

16th Annual Graduate
Student Symposium

**Beauty and the Beast:
Aesthetics, Landscapes
and Cultural Upheaval**

2007 Committee Members

Lisa Haegele
Katie McNeill
Necia Chronister
Mary Le Gierse
Bartell Berg
Anne Fritz
Patrick Brugh

Special Thanks to:

Kathryn Schallert
Jennifer Jodell

Washington University in St. Louis
Department of Germanic
Languages and Literatures

February 24, 2007
9:00 A.M.
Alumni House

9:00 Breakfast

9:20 Opening Remarks

Necia Chronister
Professor Stephan Schindler

9:30 First Panel Crisis and Cultural Upheaval

Moderator: Suzuki Knott

Russell Alt

Piercing Notung: An Analysis of Nibelung Imagery and Cultural Criticism In
Selected Works of Anselm Kiefer

Patrick Brugh

"Ein blutiges Loch": Masculinity and the Pacifist Message in Bertha von
Suttner's *Die Waffen Nieder!*
Suttner's novel makes use of the most common product of war, dead male
bodies, to undo traditional masculine structures of heroism.

Erik Varela

A Crisis of Authority: The Failure of Law in Anette von Drose-Hülshoff's *Die
Judenbuche*
Throughout the novella, Droste-Hülshoff presents a vision of community that is
struggling to function in a modern world where the old feudal power structure
no longer exists. In the effort to govern itself the community fails: strife tears
social relationships apart and murder is committed.

10:15 Questions

10:30 Break

10:45 Second Panel Beauty, Body and Existence

Moderator: Leah Chizek

Christoph Kaspar

The Resignation of the Beautiful in *American Beauty* (Sam Mendez)
Christoph's paper consists in the application of the aesthetic models of Kant
and Burke to contemporary norms of life and lifestyle, like Nicolas Bourriaud
features in his work *Relational Aesthetics*. Lester Burnham of *American Beauty*
serves as a prime example.

Magdalen Stanley

Kriemhild's Cyclical Kampf Relationships of Body, Object and Death in the
Nibelungenlied
In this paper Magdalen documents the trajectory of Kriemhild's body and its
role in the *Nibelungenlied* as *Heldenepos*, from the epic's opening when she is
described in terms of the physical beauty of her body, to its unceremonious
end, when she lays in pieces—barely even a corpse.

Caroline Saxton

From Stallion, to Bay, to Mule: Courasche and her Horses
Among her string of lovers and husbands, Grimmelhäuser's Courasche
fosters another type of relationship throughout the Thirty Years War: that to
her horses. Providing her with confidence, wealth, and physical equality,
horses are used in the text as a construction of Courasche's power and
sexuality.

11:15 Questions

11:45 Lunch

1:00 Third Panel Orienting and Disorienting Landscapes

Moderator: Bartell Berg

Christine McCrory

Walking and the Attentive Gaze: The Visual Experience of Travel in the
Works of W.G. Sebald

A close examination of those places in Sebald's work that emphasize the
angle from which landscape, memory and history can be viewed reveals
that those visions encountered while walking are morally privileged over
the views seen while flying or floating over the world. At the same time,
though, a gaze too focused on detail loses sight of the overview, and
therefore is in constant danger of disorientation, leading characters to
encounter extreme difficulties in walking toward any goal.

Faruk Pasic

Das System von ökologischen Beziehungsnetzen in Goethes
"Lenardos Tagebuch"
Mit dieser Arbeit versucht Faruk, die Prinzipien des Eco-Criticism
anzuwenden, um zu zeigen, dass mit der zunehmenden Zivilisation auch
das Ausmaß des menschlichen Einflusses auf die Natur zunimmt.
Letztendlich droht das *Maschinenwesen*, die Ordnung und die
Gleichgewicht, die in dem System bestehen, durcheinander zu bringen und
umzukehren.

Nico Daniel Schlösser

Angst, Unterdrückung, Zerstörung: Die Dialektik der Aufklärung in
Johann Wolfgang Goethes "Lenardos Tagebuch" und Wilhelm Raabes
Pfisters Mühle

Max Horkheimers und Theodor W. Adornos Schrift *Dialektik der Aufklärung*
(1947) stellt die These auf, dass das Projekt der Aufklärung aufgrund einer
Instrumentalisierung der Vernunft zu einer neuen Form der
Unterdrückung—diesmal als Herrschaft des Menschen über den
Menschen—und damit zu seiner Selbsterstörung führe. Goethes
'Lenardos Tagebuch' und Raabes *Pfisters Mühle* können als fiktionale
Exemplifizierungen dieses Prozesses gelesen werden.