

20th Annual Graduate Student Symposium

Transgressing Communities

Washington University in St. Louis

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

March 5th, 2011

Hurst Lounge, Duncker Hall

8:00 a.m. **Breakfast (German Department Lounge)**

Travel to Hurst Lounge

9:00 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
Faruk Pasic
Professor Stephan Schindler

1st Panel: Violent Values

Moderator: Nancy Twilley

9:15 a.m. Ervin Malakaj
Social Critique in Annette von Droste-Hülshoff's *Die Judenbuche*
This paper is a close investigation of several scenes from Annette von Droste-Hülshoff's *Die Judenbuche*, in which legal orders and codes of Village B. are discussed and which shows that the author is more critical than content with the state of society in post-Napoleonic times.

9:35 a.m. Angineh Djavadghazaryans
"All Rise! The Honorable Judge H. v. Kleist Presiding. This Court is now in Session.": Case #1808: *Die Marquise von O...*
This paper claims that the famous ambiguous scene in Kleist's work can in fact be interpreted as rape when leaning on the laws of the time. It proceeds to answer the subsequent question of how rape could be followed by a happy ending and argues that the case leads to justice for the parties involved.

9:55 a.m. Mareike Timm
Verführung und Wiederherstellung der Ehre in Fontanes *Effi Briest* – Formen der Gewalt in einer männlich dominierten Gesellschaft
In Theodor Fontanes *Effi Briest* (1895) üben beide männlichen Hauptfiguren jeweils eine Form der strukturellen Gewalt aus: Crampas nutzt die geschwächte, gesellschaftliche Position Effis zur Verführung und der betrogene Instetten trifft daraufhin die Entscheidung, seinen Rivalen zu einem Duell herauszufordern.

10:15 a.m. **Q&A**

10:45 a.m. Coffee Break (Hurst Lounge)

2nd Panel: Destructive Dualities

Moderator: Norma Chapple

- 11:15 a.m. Brooke Shafar
Flashback as (Potentially Subversive) Collective Remembrance: The Case of *Das zweite Gleis*
This paper examines the flashback sequence in Joachim Kunert's film *Das zweite Gleis* – a critical point in the film's narrative. The camera work in this sequence insinuates that we are seeing through more perspectives than just the storyteller's eyes, which has an effect on what kind of memory is being constructed.
- 11:35 a.m. Darina Stamova
***Michael Kohlhaas* and the Trap of the Binary**
This paper investigates Michael Kohlhaas's entrapment in the binary justice-injustice and Heinrich von Kleist's contributions to postmodern debates of reason, responsibility and their relationship with history.
- 11:55 a.m. Florian Breitkopf
"Technosymbolismus" als naturalistisches Destruktionsmotiv
This paper introduces the neologism "Technosymbolismus" through examining the presence of technology in Gerhart Hauptmann's *Bahnwärter Thiel*. Elucidating the influence of machines on the daily life of Thiel, the paper shows the transformation process both individuals and machines undergo and argues for an understanding of technology as a naturalistic motif of destruction.
- 12:15 p.m. Q&A
- 12:45 p.m. Closing Remarks
Ervin Malakaj
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch (German Department Lounge)

2011 Committee Members

Patrick Brugh
Benjamin Davis
Angineh Djavadghazaryans
Tim Fangmeyer
Sarah Hillenbrand
Kasey Hutson
Erika Kontulainen
Ervin Malakaj
Faruk Pasic
Darina Stamova
Magdalen Stanley Majors
Petra Watzke

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Jennifer Jodell