

18th Annual Graduate
Student Symposium

**Representing Crisis:
Narrative,
Aesthetics, and
Space**

2009 Committee Members

Jocelyn Smith
Corey Twitchell
Patrick Brugh
Lisa Haegele
Melissa Olson
Erik Varela
Sarah Hillenbrand
Maggie Stanley
Brandi Besalke
Shane Petersen
Anna Leeper

Special Thanks to:

Jennifer Jodell
Kathryn Schallert
Empress Sanders

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

February 28, 2009
9:00 A.M.
Alumni House

9:00 Breakfast

9:20 Opening Remarks

Jocelyn Smith
Professor Stephan Schindler

9:30 First Panel Narrating (Imperial) Spaces

Moderator: Erik Varela

Susanne Fejer

Nun, lieber F., noch immer bei Wege?: Die Sammlung der Gedichte Theodor Fontanes. Lyrik, Alltag und das Dichterdasein. Theodor Fontanes Spätlyrik ist lange Zeit von der Forschung nur stiefmütterlich behandelt worden, doch „die Lyrik aus dem Schatten des Romans“ zu holen, soll die Aufgabe dieses Vortrags sein.

Brandi Besalke

Neither Prostitutes nor *Blaustrümpfe*: The Role of Women in Theodor Hertzka's *Freiland* have far more social, political, and economic freedom than their contemporaries in Imperial Germany.

Jonathan Voges

Kein Ort der Ruhe--Friedhöfe in Theodor Fontanes *Unterm Birnbaum* und Wilhelm Raabes *Unruhige Gäste* Friedhofsbeschreibungen--als Literarisierungen sozial produzierter und politisch bedeutsamer Orte--werden sowohl von Theodor Fontane als auch von Wilhelm Raabe dazu genutzt, ihre Fundamentalkritik an der Kultur des imperialistischen Deutschlands des späten 19. Jahrhunderts zu formulieren.

10:30 Questions

10:45 Coffee Break

11:00 Second Panel Shifting the Narrative Realm

Moderator: Anna Leeper

Patrick Brugh

Ich bin ein Geist, und ein fliegender Geist: Transgression and Flight in the Spiess *Faustbuch*
This paper explores representations of flying in the *Faustbuch*, maintaining that flying may be understood as a metaphor for the pursuit of improper, though not necessarily sexual, desires.

Corey Twitchell

The *Wunschhütte* as Narrative Device in *Fortunatus*: Fantastical Voyages and the Collapsing of Time and Space
As a narrative device, the *Hütte* in *Fortunatus* plays a complex, yet ultimately ambivalent, role within the space of the text. A close reading focusing on the magic hat reveals how it alludes to the text's entertainment value, while simultaneously interrupting and subverting the reader's pleasure.

11:45 Questions

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Third Panel Questioning Aesthetic Authenticity

Moderator: Anne Fritz

Sarah Hillenbrand

Walter Benjamin's Surrealism and Bob Dylan's *Tarantula*: Illuminating the Profanity of America and War
In spite of the popularity of much of Bob Dylan's music, his novel *Tarantula* was panned by critics and avoided by general audiences as indecipherable; an examination of Benjamin's theories of surrealism with special attention to the concept of profane illumination, however, provides an avenue into understanding the text and its poetic and political goals.

Lukas Hoffmann

Performativity and Narration: Defining Postmodern Autobiography
Autobiography is not retrospective but performative; therefore, investigations of so-called truth-claims are of no importance, while a closer look at the narrator and the prerequisites for his narration allows for a new understanding of the genre.

Melissa Olson

Jugendstil and Phantasmagoria: "the last attempted sortie of an art besieged in its ivory tower"
Jugendstil art and architecture are explored as manifestations of the modernist tension between art-making and mass production that Walter Benjamin examines in "The Work of Art in the Age of its Mechanical Reproducibility" and *The Arcades Project*.

2:00 Questions

2:15 Closing Remarks

Corey Twitchell