus as performative acts - both on and off the stage. However, the effects of such acts vary: while performative acts turn out to be ineffectual in the fight against the remainders of the fascist past in the West, acting in the GDR can support the development of various *models* of political agency. In the GDR, acting allows for playing with various models of socialism, and for envisioning ways of resisting state authority, fascism, sexism, and racism. Ultimately, these performances serve two purposes: first, they support Özdamar's attempt to distance herself from the capitalist West; and second, they allow the narrator to remember the GDR of 1976/77 as merely one way of staging socialism. Since this approach leaves space for envisioning other and ultimately better versions of socialism, the text underlines the protagonist's proximity to the socialist project – despite the perceived problems in the GDR.

**Religion, Race, Gender and Class in Pre-20<sup>th</sup>-Century Encounters with Islam**  
**Organizers: Katja Altpeter-Jones, Lewis and Clark College, and Olga Trokhimenko, University of North Carolina, Wilmington**

***Mechanical Encounters with Islam: The Chess-playing Automaton in Maria Theresa's Court* by Elizabeth Bridges, Hendrix College**

"The Turk," as it was called, was a chess-playing automaton built by Wolfgang von Kempelen, court engineer for Empress Maria Theresa. Dressed in flamboyant "Turkish" garb, this astounding creation baffled members of the court and later public audiences. No one could conclusively determine how this invention functioned in such a convincing way, and some speculations even suggested that magic was involved. Kempelen's creation went on to enjoy a career as a touring public spectacle, even outliving the inventor himself. As the Turk gained more notoriety, journalists and engineers engaged in widely published speculation about how this invention functioned. Decades later it was revealed by a subsequent owner that the Turk was an ingenious hoax, housing a smallish chess whiz behind its convincing array of cogs and gears.

As intriguing and amusing as the story of this automaton may be, the specific choice of a male Turk as an embodiment of an exotic and mechanical Other warrants further discussion. The Turk's particular context in the cultural and historical landscape of late eighteenth-century Austro-Hungary serves to illustrate the changing relationship to the Muslim world that emerged in Europe during this period. An examination of the circumstances surrounding the creation, deployment, and fate of the automaton reveals how this figure constitutes a site of intersection between competing images of "Turkishness" – and the Muslim world in general – that pervaded the European mindset as diplomatic relations between the Ottoman Empire and most European powers began to normalize after centuries of hostilities.

***Lifting the Veil: Eyewitness Reports from a “Real” Harem* by Stefanie Ohnesorg,  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville**

In most 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century travel accounts about the Orient, ‘depictions’ of the ‘other’ culture seem to be highly distorted by multiple layers of preconceived images that were derived from literature, art, philosophical and religious treatises, myths, fairy tales, fantasies, etc. Most travel writers either superimposed these images upon their ‘eyewitness accounts’ or—one could argue—they often were not able to ‘see’ beyond the stereotypes that they had brought with them from home. In depictions of ‘sexually loaded’ spaces (e.g. slave-markets, the harem, etc.) one can identify gender-specific differences but—independent of these differences—the ‘other’ culture is often used (or better abused) by both male and female travel writers to underline their own superiority on grounds of race, culture, moral, religion, and so forth.

Overall, this strange mélange of ‘docu-fantasies’ catered to the ‘voyeuristic needs’ of a readership back home. On the one hand, these readers awaited sensationalist ‘eyewitness accounts’ from the lands of the ‘Arabian Nights,’ and on the other hand, they were more than eager to learn about the presumed ‘flaws’ of the ‘other’ culture (e.g. a presumed lack of civilization and morals, the ‘wrong’ faith, etc.) in order to receive reassurances with regard to their – as they perceived it -- own ‘cultural superiority.’

There are not many German texts like Emily Ruete’s (Prinzessin Salme von Omar und Sansibar) book *Memoiren einer arabischen Prinzessin* (1886) in which a woman attempts to give an ‘insider view’ of family life in a harem to a western audience. Ruete grew up in a harem, and in her book, she addresses issues such as religion, interpersonal relations in the family (adults & children / women among themselves / children among themselves, and so forth). Overall, she presents life in a harem as a great number of absolutely ordinary daily routines. Ruete claimed that her book was meant to serve as a corrective with regard to the ‘docu-fantasies’ that were produced by many 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century western travel writers who wrote about the ‘Orient.’ However, in doing so, I argued in my paper, she also catered to a certain degree to the insatiable voyeuristic expectations of her European readership.

***The Allure of the Foreign in Christian Hofmann von Hoffmannswaldau’s „Liebe zwischen Graf Ludwigen von Gleichen und einer Mahometanin“* by Verena Kuzmany,  
University of Washington**

Hoffmannswaldau’s heroic letter from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century illustrates the unlikely scenario of a ménage à trois between a German duke, his wife and a Turkish war bride. On a textual level, the poem can be read as a highly accomplished stylistic exercise to make believable and justify the incongruity of the plot: polygamy between a married couple and a heathen. On a political level, the poem attests to the threatening proximity of the Ottoman empire. Yet the heroic letter poignantly addresses the allure rather than the threat of the foreign and the way to marry it to the known. In my paper, I examine the question of whether the poem deconstructs the Mahometanin’s otherness or upholds it, and whether the text allows for reading the triangular relationship as a benign encounter between two genders and two cultures. In the end, rather than sustaining the briefly opened space of hybridity, the text resolves the tension of the threesome by erasing the differences between the two women, as the male protagonist yokes the forbidden to the familiar. Hoffmannswaldau’s heroic letter hence exemplifies a Baroque worldview that imagines itself transient yet remains unaware of the fixedness of its oppositions. Arguably, traces of this antithetical Baroque mode have contributed to a restrictive and orientalizing view of foreignness as normalcy’s other in subsequent centuries.

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

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 2008; 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) by **15 January 2008** to both editors:

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~ ~ ~ WiG 2008 Conference Calls ~ ~ ~

***Coalition of Women in German (WiG) 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference  
Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Oct 23-26, 2008***

**Tenure, Inc.: Junior Faculty in the Market-Driven University, Thursday Night Session**

As evidenced both by trends toward privatization and corporatization of the university as well as by increased reliance on non-tenure-track teaching lines, the professional landscape for young Germanists has changed drastically over the past decade. While university resources are dwindling and new faculty responsibilities - for everything from program building to search committees - proliferate, the demand for "excellence in research" has remained stable or increased. Junior faculty are often faced with the prospect - and expectation by their administration - of securing external funding to provide them with the time and resources they need to pursue their research, often while filling positions they may not be able to rely upon having for the next semester or for the long term. In a university marketplace that relies heavily on non-tenure-eligible lecturers and adjunct instructors, recent PhDs today can expect to begin their careers with a series of short-term contract positions, involving cross-country moves and ever diminishing personal reserves—financial and emotional.

What is the future of tenure in German Studies? Can the above changes be seen in a positive light? What do Wiggies as feminists and activists have to say about the return to a masculinist paradigm of ivory-tower-researchers relying on poorly paid lecturers to teach the bulk of their curricula and female or minority colleagues to serve on toothless "diversity" committees or take on the more "people-oriented" responsibilities like German Club and student outreach?

We invite papers that offer strategies for successfully navigating this new professional landscape. From more experienced colleagues in chair or other administrative positions, we welcome discussions on institutional responses to these issues. Mid-career Wiggies may consider addressing "everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask" for younger colleagues. If you are on the job market or have been recently, what suggestions do you have for your fellow job seekers? Priority will be given to papers that examine these topics in experiential, programmatic, and/or practical capacities. We invite short and informal, perhaps polemical, papers that might consider some of the following issues:

- the conundrum of work/life balance for the young academic in the current tenure environment
- the tenure clock and the biological clock: marriage/partnership and the question of when/if to have children
- the recent appearance of "research-only" positions that further widen the gulf between teaching and research
- "visiting assistant" "adjunct" "adjunct assistant" "preceptor" "lecturer" "renewable" "teaching fellowship" and other new job ad terminology
- the publishing crisis
- multiple teaching competencies (Film Studies, Women's Studies, etc.) - career boon or liability?
- the rise of the community college sector / online distance education
- the obsession with "outcomes assessment"
- increased pressure for humanities scholars to pursue "external funding" for research in the face of dwindling university reserves

- the disappearance of pre-tenure leave for research
- dependence on lecturers and adjunct or visiting faculty for the sake of “economic flexibility” but at the expense of program continuity
- the myth of the “inside candidate”
- the “I-did-it-so-can-you” attitude amongst some senior scholars
- university attempts to promote “diversity” by overtaxing women and minorities in terms of committee service and other responsibilities (tokenism)
- importance of “SCHs” (student clock hours - i.e. one’s ability to generate enrollment) for one’s tenure dossier
- social life and emotional stability as they relate to professional performance
- the pressure to incorporate into our teaching technology that is poorly supported on a logistical and administrative level
- the role of feminism, postfeminism, activism
- the role of mentorship

*Please send a one-page proposal of NO MORE THAN 300 WORDS as well as a ONE-PAGE CV or bio-sketch to both of the organizers by March 1, 2008:*

Elizabeth Bridges, [bridges@hendrix.edu](mailto:bridges@hendrix.edu); Kristin Vander Lugt, [ktvl@iastate.edu](mailto:ktvl@iastate.edu)

### **Fashioning the Body: Bodies, Fashion and Self-Presentation in Pre-20th Century German Literature and Culture**

Proposals are invited for a pre-20<sup>th</sup>-century panel that speak to the symbolic and cultural meaning(s) of clothing and the body as they relate to (self)-presentation. What is the relationship between embodiment, identity, and the clothed or fashionable body? How is this relationship depicted in pre-twentieth-century cultural (con)texts. Issues that papers may wish to address include: how clothed and unclothed bodies have been thematized in pre-twentieth century texts and contexts; what bodies and fashions (e.g., clothes, accessories, hair-styles) signify regarding status and categories of identity in the cultural arena of the German-speaking world; how fashion works to socially situate the body and how such placements are undermined; how the concept of embodiment relates to the clothed and fashionable body. Interdisciplinary projects as well as papers from different academic and theoretical perspectives are especially welcome.

*Please submit a brief abstract (250-500 words) and a CV electronically to both panel organizers by March 15, 2008: Cathie Grimm, [cgrimm@albion.edu](mailto:cgrimm@albion.edu); Alison Guenther-Pal [guenthea@lawrence.edu](mailto:guenthea@lawrence.edu)*

### **Theater and Drama Pedagogy in Second Language Acquisition**

In the attempt to foster foreign language learning, various new approaches have made headlines in the past years. Next to an increasing emphasis on technology in the classroom, research on the effects of student theater performances as well as on utilizing elements of drama pedagogy has come to the attention of language teachers. Drama pedagogy is a holistic teaching and learning approach related to dramatic art forms. Engaging with techniques borrowed from theater and performance allows students to experience the foreign language in hands-on situations which simulate reality beyond the scope of mere role-play. Unlike traditional approaches to literature which tend to emphasize understanding on an exclusively intellectual level, both drama pedagogy and theater performances ask students to engage with literary texts in the foreign language on an emotional level, thus inspiring imagination and creativity.

Proposals for papers that investigate innovative scholarship and/or teaching at the intersections of theater/drama and the acquisition of foreign language, culture, and literature are welcome.

Please send 200 - 250 word abstracts and a brief bio (approx. 100 words, please no CVs) by March 1, 2008 to:

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### Poster Session: Open Topic - A "Dokumenta" of Feminist Work

The organizers of the WiG Poster Session welcome proposals for the 32nd Annual Conference of the Coalition of Women in German in Snowbird, Utah (Oct. 23-26, 2008). The poster session gives feminist scholars the opportunity to conceptualize their current research, teaching or academic life in visual form. An engaging presentation is self-reflexive about how the form conveys the content and solicits response.

Proposals must include a brief abstract describing the project and a detailed description of the poster's layout, design, and materials. We are interested in redefining the poster board-sized displays that incorporate pictures and texts. We especially welcome proposals in the categories of 3-D art, interactive exhibits, multimedia presentations, and performance.

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. 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! Engage the audience in a dialogue! Present your current book project! Get valuable feedback on your newest, brilliant research idea! Share teaching techniques! Find innovative ways how to present your feminist work! Please e-mail proposals to all three panel organizers by March 15, 2008:

Kyle Frackman, University of Massachusetts Amherst, [frackman@german.umass.edu](mailto:frackman@german.umass.edu); Monika Moyrer, Valparaiso University, [Monika.Moyrer@valpo.edu](mailto:Monika.Moyrer@valpo.edu); and Amy Young, University of Arkansas Little Rock [adyoung@ualr.edu](mailto:adyoung@ualr.edu)

### Writing (on) Skin

This panel seeks to explore how skin as an intersection between body and text is articulated and represented in German literature, film, art and culture. What happens when the impermeable boundary separating our body from the exterior is transgressed or becomes permeable, what when we in turn transgress it with respect to others? What types of encounters with skin – colonial, erotic, violent – have shaped the German literary imagination? In what ways is skin gendered and constitutive of a body politics? How has skin been "written" in periods that concealed rather than revealed it? How is skin literally used as a surface for writing? We welcome contributions that trace the construction – or deconstruction – of skin as a boundary, an interface between the self and the other or between cultures, or as a canvas for texts of all kinds.

Proposal topics could include but are not limited to:

- skin as a gendered surface
- skin as an ethnic marker
- body modifications, tattoos, projections
- encounters with skin during German colonialism
- skins and scalps – the German obsession with the American West
- animal skins
- manuscripts and text on skins

- skin in film or photography
- eroticism, pornography
- trauma and torture

Please send 1-page abstracts and a CV or brief academic bio to BOTH organizers:

Verena Kuzmany, [vkuzmany@u.washington.edu](mailto:vkuzmany@u.washington.edu); Marjanne Goozé, [mgooze@uga.edu](mailto:mgooze@uga.edu)

### **Panel Discussion: Responses to the 2007 MLA Report on Foreign Language Education**

The 2007 “MLA report on Foreign Languages” is a bold response to the national security rhetoric that has been driving new initiatives in language education in recent years. At the same time, the MLA report calls for urgent and far-reaching changes in foreign languages departments if they are to be serious players in higher education. (A link to the 10-page report is available on the MLA’s homepage: [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)).

In lieu of regular papers, we envision a panel discussion with brief prepared statements followed by a discussion among panelists (prior to opening up the discussion to the plenum). We seek panelists who seriously engage with the MLA recommendations in the context of their particular institutional and/or departmental situation. Possible topics include:

challenging the bifurcation into language and content courses and related curricular and governance issues (including the ingrained power structures that are part of this two-tier system)  
the role of advanced language learning for fostering translingual and transcultural competencies  
curricular design and reform that respond to the above issues  
implications for the education of graduate students. Panelists may either reflect on best established practices (in light of the MLA report) or on practices and institutional issues that require serious rethinking and change.

*Please submit a brief description of your contribution to the panel discussion including a statement on your particular institutional/departmental context (approx. 400 words) by March 5, 2008 to the panel organizers:*

Friederike Eigler, [eiglerf@georgetown.edu](mailto:eiglerf@georgetown.edu); and Gabi Kathoefel, [Gabi.Kathoefel@du.edu](mailto:Gabi.Kathoefel@du.edu)

### **Post-Wall Border Crossings: Ex-GDR Perspectives on the World**

Angela Krauß, the guest author at the 2008 WiG conference, started her career as a writer in the GDR and remains a prolific German author today. While her earlier, East German work often addresses aspects of life in the GDR, her more recent texts engage with the experience of the political and social changes of the Wende, but also with the experience of travel to familiar places in Eastern Europe as well as the encounter with only recently accessible places in the West. Her Frankfurt lectures on poetics furthermore address the intersections of writing and creativity.

For the guest-related panel “Post-Wall Border Crossings” we seek contributions that address themes of spatial explorations in the literature or films of authors with an East German background. Papers could address the work of Angela Krauß directly, or engage with the works of other authors and post-wall East German experiences of travel, migration, and other forms of spatial displacement more generally. While some East Germans have described German unification as the arrival of a new country at their doorstep rather than the encounter with a new country away from home, travel remains an important aspect of the post-Socialist East German experience. The encounter with new places and cultures, revisiting familiar places, as well as temporary displacement from home enable a wide range of reflections on the old GDR as well as on post-wall German identities. Contributions to this panel could address, but are not limited to:

- the role of travel, place and displacement in the work of ex-GDR authors
- ex-GDR engagements with or critiques of the tradition of travel literature
- the (re)assessment of GDR values, especially East German feminisms and gender roles

- the shift from Communist notions of internationalism to post-Wende notions of transnationalisms and globalization
- GDR diasporas – issues of leaving and arriving
- the role of the writer in mediating new identities

Please send abstracts by March 15 to both panel organizers:

Kai Herklotz: [kherklot@carleton.edu](mailto:kherklot@carleton.edu) and Ulrike Brisson: [ubrisson@wpi.edu](mailto:ubrisson@wpi.edu)

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~~~ Calls for WiG-Sponsored Panels ~~~

Two Sessions Sponsored by the Coalition of Women in German (WiG) at the German Studies Association, October 2 - 5, 2008 St. Paul, Minnesota

New Nationalisms and Conservatism in Germanophone Countries: Realities, Representations and Responses

This panel encourages critical, interdisciplinary, and feminist responses to the *Rechtsrutsch* (shift towards the right) and new nationalisms in Germanophone and other western European countries in recent years (with this emphasis on Western Europe we acknowledge that a discussion of new nationalism in post-socialist Eastern Europe would require a panel of its own). The main idea is that political conservatism, along with the various right wing, anti-Islamic extremisms on the one hand, and the drastic loss of power of the social democratic parties throughout Europe on the other hand, have become so prominent that we need to take this phenomenon more seriously as a transnational phenomenon in German studies. We invite papers that deal with the realities and representations of—and critical and artistic responses to—the nationalist and xenophobic (anti-Semitic and anti-Islamic) ideology and propaganda of right wing populism since the late 1990s (e.g. Jörg Haider, Jen-Marie Le Pen, and Christoph Blocher), as well as papers that deal with the weakness of the left parties and their past and future strategies to regain votes. We welcome transnational approaches. Questions to be addressed in papers may include:

- What is the place in European history of the right wing politicians' ideology, tactics and propaganda, e.g. their
 - o evocation of the solidarity within the nation and *Volk*
 - o scapegoating of immigrants and asylum seekers for complex economic and social problems
 - o appeal to latent resentments
 - o use of abusive language, and conscious breaking of taboos (e.g. bluntly anti-Semitic and xenophobic remarks), and their- contrivance of conspiracies (Haider and Blocher) in order to win sympathy, and what kind of theories and vocabulary are best fit to discuss these?
- How do nationalist movements borrow from, and adapt each others' propaganda strategies? E.g. the Swiss Peoples' Party's controversial sheep poster (that promotes the peoples' initiative for the expulsion of criminal foreigners in order to 'create security' by showing three white sheep kick out a black sheep) has been adapted practically one-to-one by neo-national movements in Spain (*democracia nacional*) and in Germany (the *Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands* in Hessen).
- How does the neo-national anti-globalization ideology compare to arguments by anti-globalization groups on the left, e.g. Attac?
- What kinds of counter-representations are created by oppositional camps and what is the

- place and impact of new media such as YouTube?
- What are the main characteristics of the ‘good, diligent and decent’ white Christian European people that right wing populist parties are appealing to? How do national and international media respond?
 - How do contemporary writers and directors respond to new nationalisms? What kind of style and genres do they use?
 - How have immigrant writers and filmmakers reacted to new nationalisms and right wing violence – in their texts and through personal activities?
 - What kinds of resistance have popular nationalist leaders, parties and movements met? What old forms of resistance are still used (e.g. demonstrations, critical journalism, documentary filmmaking, comedy and satire, and not least the law) and what new (e.g. computer-based) forms have emerged (e.g. counter-propaganda on YouTube)?
 - How do the leftist parties respond to, and explain their weakness and lack of unity?
 - How has the left’s loss of power been depicted and/or referenced in film (e.g. documentary film) and literature?

The German Studies Association, October 2 - 5, 2008 St. Paul, Minnesota

Please send abstracts of 250-500 words by 13 January 2008 to:

Karin Baumgartner, karin.baumgartner@utah.edu; and Andrea Reimann, areimann@miami.edu

Nostalgia for Belonging – Re-definitions of Heimat?

On October 27, 2007, German President Köhler declared that thanks to Günter Grass and his work, Germans could use the term Heimat again. Given the (politically) controversial reception of Grass’ *Beim Häuten der Zwiebel* as well as the latest debates about the resurgence of national pride and the threat of right-wing nationalism in Europe, this statement seems rather surprising. In addition to such a re-claiming of the term Heimat by the political mainstream, various minority groups in Germany have recently accentuated their entitlement to Germany as their Heimat. In the context of this revived desire to belong to a geographical, political, and/or national space, it is crucial to ask what concepts of Heimat are (re)created in these imaginaries.

We welcome proposals for papers that investigate concepts of Heimat and/or the desire for belonging as they become visible in contemporary German literature, film, museums, monuments, music, and politics.

The German Studies Association, October 2 - 5, 2008 St. Paul, Minnesota

Please send 200-250 word abstracts and a short bio (approx. 100 words, please no CVs) by 1

Feb 2008 to both: Barbara Kosta, bkosta@u.arizona.edu; and Sonja Klocke, sklocke@knox.edu

WiG-sponsored Session at the MLA Convention, December 27-30, 2008 San Francisco

Changing Notions of Belonging in German Literature and Culture

Issues of belonging, place, and identity have gained new importance in an increasingly interconnected and globalized world. In the academic realm, the increased attention to representations of place and space is now commonly referred to as ‘spatial turn.’

This session looks at the history of ‘belonging’ as it is represented and critically examined in literature, film, and other cultural texts. The session includes (but is not limited to) the German notion of ‘Heimat’ which emerged in the late 18th century and, over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries, became at times closely aligned with notions of exclusion, ethnic homogeneity, and nationalism. But beyond these dominant representations of Heimat, we also invite proposals that examine alternative or contravening notions of place and belonging. Proposals may address any period of German literature/culture. Possible topics include:

- Notions and representations of Heimat
- Gendered and racialized notions of belonging and place
- The role of temporality & memory in representations of place
- The 'spatial turn' and representations of belonging and place
- Notions of belonging in aesthetics and cultural/literary theories
- Alternatives to spatially bounded notions of home and belonging

MLA, December 27 – 30, 2008, San Francisco

Please submit abstracts (approx. 400 words) by March 1, 2008 to the panel organizers:

Friederike Eigler, eiglerf@georgetown.edu; Jens Kugele, jk443@georgetown.edu

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~ ~ ~ Other Calls for Papers & Articles ~ ~ ~

The following Calls are listed in chronological order, with the earliest deadline listed first.

Was nun? Future directions in teaching and researching women's writing

Women Writers of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries Conference Series

Oxford, 5-6 September 2008

This conference is a continuation of the conference series which started in the UK in the 1990s, and which has more recently been taking place in the United States. The event is jointly organised by the German Subfaculty, University of Oxford, and the German section at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Our aim at this conference is to take stock of how far research into German women's writing of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries has come, examine the implicit assumptions which underlie our work, and discuss future directions it might take. We particularly welcome proposals for papers which take a broader and/or theoretical view, reflecting on the practice of researching and teaching women's writing of this period. Proposals from critics of German women's writing whose research field lies outside the period in question are also welcome. Papers might address (but need not be limited to) one or more of the following questions:

- has the re-evaluation of women writers 1730-1914 involved a rethinking of questions of aesthetic value?
- has it influenced the way we study and teach literature, including literature by men, in other ways (e.g. as regards canon formation, periodization, the role of history and biography in literary interpretation)?
- which German women writers have been most 'successfully' rehabilitated? Why?
- with its focus on subversion, how has feminist criticism dealt with conservative women writers?
- how has research on German women's writing 1730-1914 been influenced by and/or differed from research in other countries?
- is the unearthing of hitherto neglected early women writers still a priority for our research?
- to what extent does the study of women's writing remain a predominantly female concern? Is this likely to change, and would it be beneficial if it did?
- to what extent has women's writing of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries permeated university syllabi? Is there still a place for separate courses on women writers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and for separate conferences and volumes? Has the time come for reintegration into "mainstream" Germanistik or is the case for positive action still strong?

Case studies of specific texts and/or authors which lend themselves to university syllabi are

also welcome.

Papers should be no longer than 30 minutes and can be given in either English or German. Please send a 250-word abstract to both of the organizers by 7 January 2008:

Anna Richards, ac.richards@bbk.ac.uk; and Helen Fronius, helen.fronius@exeter.ox.ac.uk

Readers, Writers, Salonnières: Female Networks in Europe, 1700-1900

*Jointly organised by the University of Southampton English Discipline, the University of Warwick French Department and Swansea University German Section
Chawton House Library, Hampshire, 22nd and 23rd May 2008*

Keynote speakers:

Isabelle Bour (Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris III)

Helen Chambers (University of St Andrews)

Dena Goodman (University of Michigan)

The conference is one in a series being held in conjunction with the Netherlands Research Organisation (NWO) project "New Approaches to European Women's Writing" which is based at the University of Utrecht and is directed by Dr Suzan van Dijk.

The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries saw an explosion of interest in Europe in foreign languages and literatures, and recent research has begun to explore the part played by women in cross-cultural interchange. This conference seeks to examine the trans-national links between literary women in Europe in the period 1700-1900. To what extent were women writers from different countries aware of each other and each other's work? We invite papers which look at women who read or were inspired by the work of women abroad, as well as papers exploring actual links (for example, through correspondence, visits or contact in the salons) between women writers of different nationalities.

Papers should be a maximum of 20 minutes and should be given in English. Please send a 250-word abstract for the attention of the organizers Katherine Astbury, Hilary Brown and Gillian Dow to the conference administrator Sandy White: sw17@soton.ac.uk by 7th January 2008.

Selected papers will be published in a special issue of the journal *Women's Writing*.

For further information on the NWO project, please see www.womenwriters.nl

See www.chawton.org for information about the location.

Gender and the Cold War

2008 GSA, St. Paul, Minnesota October 2-5; and AAASS Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 20-23

The German Studies Association (GSA) and American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) Program Committees are organizing an interdisciplinary panel entitled "Gender and the Cold War" to be held at each association's 2008 conference.

We encourage interested members of the GSA and the AAASS, from all disciplines, to submit brief (200-250 word) abstract. Please send proposal and brief bio electronically to both organizers by January 11, 2008:

Michael Hickey, mhipkey@bloomu.edu; and Barbara Kosta, bkosta@u.arizona.edu

Witches and Queens, Whores and Libertines: Early Modern History on Screen

University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd/Cardiff, 3-4 April 2008

Historical films and TV series set in the early modern period abound, yet historians have only recently begun to trouble themselves with these popular representations of the past. This interdisciplinary conference seeks to contribute to a critical appraisal of cinematic and televisual representations of early modern history (c.1500-c.1800) and what choices of subject matter and

the way in which they are presented say about contemporary society and its relationship with the past.

Participants are invited to offer papers of about 20 minutes on the heritage-film debate, historical film and collective memory, the role of historical productions in making history and its debates accessible, adaptations of early modern texts, the use of historical documentaries, or any other aspect of early modern history on screen.

*Deadline for abstracts sent to organizer is **January 11, 2008.***

Jonathan Durrant, jdurrant@glam.ac.uk, <http://history.research.glam.ac.uk//Conferences/witches/>

Aftermaths of War: Women's Movements and Female Activists, 1918-1923

Organised by Ms Ingrid Sharp, Department of German, University of Leeds, i.e.sharp@leeds.ac.uk and Dr Matthew Stibbe, Department of History, Sheffield Hallam University, m.stibbe@shu.ac.uk

September 10 – 12, 2008 at Hinsley Hall, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England.

Following on from the publication in April 2007 of the volume A. S. Fell and I. E. Sharp (eds.) *The Women's Movement in Wartime: International Perspectives, 1914-19*, which deals with the responses of the international women's movement to the First World War, the focus of this conference will be on the response, experience and representation of the organised women's movement and individual activists to the aftermath of the war in the years 1918 and 1923. The approach is broadly historical, but we would welcome proposals from a range of different disciplines, such as Cultural and Gender/Women's Studies, English, Sociology, Modern Languages and of course History. By bringing together scholars working on organised women and individual activists in national and transnational contexts, we hope to make a distinctive and worthwhile contribution to this area of studies.

For a more detailed call for papers, see: <http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=158830>

*Please send proposals, including working title and brief description of your paper (max. 500 words), by **15 January 2008.***

Eating the Nation

German Studies Association Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota, October 2 - 5, 2008

This panel seeks papers that engage with the ways in which food is used to construct or challenge notions of the (German) nation. We are interested in papers that engage with a range of "texts" on this topic: cookbooks, media, literature, film.

Topics might include:

- Appropriation of ethnic cultures through food
- Regional cuisines in relationship to the nation
- Constructions of the body and the nation via food
- Food and consumption
- "Traveling" food and cosmopolitanism
- Food and the environment
- Food and war
- Food as status symbol

*Please send your paper proposal of no more than 200 words to the panel organizer by **January 15, 2008:** Maria Stehle, University of Tennessee Knoxville, mstehle@utk.edu*

Violence and European Identity

German Studies Association Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota, October 2 - 5, 2008

In current attempts to construct productive European identities, histories of and experiences with violence play a major role. We seek papers that engage with the intersections of representations of violence and constructions of the “new” Europe in popular media, film, literature, art, or music. We encourage papers that provide comparative or transnational analyses. Possible topics might include but are not limited to:

- Histories of terrorism
- Racist and xenophobic violence
- Colonialist / Imperialist histories and the new Europe
- Constructions of “cultural” violence
- Gender and Violence
- Fascist histories

*Please send your 200 word paper proposal to the panel organizer by **January 15th, 2008**:*

Laurie Taylor, University of Massachusetts Amherst, ltaylor@german.umass.edu

Women, War, and Revolution before 1912: History and Fiction

An interdisciplinary panel for the German Studies Association, St. Paul, MN, 2008

Analyses and interpretations of historical and literary representations of female participation, engagement, or activism in wars and revolutions before WWI. Fictional accounts, historical figures, and/or personal narratives (as well as other genres). Possible topics: representations of women as warriors or as victims accounts of/by women of political activism, agitation, advocacy for/against war or revolution women and pacifism responses to “German” wars, uprising, and revolutions “German” participation in or involvement with the American and French revolutions

*Please submit 1 page abstracts by **January 31, 2008** to BOTH:*

Marjanne Goozé, mgooze@uga.edu; and Waltraud Meierhofer, waltraud-maierhofer@uiowa.edu

Call for Articles

Gendering the Fair: A Collection of Histories of Women and Gender at World’s Fairs

The editors of this anthology invite submissions from scholars whose work analyses the participation of women at world’s fairs (as organizers, performers, employees, fairgoers, etc.) or whose work offers gender analyses of world’s fairs. Research tracking the significance of fairs as gendered spaces or calling attention to the gendered nature of the experience of attending a world’s fair, as well as scholarship that explores eroticism and sexuality at world’s fairs or manliness/masculinity is strongly encouraged. Works that focus on world’s fairs held outside the U.S. are especially welcome, as are those that interrogate the nexus between gender, class, race, and national identity formation at world’s fairs held in the U. S. and abroad.

Send one e-copy to tjboiss@uakron.edu, and two print copies of your manuscript (15-25 pages, doubled spaced), with end notes and complete references page formatted according to the Chicago Manual of Style to Associate Professor TJ Boisseau, 115 Salt Marsh Cove, Edgcomb, ME

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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)*

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

## HONORS AND GRANTS

Christina Gerhardt has been invited to be a Visiting Scholar at Harvard University's Center for European Studies during Spring semester 2008 to finish her current book project, "Critique of Violence: The Trauma of Terrorism." Christina's study examines representations of the Red Army Faction in literature, film and art and has been generously funded by summer grants from the DAAD (2006) and from UC-Berkeley (2006), where she taught from 2000 to 2006, as well as by year-long grants from the Berlin Program (2006-2007) and the Fulbright Commission (2007-2008).

Claudia Breger (Indiana) has received a Humboldt grant and plans to spend all of 2008 in Berlin writing a book on "Narrative Performance" in contemporary culture.

Lorely French has been named Distinguished University Professor at Pacific University. She says she couldn't have done it without all the support she has received from many WIG members!

## DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Gisela Brinker-Gabler (SUNY Binghamton) will be serving as Chair of Comparative Literature beginning Spring 2008. She is even looking forward to it!

## DISSERTATION

Julie Koser completed her PhD at the UC Berkeley with a dissertation entitled "Representations of Armed Women in Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century German Literature."

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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, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057, Phone: 507-646-3381; Fax: 507-646-3732.

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~~~~~Books by WiG Members~~~~~

“Books by members” is a quarterly list of recent publications edited or authored by WiG members. WiG members create this list! Please submit your title with MLA bibliographic information to Sarah McGaughey ([mcgauhs@dickinson.edu](mailto:mcgauhs@dickinson.edu)) to be included in the next newsletter.

- Breger, Claudia, Irmela Krüger-Fürhoff, and Tanja Nusser, eds. *Engineering Life: Narrationen vom Menschen in Biomedizin, Literatur und Kultur*. Berlin: Kadmos Kulturverlag, 2007 (forthcoming).
- Brinker-Gabler, Gisela. *Deutsche Dichterinnen vom 16. Jahrhundert bis heute*. Köln: Anaconda Verlag, 2007.
- Classen, Albrecht. *The Power of a Woman's Voice in Medieval and Early Modern Literature: New Approaches to German and European Women Writers and to Violence Against Women in Premodern Times*. Berlin and New York: de Gruyter, 2007.
- Fordham, Kim. *Trials and Tribunals in the Dramas of Heinrich von Kleist*. Bern: Peter Lang, 2007.
- Göktürk, Deniz, David Gramling, and Anton Kaes, eds. *Germany in Transit: Nation and Migration, 1955-2005*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007.
- Kraft, Helga, ed. *Eine Welt aus Sprache. Die Werke von Gerlind Reinshagen. Eine kritische Anthologie*. Berlin: Verlag Theater der Zeit, 2007.
- Loentz, Elizabeth. *Let Me Continue to Speak the Truth: Bertha Pappenheim as Author and Activist*. Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 2007.
- Lukens-Rumscheidt, Nancy and Martin, trans. *The Mystery of Death by Dorothee Soelle*. Minneapolis: Augsburg-Fortress, 2007.
- Maier-Katkin, Birgit. *Silence and Acts of Memory: A Postwar Discourse on Literature, History, Anna Seghers, and Women in the Third Reich*. Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell UP, 2007.
- McBride, Patrizia C., Richard W. McCormick, and Monika Zagar, eds. *Legacies of Modernism: Art and Politics in Northern Europe, 1890-1950*. New York: Palgrave, 2007.
- McCarthy, Maggie and Helga Kraft, eds. *Women in German Yearbook*. Vol. 23. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2007.
- Mennel, Barbara. *The Representation of Masochism and Queer Desire in Film and Literature*. New York: Palgrave, 2007.
- Pusch, Luise F. and Andrea Schweers, eds. *Ohne Frauen ist kein Staat zu machen: 100 Politikerinnen*. Frankfurt/Main: Suhrkamp, 2007.
- Seeber, Ursula and Jacqueline Vansant, eds. *Schwarz auf Weiß. Ein transatlantisches Würdigungsbuch für Egon Schwarz*. Vienna: Czernin, 2007.
- Tautz, Birgit. *Reading and Seeing Ethnic Difference in the Enlightenment: From China to Africa*. New York: Palgrave, 2007.

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~~New Titles in German Literature 2007~~

In this bibliography of fiction written in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland (in addition to some other German language titles), I have chosen to publish all titles with a publication date of 2007 that are not edited volumes. In some cases, there are titles that have been partially published before, but I have tried to eliminate reprints. I include ISBN numbers and, when possible, a link to the publisher's website. I did not distinguish between adult and juvenile or children's literature. To generate this list, I used publishers' catalogs and WorldCat. The process of culling new titles of German, Austrian, and Swiss literature is a new one. Suggestions on how to improve this list are welcome.

I, Sarah McGaughey, compiled this list, and the omissions and mistakes are my own. Jennifer Hosek remains responsible for the bibliography on secondary literature in subjects of importance to Wiggies, and Kris Thomas-Vander Lugt and I compile a film bibliography once a year. Our thanks to many Wiggies, notably Beverly Weber, Lisabeth Hock, Carrie Smith-Prei, and our fearless instigator, Sara Lennox.

Sarah McGaughey, Dickinson College, mcgaughs@dickinson.edu

- Aehnlich, Kathrin. *Alle sterben, auch die Löffelstöre. Roman.* Zürich: [Arche](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783716023662
- Alafenisch, Salim. *Die Feuerprobe.* Zürich: [Unionsverlag](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783293003774
- Albus, Anita. *Das botanische Schauspiel. Vierundzwanzig Blumen, nach dem Leben gemalt & beschrieben.* Frankfurt am Main: [S. Fischer](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783100006226
- Alioth, Gabrielle. *Der prüfende Blick. Roman über Angelica Kauffmann.* Zürich: [Nagel & Kimche](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783312003839
- Altmann, Andreas. *Reise durch einen einsamen Kontinent. Unterwegs in Kolumbien, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivien und Chile.* Köln: [DuMont](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783832179960
- Amon, Michael. *Nach dem Wohlstand. Politik jenseits der Menschen.* Wien: [Molden](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783854851950
- Ani, Friedrich. *Hinter blinden Fenstern. Roman.* Wien: [Zsolnay](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783552054042
- Ani, Friedrich. *Wer lebt, stirbt. Kriminalroman.* München: [Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783423209885
- Augstburger, Urs. *Graatzug. Ein Bergroman.* Zürich: [Bilgerverlag](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783908010845
- Aumaier, Reinhold. *Rutschbonbon. Künstlerroman.* Gosau: [Arovell](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783902547422
- Bachmann, Daniel Oliver. *Die Wüstenapotheke. Dr. Kuvare und die Geheimnisse der Buschmänner.*
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- Zelik, Raul. *Der bewaffnete Freund. Roman*. München: [Blumenbar](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783936738278
- Ziegler, Ulf Erdmann. *Hamburger Hochbahn. Roman*. Göttingen: [Wallstein](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783835300965
- Zier, O. P. *Tote Saison. Roman*. St. Pölten: [Residenz](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783701714858
- Zopfi, Emil. *Spurlos. Roman*. Zürich: [Limmat](#), 2007. ISBN: 9783857915383

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Submissions policy for the WiG Bibliography: WiG members are invited to submit bibliographical info on books they have written, or on books they have found indispensable to their work or which they think will be of particular interest to Sarah McGaughey, Dickinson College, mcgaughs@dickinson.edu

Back to ToC

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

Opportunities for German Graduate Studies in Oxford

Oxford has a large, varied, and active teaching and research community in Modern Languages. In German research interests are spread across the full chronological range and into most areas of linguistics, film and literary study. Oxford has the largest body of graduate students in German in the UK and is one of the leading centres for research in German in the world. The Taylorian Library is the largest modern languages library in the country and the Bodleian Library's holdings in all fields of intellectual, cultural and literary history make it one of the world's top research libraries. With 19 full-time members of staff and a wide range of expertise between them, the department is able to offer an unusually challenging and diverse range of courses at graduate level. At any one time there are approximately 30 graduate students pursuing research or taught graduate courses. This means that there is the necessary critical mass to ensure intellectual stimulus and interaction both among graduates and with supervisors and other Faculty members. For further information see: <http://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/german/>

The department offers one- and two-year taught courses, as well as research degrees. A number of studentships and scholarships are available. For further details on graduate courses, see the Modern Languages Graduate Prospectus on the website. The higher degrees offered are summarised below. They vary in length from one to three or more years and provide opportunities for advanced study in a particular branch of the subject, for the acquisition of research skills, or for a substantial research project in its own right. Work may be pursued in English or German.

Master of Studies (MSt) in Medieval and Modern Languages

1-year degree by coursework portfolio and dissertation. This is both a self-contained course and the normal introductory year for those going on to either a doctorate or MLitt. It is available in a wide variety of subjects including: European Studies; Cultural Studies; Comparative Literature; Mediaeval Studies

Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil)

3-4 year research degree by thesis only (max 80,000 words)

Master of Letters (MLitt)

2-3 year research degree by thesis only (max 50,000 words)

Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Medieval and Modern Languages

2-year degree by coursework portfolio and thesis (max 25,000 words)

German also has an active input into the following interdisciplinary degrees:

Master of Studies (MSt) in Film Aesthetics

One-year degree by written work and dissertation (max 10,000 words)

Master of Studies (MSt) in Women's Studies

1-year degree by written work, examination and dissertation (max 15,000 words)

Master of Studies (MSt) in Mediaeval Studies

1-year degree by written work, examination and dissertation (max 12,000 words)

Closing dates for applications for study commencing in October 2008: 18th January 2008; 14th March 2008; 16th May 2008. Fees for 2008-09 have not been confirmed at this time. As a guide, University fees for full-time students for the full academic year 2007-08 were as follows: for Home and EU students: about £3,240; for overseas students £10,775. College fees cover academic facilities provided by the college and do not include accommodation or meal charges. Each college may charge a fee that is separate from, and in addition to, University fees. College fees vary between colleges and also according to the duration and programme of study but do not distinguish between home, EU and overseas students. The fees for 2008-09 are not yet confirmed, but for information the applicable fees for 2007-08 were: about £1,850 to £2,250

Job Openings

3 Summer Fellowships “German and European History after 1945” (ZZF Potsdam)

Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam

Bewerbungsschluss: 05.01.2008

The Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung (ZZF) in Potsdam, Germany, is pleased to invite applications for up to three Summer Fellowships in 2008 to study German and European History after 1945. These two-month fellowships provide an opportunity to pursue individual research in the Berlin/Brandenburg area and to participate in the intellectual life of one of Germany's major research centers on History. Founded in 1996, the ZZF has a broad interest in Contemporary European History with a special focus on the GDR and the Federal Republic, East-West German relations, and the Cold War in Europe. Its Library holds approx. 75,000 items and subscribes to more than 100 periodicals.

Applicants must have at least postdoctoral status and show an outstanding academic record. They are expected to pursue their own research, but preference will be given to those applicants whose interests relate to one of the major research groups at the ZZF and/or their individual projects. Further information on the thematic clusters of the ZZF can be found at <http://www.zzf-pdm.de>. Recipients will be assigned to a research group and asked to present their current project in a seminar or colloquium.

Stipends vary between EUR 4,000 and EUR 10,000 for a two month grant period, depending on experience and scholarly eminence. The non-renewable funding is supposed to cover all expenses including travel, housing, and insurance. Fellows are expected to reside in Berlin or Potsdam for two consecutive months between May and September 2007. The ZZF will provide office space, access to the Internet and other relevant facilities.

The application deadline is January 5, 2008. Decisions will be announced not later than February 15, 2008. Clear priority will be given to Non-German applicants. Ph.D. by time of appointment is required. All applications must include

1. A letter of interest;
2. A curriculum vitae (including a list of publications);
3. A project proposal not exceeding five pages (1,500 words);
4. One letter of recommendation.

Applications should be sent to:

Summer Fellowship
Mr. Achim Saupe
Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung
Am Neuen Markt 1
14467 Potsdam
Germany

No applications or recommendations by E-mail or fax will be accepted. The letter of recommendation may be send under separate cover. For further information on the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, please refer to <http://www.zzf-pdm.de>. Additional inquiries about the fellowship program should be directed via E-mail to Mr. Achim Saupe (fellowship@zzf-pdm.de)

5 Promotionsstip. "Würzburg-Stipendien: Geisteswissenschaften" (Univ. Würzburg)

Universität Würzburg, Würzburg Bewerbungsschluss: 07.01.2008

1. Ausschreibung "Würzburg-Stipendien"

Die Graduiertenschule für die Geisteswissenschaften / Graduate School of Humanities der Universität Würzburg schreibt bis zu fünf "Würzburg-Stipendien" zur Förderung einer Promotion in der Graduiertenschule aus.

Die Ausschreibung steht im Internet unter:

www.graduateschools.uni-wuerzburg.de/humanities/stipendium

1. Bewerbungen erfordern:

- ein höchstens fünfseitiges Exposé über das Forschungsvorhaben;
- die Benennung eines Mitglieds der Graduiertenschule als Erstbetreuer/Erstbetreuerin;
- die Angabe der Klasse, in der die Promotion statt finden soll (siehe 2.), sowie
- die Nennung von zwei möglichen Gutachtern.

2. Das Thema der Dissertation muss inhaltlich mit den bestehenden Klassen der Graduiertenschule kompatibel sein; derzeit sind die Klassen "Altertum, Geschichte & Religion", "Erziehung", "Philosophie, Sprachen, Künste" sowie "Mittelalter und Renaissance" eingerichtet; weitere Informationen, vor allem zu den in den Klassen vertretenen Wissenschaftlern und ihren Fachgebieten, finden Sie im Internet unter:

www.graduateschools.uni-wuerzburg.de/humanities/home/mitglieder_in_den_klassen

3. "Würzburg-Spezifika": Der/die Vorgeschlagene verpflichtet sich,

- sich bei einer Förderung für mindestens sechs Semester im Promotionsstudiengang "Geisteswissenschaften" einzuschreiben und die Promotion an der Graduiertenschule durchzuführen, sowie
- mindestens eine, der "Community" dienende Veranstaltung in seiner Klasse (mit-) zu organisieren.

Schwerpunktkriterien im Vergabeverfahren:

- wissenschaftliche Qualität und Bedeutung des Forschungsvorhabens;

- Qualität des inhaltlichen und zeitlichen Arbeitsprogramms,
- Nachweis besonderer Befähigung zu wissenschaftlichem Arbeiten (durch entsprechende Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen);
- Persönlichkeit und Vita der/des Vorgeschlagenen.

Altersgrenze: Vollendung des 30. Lebensjahres (Ausnahmen: Wehr- oder Zivildienst, Elternzeit etc.).

Förderinhalte:

- Teilnahme am Promotionsstudiengang "Geisteswissenschaften" mit insg. 24 SWS in sechs Semestern.
- Förderbetrag: Grundbetrag monatlich 900 EUR, Familienzuschlag auf Antrag monatlich 154 EUR.
- auf Antrag erforderliche Reisekosten und sonstige Sachkosten (keine Druckkostenzuschüsse)

Förderdauer: in der Regel zwei Jahre; auf Antrag ist eine Verlängerung um ein weiteres Jahr möglich.

Bewerbungsschluss: 7. Januar 2008 (Eingang)

Thomas Dr. Schmid

Graduiertenschule für die Geisteswissenschaften

t.schmid@uni-wuerzburg.de

Homepage www.graduateschools.uni-wuerzburg.de/humanities/home

2 Postdoktorandenstipendien Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung

Graduiertenkolleg "Bild-Körper-Medium. Eine anthropologische Perspektive

In dem von der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft und dem Land Baden-Württemberg geförderten Graduiertenkolleg sind zum 1. Februar 2008 2 Postdoktorandenstipendien zu vergeben.

Am Kolleg sind folgende Fächer beteiligt:

Kunstwissenschaft, Medienwissenschaft, Literaturwissenschaft, Ostasiatische Kunstgeschichte, Kulturwissenschaft, Filmwissenschaft. Aber auch BewerberInnen aus anderen Fachbereichen können berücksichtigt werden. Nähere Angaben zum Programm, zu den Schwerpunkten, Fächern, Stipendien und zu den beteiligten ProfessorInnen finden Sie unter <http://kunstwissenschaften.hfg-karlsruhe.de/kolleg>

Interessenten mit überdurchschnittlichem Studienabschluss und einem innovativen Forschungsprojekt bewerben sich bitte mit einem max. achtseitigen Exposé und den üblichen Unterlagen (Lebenslauf, Bild, Zeugnisse). Die Bewerbungen sind zu richten an:

Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung

Institut für Kunstwissenschaft, Graduiertenkolleg

PD Dr. Martin Schulz

Lorenzstr. 15

76135 Karlsruhe

<http://kunstwissenschaften.hfg-karlsruhe.de/kolleg>

Bewerbungsschluss: 11.01.2008

Call for Papers

Ein weiblicher ‚Prager Kreis‘? Gesellschaftlich und literarisch engagierte jüdische Frauen in Prag von 1900 bis 1938. Wien 31.12.2007

Am 25. April 2008 findet am Wiener Institut für Wissenschaft und Kunst (www.univie.ac.at/iwk/) im Rahmen des Projekts „biografiA. datenbank und lexikon österreichischer Frauen“ (www.biografia.at) ein Symposium zum Thema „Ein weiblicher ‚Prager Kreis‘? Gesellschaftlich und literarisch engagierte jüdische Frauen in Prag von 1900 bis 1938“ statt.

Eine Vielzahl Prager jüdischer Frauen war seit Beginn des 20. Jahrhunderts gesellschaftlich, journalistisch und literarisch aktiv. Mit der Gründung von Vereinen und eigenen Publikationsorganen setzten sie sich mit der Stärkung der jüdischen Identität, der Erziehung der jüdischen Jugend sowie diversen weiteren „kulturzionistischen“ Aspekten auseinander. Mit der Organisation von Vorträgen und Lesungen schufen sie eine Plattform für die moderne deutschsprachige Literatur des „Prager Kreises“. Zu diesen Frauen gehörten Persönlichkeiten wie Ottla Kafka (die Schwester Franz Kafkas), Elsa und Sophie Brod (die Frau bzw. die Schwester Max Brods), Else Bergmann (die Frau Hugo Bergmanns), Paula Buber und viele andere. Es ist an der Zeit, die Bedeutung des von Frauen geschaffenen kulturellen Netzwerkes, in dem Prag als ehemaliges Zentrum der Monarchie eine wichtige Rolle spielte, wieder bewusst zu machen. Das Symposium soll zum Schließen dieser Forschungslücke beitragen. ForscherInnen aus allen kultur- und geisteswissenschaftlichen Bereichen sind eingeladen, zu folgenden Themenbereichen beizutragen:

- die Bedeutung der Frauenvereine wie beispielsweise der Jüdische Frauenverein, der Verein Frauenfortschritt, der Klub deutscher Künstlerinnen, der Klub deutscher Schriftstellerinnen, der Klub jüdischer Frauen und Mädchen bzw. Mädchenklub und die Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO)
- die Darstellung des Lebens und Wirkens der jeweiligen (Mit-)Begründerinnen und Mitglieder wie beispielsweise Emilie Sohr, Ida Freund, Berta Fanta, Johanna Bergmann, Rosa Lebenhart, Gertrude Thieberger (Urzidil) und vielen anderen, die heute kaum bekannt sind und deren Präsenz zu Unrecht auf die der Schwestern, Ehefrauen oder Weggefährtinnen beschränkt ist die Aufarbeitung der Geschichte und Bedeutung einschlägiger Periodika wie der „Prager Frauenzeitung“ (Sonntagsbeilage der „Bohemia“) oder „Für unsere Frauen“ (seit Okt. 1910 monatliche Beilage der „Selbstwehr“ unter der Leitung von Ida Barber)
- Nicht zuletzt werden auch die gesellschaftlichen Rahmenbedingungen als Hintergrund der Aktivitäten der Prager jüdischen Frauen ein wichtiges Thema sein.
- Schließlich ist auch das Faktum zu diskutieren, dass die Namen vieler engagierter Frauen aus dem öffentlichen Bewusstsein verschwunden sind. Dazu trug bei, dass viele dieser Frauen nur - wenn überhaupt – als Randfiguren, versteckt hinter ihren Brüdern, Vätern und Ehemännern, von der Forschung berücksichtigt wurden.

Wir bemühen uns um die Finanzierung der Reise- und Übernachtungskosten. Die Tagungsbeiträge werden in einem Sammelband in der Reihe „biografiA. Neue Ergebnisse der Frauenbiografieforschung“ (hg. v. Ilse Korotin, Praesens Verlag Wien) publiziert. Abstracts (ein bis max. 2 A4-Seiten) von Vorschlägen für einen Vortrag und kurze biobibliografische Angaben senden Sie bitte bis spätestens 31. Dezember 2007 per mail an beide Koordinatorinnen:

Dr. Susanne Blumesberger (s_blumesberger@yahoo.de)
Mag. Rahel Rosa Neubauer (rosa_neubauer@yahoo.de)
Institut für Wissenschaft und Kunst
Berggasse 17
A-1090 Wien

Österreich

(+43 1) 317 43 42

Sollten Sie nicht zum Symposium kommen können, aber gerne einen Beitrag für die Publikation beisteuern wollen, nehmen Sie bitte mit uns Kontakt auf!

IMPACT: German-Language Culture and its Reception

Celebrating 20 years of 'Women in German Studies'

University of Liverpool

23-25 July 2008

WIGS open conference: all colleagues, all disciplines welcome

Culture exists within a context. Not only are literature, music, films and artwork produced and received within a social, political and historical framework; museums, galleries, academic institutions and media and marketing conglomerates also initiate a cultural discourse that is necessarily produced by and directed towards its contemporaries. Coinciding with Liverpool's 'European Capital of Culture' 2008 as well as celebrating the twentieth anniversary of Women in German Studies, this conference asks how we may conceptualise the idea of 'impact', drawing on literary, historical, political, institutional, and theoretical approaches to German-language culture from the medieval period to the present day.

During the course of the conference we aim to formulate a conceptual framework as well as explore individual instances of cultural reception, and we welcome theoretical contributions as well as case studies. Contributors are invited to consider the mechanisms by which culture, in its widest sense, impacts upon the world, and are encouraged to explore the usefulness of recent theoretical models (such as Gérard Genette's concept of the 'paratext' or Pierre Bourdieu's *Rules of Art*) for analysing the way cultural output is coded towards its consumers and actually received by them. Proposals should address one or more of the following areas:

- 1 The role of cultural institutions, from medieval times to the present day, in conditioning how artists are received and culture is produced (e.g. churches, universities, galleries, museums, archives; literary prizes and film awards)
- 2 Aesthetic and practical artistic concerns about impact: how the actual or potential reception of artists affects production, through censorship, self-reflection, or cultural mediation
- 3 Market considerations in the reception of art in German-speaking countries (e.g. art dealers, publishers, bookshops, theatres, cinemas, broadcasters)
- 4 Issues of reception in translations and versions of German-language texts and films

Papers may address historical changes, the case of minority cultures, or issues of gender, class, ethnicity in any of these areas.

Proposals for papers suited to a 25 minute presentation as well as enquiries about any aspect of the conference should be addressed to either Dr Rebecca Braun (rebecca.braun@liv.ac.uk) or Dr Lyn Marven (l.marven@liv.ac.uk) by 31 January 2008. Proposals should be not more than 250 words in length; overlap between sections is welcome. See

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/soclas/conferences/IMPACT/> for further information.

Dr Rebecca Braun

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow (German)

SOCCLAS

University of Liverpool

Liverpool, L69 7ZR

Annemarie Schwarzenbach: Werk, Wirkung, Kontext (Provisorischer Titel)

Institut für Kulturforschung Graubünden ikg / Kulturbüro Sils/Segl (KUBUS).

6.-19. Oktober 2008 in Sils-Maria (Oberengadin, Schweiz), Hotel Waldhaus.

Gegenstand der Tagung ist das vielfältige Werk der Schweizer Schriftstellerin, Journalistin und Fotografin Annemarie Schwarzenbach (1908-1942). Neben dokumentarischen und sozialkritischen Arbeiten (Reiseberichten, Reportagen und Feuilletons), verfasste sie, Erzählungen und Romane. Ihre lyrische Prosa zeugt von einer eingehenden Auseinandersetzung mit verschiedenen literarischen Traditionen, auf der Suche nach eigenen Ausdrucksformen. Aus beruflichen wie existentiellen Gründen war Annemarie Schwarzenbach in den 1930er Jahren sehr oft auf Reisen, vornehmlich im Orient, aber auch in Europa, Amerika und Afrika. Das Unterwegssein als Lebensform – eine gemeinsame Erfahrung der Generation zwischen den beiden Weltkriegen – prägt das literarische so wie das journalistische Werk der Autorin. Sils im Oberengadin wurde ihr dabei mit den Jahren immer wichtiger als Rückzugs- und Schreibort: „In Sils kam ich dann zur Ruhe, Du weißt ja, wie es hier ist, es ist wirklich mehr als eine Zufalls-Wahl und Heimat“ (Brief an Alfred Wolkenberg vom 1. April 1941).

Annemarie Schwarzenbachs Wiederentdeckung begann 1987 in der Schweiz, vor allem dank der Editionsarbeit von Roger Perret. Die Rezeption ging aber dann rasch über die Schweizer Grenzen hinaus, nach Frankreich, Italien, Deutschland, und wurde stark biographisch. In neueren Studien allerdings, die meist im deutschsprachigen Raum entstanden sind, ist die Tendenz zu einer textimmanenten Analyse von Schwarzenbachs journalistischem und fiktionalem Werk festzustellen, die die nur biographische Orientierung zu ergänzen beabsichtigt. Ziel der Silser Tagung im Jubiläumsjahr 2008 wäre die Unterstützung dieser Tendenz, darüber hinaus eine Kontextualisierung der Texte der Autorin innerhalb der deutschsprachigen und europäischen Erzählprosa, der Reiseliteratur, der Reportage, des Feuilletons und der Frauenliteratur. Ausserdem setzt sich diese Veranstaltung das Ziel, über eine Abbildung des aktuellen Forschungsstandes hinausgehend, neue Ansätze und Wege der Forschung aufzuzeigen.

Beiträge zu den folgenden Themenbereichen sind erwünscht:

1. Die bis heute unveröffentlichten „afrikanischen“ Texte, die zwischen Mai 1941 und März 1942 in Kongo entstanden sind, sowie die Afrikareportagen.
2. Annemarie Schwarzenbach als Photographin / Die Rolle der Photographie in ihrem journalistischen und literarischen Werk.
3. Verhältnis zwischen literarischen (fiktionalen) und journalistischen (faktualen) Texten der Autorin.
4. Kontextualisierung ihrer Werke innerhalb der deutschsprachigen und europäischen Tradition.

Bei Vortragsangeboten (die Redezeit soll 30 Minuten nicht überschreiten!) wird um ein Exposé (max. 2.000 Zeichen mit Leerzeichen) und eine Kurzbiographie bis spätestens 15. Februar 2008 gebeten.

Den Referentinnen und Referenten werden die Reisekosten zurückerstattet und freie Unterkunft im Silser Hotel Waldhaus für die Dauer der Tagung angeboten. Die Akten der Tagung werden vom Institut für Kulturforschung Graubünden publiziert.

Kontakt:

Dr. Mirella Carbone und Joachim Jung
Institut für Kulturforschung Graubünden ikg
Kulturbüro Sils/Segl (KUBUS)
Chesa Fonio
CH – 7514 – Sils-Maria
Tel: 0041-(0)81-826 52 24
Fax: 0041-(0)81-826 65 30
E-mail: info@kubus-sils.ch
<http://www.kulturforschung.ch/>
<http://www.kubus-sils.ch/>

Upcoming Conferences

Transkulturalität und Gender in bildungshistorischer Perspektive Köln 02/08

Dr. Wolfgang Gippert

Dr. Petra Götte

Prof. Dr. Elke Kleinau, Köln

08.02.2008-09.02.2008, Caritas-Akademie Köln-Hohenlind

Deadline: 15.01.2008

Diskussionen um den Kulturbegriff sowie um die Frage nach der tatsächlichen Verfasstheit von Kulturen haben sich seit den 1990er Jahren zunehmend dynamisiert - vornehmlich im Hinblick auf postmoderne Situationsbeschreibungen.

Ältere, essentialistische Kulturkonzepte sind in der Regel ethnisch fundiert; sie nehmen Abgrenzungen nach "außen" vor und beruhen auf statischen Vorstellungen von sozialer Homogenität, die sich mittlerweile als unhaltbar erwiesen haben. Demgegenüber hat sich im Rahmen des "cultural turn" ein Verständnis entwickelt, das von einer prinzipiellen Offenheit, Heterogenität und Pluralität von Kultur ausgeht. Diese Sichtweise äußert sich in neuen Konzepten und Begrifflichkeiten wie "Hybridisierung", "Multiethnizität", "Traveling Cultures," "Transnationalität", "Transkulturalität", "Glokalisierung", die allesamt auf die generelle Nicht-Abgeschlossenheit und Dynamik von Kultur verweisen.

Transkulturalität und Kulturtransfer, ethnische und kulturelle Vielfalt sind jedoch keineswegs ausschließlich moderne Erscheinungen. Vielmehr handelt es sich dabei um Phänomene, die sich in vorindustriellen Gemeinschaften ebenso finden wie in komplexen, postmodernen Gesellschaften, was in den gegenwärtigen Globalisierungsdebatten oftmals übersehen wird. Sowohl in historischer als auch in kulturvergleichender Sicht bildet Transkulturalität als Kulturvermischung vermutlich eher die Regel als die Ausnahme, haben doch Migrationsbewegungen, Kriege, Handelsbeziehungen u.ä. seit jeher das "Eigene" mit dem "Fremden" konfrontiert. Aus bildungshistorischer Perspektive ist das Transkulturalitätskonzept bisher jedoch allenfalls randständig zur Kenntnis genommen worden, obwohl es in seinem Kern auf Probleme individueller und kollektiver Identitätsbildungsprozesse verweist – und damit auf genuin erziehungswissenschaftliche Fragestellungen. Auch die Genderforschung sucht und findet neuerdings Berührungspunkte mit dem Paradigma der Transkulturalität, wobei die geschlechterhistorische Forschung diese Entwicklung nur ansatzweise aufgenommen hat. Die Verflechtung der Kategorie Geschlecht mit anderen Differenzierungskategorien wird in den letzten Jahren vermehrt unter dem Begriff der Intersektionalität diskutiert. Durch die Verknüpfung von Kultur- und Genderforschung, so die Annahme, können innerhalb einzelner Kulturen Differenzsetzungen wie Gender, Ethnie, Nationalität, Klasse, Religion etc., die die Ungleichheitsstrukturen nahezu aller Gesellschaften prägen, in ihrer Wechselwirkung sichtbar gemacht werden. Eine transkulturelle Genderforschung kann beispielsweise herausarbeiten, in welchem Ausmaß sich aus der diskursiven Verbindung von Gender und anderen Differenzkategorien etwa "nationalisierte" oder "kulturalisierte" männliche und weibliche Geschlechtsidentitäten entwickeln bzw. entwickelt haben.

Die Tagung will die Verschränkung von Transkulturalität und Gender aus bildungshistorischer Perspektive für den Zeitraum vom späten 18. bis zum frühen 20. Jahrhundert beleuchten. Um einen breiten interdisziplinären Austausch zu ermöglichen, ist die zeitliche und inhaltliche Rahmung bewusst weit gefasst. Die folgenden Fragestellungen sollen auf der Tagung diskutiert werden:

- Welche Gruppierungen und Akteure lassen sich im genannten Zeitraum als Agenten einer "gelebten Transkulturalität" ausmachen? Welche sozialen Netzwerke, welche "communities" oder "plural societies" bauten sie auf? Wie wirkte sich die transkulturelle Situation auf die jeweilige Genderordnung aus?

- Welche Kulturtransferprozesse lassen sich im “langen” 19. Jahrhundert beobachten? Wie wird die jeweils andere Kultur aufgenommen, angeeignet, verändert oder abgelehnt? Wie lassen sich die Ergebnisse transkultureller Prozesse und Strukturen überhaupt erfassen und beschreiben? Lässt sich dabei eine Genderspezifität ausmachen?
- Welche Zugehörigkeits-, Ab- und Ausgrenzungsdiskurse und -praktiken wurden in transkulturellen Situationen und Räumen geführt? Wie wurden Differenzlinien zwischen dem “Eigenen” und “Fremden” im Sinne eines “Othering” konstruiert? Welche Identitäten bildeten sich unter den Bedingungen von Transkulturalität heraus?
- Welche Quellen lassen sich für transkulturelle Fragestellungen in bildungsgeschichtlicher Sicht nutzen? Wie wird “Eigenes” und “Fremdes”, Differenz und Hybridität in den Quellen repräsentiert? Wo finden sich Anzeichen dafür, dass sich geschlechtsspezifische, kollektive Identitätsmuster in transkulturellen Räumen pluralisieren?

Neben Beiträgen zu neueren Theoriekonzepten wie Transkulturalität, “Critical Whiteness”, “Othering” und Intersektionalität sind Berichte aus konkreten (bildungs-)historischen und kulturwissenschaftlichen Forschungsarbeiten zu Migration, Kolonialismus, Kulturtransfer, Identitäts- und Fremdheitskonstruktionen, Bedeutung von Geschlecht in transkulturellen Kontexten u.ä. Gegenstand der Tagung.

Freitag, 8. Februar 2008

13.00 - 14.00 Ankunft und Grußworte

14.00 - 17.30 Plenarvorträge

Wolfgang Gippert: Transkulturalität und Gender in bildungshistorischer Perspektive. Zur Einführung in die Tagung

Gabriele Dietze: Intersektionalität und Hegemonie(selbst)kritik in den Geschlechterstudien

Katharina Walgenbach: Whiteness Studies als kritisches Paradigma für die historische Geschlechter- und Bildungsforschung

Nicole Schröder: “True Womanhood”: (weiße) Weiblichkeitsentwürfe im Schnittfeld von Kultur, Nation und race in den USA des 19. Jahrhunderts

Samstag, 9. Februar 2008:

9.00 - 16.00 Parallelforen

Forum I

Petra Götte: Die deutsche Auswanderung in die USA. Fotografieanalytische Spurensuche

Juliane Jacobi: Lehrer und Lehrerinnen an Schulen von deutschsprachigen Einwanderern in den USA (1840-1918)

Pia Schmid: John Heckewelders “History, manners” and customs of the Indian nations who once inhabited Pennsylvania and the neighbouring states”. Ein Missionar als Ethnograph (1818)

Julia Hauser: Zwischen Emanzipation, Mission und Nation: Erziehungsarbeit Kaiserswerther Diakonissen im Osmanischen Reich (1851-1918)

Christa Kersting: Kulturtransfer. Der Austausch über weibliche Bildung zwischen Deutschland, England und Nordamerika um 1900

Kerstin Wolff: Kulturtransfer in den (internationalen) Frauenbewegungen

Forum II

Anke J. Kattner: Erlebte Transkulturalität - Verarbeitungsstrategien für die Konfrontation zwischen Europäern und Afrikanern in Reiseberichten aus dem Inneren des afrikanischen Kontinents

Susanne Heyn: Konstruktionen von Eigenem, Fremdem und Geschlecht. Die Jugendarbeit der Kolonialbewegung in der Weimarer Republik

Iris Gareis: Geschlechterrollen und Wissenskulturen in Lateinamerika

Phillip Knobloch: Argentinien: Kulturkampf zwischen "Zivilisation und Barbarei". Ein Blick auf transkulturelle Prozesse vom Ende des 18. bis Anfang des 20. Jahrhunderts

Mareike König: Identitäten deutscher Dienstmädchen in Paris um 1900: Nation, Geschlecht und sozialer Status

Klaus Dittrich: Bildungspolitik auf Weltausstellungen im 19. Jahrhundert - Akteure und Diskurse
16.30-17.00 Abschlusspodium

Wolfgang Gippert

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Tagungsprogramm, Wegbeschreibung, Anmeldung <<http://www.hf.uni-koeln.de/30522>>

Submissions Policy: **European News** welcomes announcements of events in the fields of German and Women's studies taking place in Europe. Tanja Nusser, Universität Bielefeld, tanja.nusser@uni-bielefeld.de and Dr. Carrie Smith-Prei, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, carrie.smith-prei@nuim.ie.

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~~~~~Conference Report~~~~~

Sophie von La Roche (1730-1807) im literarischen und kulturpolitischen Feld von Aufklärung und Empfindsamkeit

**Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach (Marbach/Neckar)
Sophie La Roche-Museum (Bönningheim) 25.10.-28.10.2007**

TAGUNGSBERICHT von Bettina Wild (Heidelberg)

Vom 25. bis 28. Oktober 2007, im 200. Todesjahr der Schriftstellerin, fand im Deutschen Literaturarchiv Marbach die Internationale Tagung „Sophie von La Roche (1730-1807) im literarischen und kulturpolitischen Feld von Aufklärung und Empfindsamkeit“ statt. Die wissenschaftliche Leitung hatten Barbara Becker-Cantarino (Ohio State University, Columbus/Ohio) und Gudrun Loster-Schneider (Universität Mannheim); die organisatorische Leitung und Kooperationen lagen bei Marcel Lepper (DLA Marbach) und beim Museum La Roche, Bönningheim. Die Teilnehmer der Tagung kamen aus Deutschland, England, Frankreich, Italien, Kanada und den USA. Sie wurde finanziert durch die Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, das Deutsche Literaturarchiv, die Ohio State University (USA), die Philosophische Fakultät der Universität Mannheim und die Stadt Bönningheim.

Sophie von La Roche (1730-1807) war im literarischen Feld des späten 18. Jahrhunderts als erste Frau erfolgreich platziert und hat es mit ihrem berühmten ‚Originalroman‘ *Die Geschichte des Fräuleins von Sternheim* (1771) mitgeprägt. Ihr umfangreiches Œuvre, das Briefe, Romane, Erzählungen, Reisebücher, eine literarische Zeitschrift, Texte zur Frauenbildung und kulturpolitische Essays umfasst, spiegelt die kulturelle und mentale Entwicklung Deutschlands

zur Sattelzeit. Die Tagung erörterte thematische, formale und mediale Aspekte des Gesamtwerks im Kontext sozialer Beziehungen und literarischer Bezüge zwischen Rationalismus und Empfindsamkeit; ein weiteres Ziel war es, die genderfokussierte Befassung mit La Roche zu erweitern und sie als (eigenge-)wichtige Vertreterin der Empfindsamkeit darzustellen.

Das Rahmenprogramm der Fachtagung bildeten zwei Führungen: durch die Handschriftenabteilung des DLA (durch Helmuth MOJEM) sowie durch das Museum Sophie La Roche in Bönningheim (geleitet durch dessen Begründer Charlotte NERL-STECKELBERG und Klaus POTT). Zwei öffentliche Abendvorträge von Wilfried BARNER (Göttingen) im DLA Marbach und von Gerhard SAUDER (Saarbrücken) in Schoss Bönningheim fanden breite Resonanz.

A. Moral- und Popularphilosophie; Kosmopolitismus

Nach der Einführung durch die Organisatorinnen der Tagung, Barbara Becker-Cantarino und Gudrun Loster-Schneider, sowie der Begrüßung durch Helmuth Mojem als Vertreter des Literaturarchivs Marbach wurde die Sophie von La Roche-Tagung mit dem Vortrag „Über das Glück: Stoizismus und Popularphilosophie im Spätwerk Sophie von La Roches“ von Monika NENON (Memphis, U.S.A.) eröffnet. Ausgangspunkt war die Frage, ob und wie weit La Roche als Stoikerin bezeichnet werden kann. Vor dem negativen, ‚unglücklichen‘ Erfahrungshintergrund des Spätwerks waren für La Roche wichtige Elemente des Glücks Wissensaneignung, Freundschaft, Geselligkeit. Hier tritt die stoische Tradition (Epiktet, Cicero, Marc Aurel), an der sich La Roche orientiert, deutlich zu Tage. Nenon verwies insbesondere auf die Rezeption klassischer Philosophie und die Vermittlung an Leserinnen in pädagogischer Absicht.

Kevin F. HILLIARD (Oxford) eröffnete seinen Vortrag „Der Gang der Ordnung: Zur Topographie der Tugend bei Sophie von La Roche“ mit der Beschreibung der Urszene, wie sie La Roche in *Melusinens Sommerabende* (1806) schildert: Sie befindet sich mit dem Vater in der Bibliothek, im Reich der Bildung, und mit der Mutter auf einer Wiese, im Bereich der Natur. Daraus resultiert ein ‚männlich-weiblicher Kompromiss‘ zwischen Bildung und Natur. Der Vortrag legte dar, dass die Erziehung der Leserinnen der *Pomona* zu moralisch guten Menschen, also die Bildung des moralischen Charakters im Durchgang durch Tugendorte stattfindet, deren Topographie von den Topoi Bibliothek, Landschaftsgarten und Landgut bestimmt ist.

Jutta OSINSKI (Marburg) Beitrag „Der Tugendbegriff bei Rousseau und in La Roches *Geschichte des Fräuleins von Sternheim*“ beschäftigte sich mit dem Tugend/Devianz-Modell bei Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Danach stellte Osinski Thesen zu La Roches *Geschichte des Fräulein von Sternheim* auf: Tugend wird als Verdienst dargestellt. Die Handlung folgt einem Dreischritt. Die Devianzphase erzeugt die Überwindung von Eigenliebe im Leiden. Ordnung bedeutet Glück. Es handelt sich um einen Stationenroman. Der Roman ist von Charaktertypen bevölkert. Die Tugendbegriffe gelten für *beide* Geschlechter und sind der natürlichen Religion verpflichtet. Die kurze Rezeptionsgeschichte zeigt, dass der Roman den Zeitgeist befriedigen konnte und als Projektionsfläche diente.

Der öffentliche Abendvortrag „Sophie von La Roche im Feld kosmopolitischer Literatur der späten Aufklärung“ von Wilfried BARNER (Göttingen) befasste sich mit La Roches spätem Roman *Erscheinungen am See Oneida* (1798) und ging zunächst auf die symbolische Bedeutung der beschriebenen Bibliothek ein. Das Fazit war, dass Oneida zur Utopie, zur kosmopolitischen Vision wird. Nach einer geistesgeschichtlichen Kontextualisierung des Romans am Begriff des *Kosmopolitismus* seit der Antike diskutierte der Vortrag abschließend La Roches Zeitschrift *Pomona für Deutschlands Töchter*, wo die Gegenwelt des Kosmopolitismus, der Patriotismus erkennbar wird.

B. Beziehungsfelder und Briefwechsel

Der Vortrag „Der Briefwechsel Sophie von La Roches und Johann Heinrich Mercks“ von Ulrike LEUSCHNER (Darmstadt) widmete sich vier Themenkomplexen: Das Zustandekommen der Korrespondenz. – Die Überlieferungslage; überliefert sind insgesamt 29 Briefe; das Fehlen einiger ‚Bezugsbriefe‘ lässt vermuten, dass ein Teil der Korrespondenz verloren gegangen ist. – Szenen einer schwierigen Freundschaft im Kontext der Darmstädter Empfindsamen; Leuschner legte besonderen Wert auf die Vertrautheit des Verhältnisses, aber auch auf die Spannungen. – Ein Zeugnis der Wirkung; Leuschner zitierte aus einem Brief, den eine Leserin (und Kritikerin) der *Pomona* an Merck geschrieben hatte.

Barbara BECKER-CANTARINO (Columbus, Ohio) beschrieb in ihrem Vortrag „Von der ‚Sternheim‘ zum ‚Werther‘: Sophie von La Roche und Johann Wolfgang Goethe“ zunächst die ‚Fakten der Beziehung‘ und betonte die gespielte Herzlichkeit einer eher von Distanz geprägten Beziehung. Danach befasste sie sich mit der Ausgrenzung La Roches als alternder Frau, deren Versuch mit der jüngeren Generation zu kommunizieren hier scheiterte. Anschließend verglich sie die Romane *Fräulein von Sternheim* und *Werther* und zeigte, dass bei La Roche das gezähmte Gefühl oder die Anstrengung des Ich zur Selbst(re)konstitution, bei Goethe der Ausbruch des Gefühls oder das Scheitern des Subjektivismus dominierten. In der Rezeption wurde der *Sternheim*-Roman freilich durch den *Werther* verdrängt.

Der Vortrag von Jürgen VORDERSTEMANN (Speyer) „Der Briefwechsel Sophie von La Roche mit Elise zu Solms-Laubach“ beschäftigte sich mit der 24 Jahre andauernden Korrespondenz der beiden unterschiedlichen gesellschaftlichen Schichten und unterschiedlichen Generationen zugehörigen Frauen. Überliefert sind rund 370 Briefen La Roches; die Gegenbriefe der Gräfin sind nicht erhalten. Die Briefe blieben immer privat und waren weder zum Vorlesen in ‚sympathetischer Runde‘ noch gar zur Veröffentlichung bestimmt. Vorderstemann machte deutlich, dass für La Roche die Gräfin als Verkörperung des eigenen Tugendsystems und als Projektionsfläche für das Bild einer tugendhaften Fürstin diene.

Im Zentrum des Vortrages „Sophie von La Roche und die Brüder Petersen“ von Patricia SENSCH (Frankfurt) standen der älteste Bruder Georg Wilhelm Petersen und insbesondere der vierte Bruder Johann Friedrich Christian Petersen, Prinzenerzieher am Hof von Hessen-Darmstadt, mit dem La Roche ein „sympathetischer Gedankenaustausch“ verband und dem in ihrem späten Text „Mein Schreibeitisch“ (1799) eine konstitutive Rolle zukommt. Der Beitrag gab eine detaillierte biographische Auseinandersetzung mit den einzelnen Brüdern Petersen im Kontext ihrer Zeit, dargestellt als modellhafte Biographien des deutschen Intellektuellen im vorrevolutionären Europa.

Erdmut JOST (Bielefeld) zeigte in ihrem Vortrag „‚Rationale Bebilderung der Landschaft‘. Sophie von La Roches Haller-Rezeption im *Tagebuch einer Reise durch die Schweiz*“ zunächst, dass es sich bei La Roches Alpenbeschreibung um eine Paraphrase der Hallerschen *Alpen* handelt, womit La Roche aufklärerischer Abbildästhetik folgt. Sodann widmete sie sich dem Umgang mit dem Erhabenen bei La Roche und deren Orientierung an Kant. Dabei wurde die eher traditionelle Auffassung La Roches deutlich: Das Naturerhabene wird gesehen als Erfahrung der Transzendenz. Gleichzeitig überträgt La Roche aber in der Gestaltung weiblicher Ikonen das ‚männlich‘ konnotierte Modell Kants auf die Frau.

Helmut SCHMIEDT (Koblenz) stellte in seinem Vortrag „Geselligkeit, Freundschaft, Literaturpolitik: Sophie von La Roche und Gottlieb Konrad Pfeffel im Vergleich“ die Literaturvermittler Sophie von La Roche und Gottlieb Konrad Pfeffel gegenüber. Beide waren zeitlebens befreundet und korrespondierten mit bedeutsamen Persönlichkeiten, unterscheiden sich aber in ihrer Wirkung auf andere. Pfeffel eroberte sich eine fast unantastbare Autorität, wohingegen sich La Roche zunehmenden Angriffen und Häme ausgesetzt sieht. Für Pfeffel steht die Dominanz des Kopfes im Vordergrund; La Roche dagegen vertraut auf die Dominanz des Herzens.

In seinem öffentlichen Abendvortrag „Ansichten der Empfindsamkeit im Werk La Roches“ gab Gerhard SAUDER (Saarbrücken) einen epochengeschichtlichen Überblick über die

Empfindsamkeit und deren Entwicklung. Der weitere Vortrag war La Roche und ihrer „eigenartigen Empfindsamkeit“ gewidmet. Zunächst konzentrierte sich Sauder auf die *Geschichte des Fräulein von Sternheim* und zeigte die Ambivalenzen des empfindsamen Konzepts im *Sternheim*-Roman auf, um sich dann dem Spätwerk La Roches zuzuwenden. Sauder zeigte, wie das Spätwerk Empfindsamkeit über deren ‚Ende‘ hinaus inszeniert.

C. 1. Kulturvermittlung und Gattungsfelder (Reiseliteraturen)

In seinem Vortrag „Ich bin eine Engländerin, zur Freiheit geboren“. Die Figuren des Engländers und der Engländerin in der deutschen Literatur des 18. Jahrhunderts“ skizzierte Michael MAURER (Jena) die Entwicklung der Figur des Engländers in Literatur und Reiseberichten vom 17. bis zum 19. Jahrhundert vor dem Hintergrund der deutschen Anglophilie, der auch La Roche zugehörte. Im Zentrum standen die Eigenschaften die ‚dem‘ Engländer zugeschrieben werden und die ihn zu einer idealen Romanfigur machen (Individualität, Originalität und Nationalstolz). Maurer schloss mit der Abkehr von der Anglophilie, die im 19. Jahrhundert das Verschwinden oder die Modifizierung der Figur des Engländers zur Folge hatte.

In ihrem Beitrag „Paris/London: Metropolerfahrungen und ihre literarischen Repräsentationen in Werken Sophie von La Roches“ referierte Gaby PAILER (Vancouver, Canada) neuere Thesen zum Zusammenhang von Stadtraum und Gender, um dann unter dieser Fragestellung einige Erzähltexte zu analysieren, so den *Sternheim*-Roman, die Erzählung *Der schwermüthige Jüngling* und Reiseberichte. Sie arbeitete heraus, dass Paris weiblich konnotiert sei, London dagegen geschlechtsneutral erscheine. In den Reiseberichten stehe Paris wegen des Gegensatzes Arm/Reich in der Kritik, während die Schulen und sozialen Einrichtungen Londons emphatisches Lob erhalten.

Ulrike BÖHMEL-FICHERA (Neapel) ging in ihrem Vortrag „‚Aber man spricht und schreibt immer noch von dem ersten verlohrnen Paradies: Sophie von La Roche und Italien“ zunächst auf die persönlichen Traumata ein, die La Roches Italiensehnsucht bestimmen. Dann widmete sie sich ihrer Beschreibung des zeitgenössischen Italien, insbesondere der realitätsfernen Überhöhung der Königin von Neapel sowie den Bemerkungen zur Naturwissenschaftlerin und mehrfachen Mutter Laura Bassi. Italien war für La Roche das Land, in das sie ihre eigenen Wünsche, ihre Hoffnungen und ihre eigene Lebensgeschichte projizieren konnte.

Linda Kraus WORLEY (Kentucky, U.S.A.) begann ihren Vortrag „Sophie von La Roches Reisetagebücher: Selbstkonstruktionen und biographisches Substrat“ mit einem Rekurs auf Judith Butlers Thesen zur Performanz. Das zentrale Thema des Vortrages war der Entwurf unterschiedlicher Ichs in Reiseberichten und Texten La Roches. Worley arbeitete zwei Facetten heraus: Zum einen die Inszenierung eines empfindsamen Ichs und ergänzend die begehrende, leidende, gelassene Reisende, zum anderen das erzählende Ich und das sich selbst erschreibende Ich. Die Pluralität der Rollen und ‚Ichs‘ ‚antizipiere‘ dabei eher moderne Theorien von Selbstkonstruktionen als sie dem aufklärerischen Ideal eines autonomen, einheitlichen ‚Ich‘ entspreche.

C. 2. Kulturvermittlung und Gattungsfelder (Reiseliteraturen, philanthropische Literatur)

Gudrun LOSTER-SCHNEIDER (Mannheim) setzte sich in ihrem Vortrag „‚O nein, nein, lieber sterben als erworbene Kenntnisse verlieren‘. Sophie von La Roche als Feld-Pionierin des ‚Amerika-Romans‘?“ mit dem spätem Roman *Erscheinungen am See Oneida* auseinander. Der Roman sei u.a. deshalb von Bedeutung, weil er die kulturvergleichenden und wissensvermittelnden Interessen La Roches in die außereuropäische Welt verlagere. Im Zentrum standen die texteigene Bibliothek und deren sinnkonstitutive Schlüsselfunktion. La Roche sei insofern eine Pionierin des Amerika-Romans, als sie als erste Frau den um 1800 schon stereotypisierten ‚Amerika-Roman‘ bearbeite und im Feld der Amerika-Romane gendersensibel mitschreibe.

Reiner WILD (Mannheim) widmete seinen Vortrag „'Die Vernunft der Mütter'? Sophie von La Roche im Feld philanthropischer Literatur des 18. Jahrhunderts“ den an Kinder und Jugendliche adressierten Texten La Roches, insbesondere den *Briefen an Lina*. Nach einer Einführung in die philanthropische Kinderliteratur der Aufklärung konzentrierte sich der Vortrag auf das genrespezifische Modell des ‚väterlichen‘ Gesprächs, um anschließend zu diskutieren, ob die Texte La Roches diesem Muster folgen. Wild kam zu dem Fazit, dass in La Roches *Briefen an Lina* eine bedeutsame Verschiebung stattfindet; die zentrale väterliche Position wird aufgespaltet und durch eine Bruderfigur und eine Mutterfigur besetzt. Damit wird zwar die mütterliche Position aufgewertet, allerdings bleibt die Machtposition letztlich beim Bruder und damit der männlich-patriarchale Vorrang unangetastet.

Der gemeinsame Vortrag von Nina BIRKNER (Marburg) und York-Gothard MIX (Marburg) „Dialogizität als mediale Innovation? Sophie von La Roches *Pomona für Teutschlands Töchter* im Kontext der aufklärerischen Zeitschriftenliteratur“ thematisierte zunächst die Tradition und Typologie des Dialogs. Birkner/Mix gingen weiter auf die Besonderheit und Innovation der *Pomona* ein, die im Angebot an ihre Leserinnen, Leserbriefe zu schreiben und diese zu veröffentlichen, einen entscheidenden Schritt aus der Fiktion in die Alltagswelt vollziehe. Abschließend wurde die phatische Struktur der *Pomona* und deren moralische Wertung behandelt.

In ihrem Vortrag „Hybridisierung in Sophie La Roches *Mein Schreibetisch* und *Melusinens Sommer-Abende*“ stellte Helga MEISE (Reims) zunächst dar, wie La Roche immer wieder auf ihre früheren Themen zurückgriff, sie aber zunehmend nach dem Strukturprinzip der ‚Sammlung‘ vertextete. ‚Sammlung‘ wird dabei gesehen als Ereignis und als kulturelle Praxis. Meise ging dann auf die identitätspolitische Erinnerungsfunktion lebensweltlichen Sammelns ein; die Sammlung diene der Herstellung von Bezügen und Zusammenhängen. Als Vertextungsprinzip hätten Sammlungen für La Roche indessen vornehmlich zwei Bedeutungen und Funktionen: die autobiographische Selbstdarstellung und die Legitimation als Autorin.

Eine Veröffentlichung der Beiträge in einem Tagungsband ist geplant.

FYI: This **Conference Report** was contributed by Julie Klassen, Carleton College

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

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### **WiG Prize for Best Article**

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- For 2008, the article must be published in a journal issue or collection with a 2007 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  
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Center for German and European Studies  
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In 2004, WiG decided to establish a new research award and to rename the original Memorial Fund. It is now The Memorial Fund for Research Awards, to be used to fund the WiG dissertation prize as well as a new award for the best article by a WiG member. The Zantop Travel Fund will continue to fund graduate student research travel.

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C. annual salary \$35,001 -- 45,000 \$50 for one year \$95 for two years
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E. annual salary \$60,001 -\$ 85,000 \$90 for one year \$175 for two years
F. annual salary \$85,001 and above \$100 for one year \$185 for two years
supporting departments and libraries
R retired \$40 for one year \$60 for two years

Circle One: New Renewing

To add a donation to one of the Memorial Funds, please add \$5 or more to your membership contribution.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include Membership fee from above table, Contribution to the Zantop Travel Fund, Contribution to the Memorial Fund for Research Awards, and Total payment enclosed.

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