Transatlantic German Studies: Personal Experiences

A Symposium Organized at Washington University in St. Louis

Sept. 14-16, 2017

By the German Department, Washington University Libraries, The Max Kade Center for Contemporary German Literature, and the American Friends of Marbach (AFM)

In Memory of Egon Schwarz

Supported by the Max Kade Foundation and the German Academic Exchange Service

Coordinator: Paul Michael Lützeler, Washington University

Registration for the Symposium

The Symposium is free and open to the public. Those who would like to attend: Send an email message to: jahrbuch@wustl.edu.

Registration for the hotel:

We have made reservations for the speakers and moderators listed in the program. They will stay in the Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel. Address: 7730 Bonhomme Ave., St. Louis, MO 63105. Telephone: (314) 863-0400. Fax: (314) 863-8513. Other guests who would like to attend the symposium: Please make your own hotel arrangements. Besides the Sheraton Clayton Plaza there is also the Ritz Carlton in Clayton and the Moonrise Hotel at the border between University City and the City of St. Louis as well as the Chase Park Plaza Hotel in the Central West End of the City of St. Louis. Those guests who are coming by car to the Danforth Campus of Washington University will need special parking permits. For parking permits, contact Sweta Khanal in the German Department: khanals@wustl.edu.

Travel grants for PhD candidates to attend the AFM Symposium in St. Louis

Five AFM travel grants ($500 each) to cover part of the expenses for hotel and transportation will be granted to PhD candidates in German Studies at U.S. universities to attend the 2017 AFM symposium. Applicants should email a short description of their interest in the symposium with a note of recommendation from their dissertation advisor by April 30, 2017, to: Prof. Paul Michael Lützeler at Washington University in St. Louis: jahrbuch@wustl.edu.
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1. Fourteen leading scholars in the field of American Germanistik/German Studies are going to deliver lectures. They will report on their personal experiences in the profession: about how they got involved in the field of Germanistik, how they reacted to the given status of the field at the time, about what they believed was particularly important in respect to new directions, and how they were able to contribute over the decades to approaches and goals in the profession on both sides of the Atlantic regarding the role of literature, interdisciplinary endeavors, pluralism, and diversity. Of particular interest are the transatlantic dialogues.

2. The symposium is meant to profile individual contributions to the profession. It will complement the historical surveys about the trends and turns in Germanistik/German Studies. It focuses on individual experiences, less on general structures although interferences of personal goals and overarching paradigm shifts will play an important role in the recollections. The lectures will bring a pluralistic history from the inside, from the subjective point of view of colleagues who have had an impact on forming our field of studies in America. Half of the scholars invited were born as U.S. citizens, half of them immigrated from other countries or continents.

3. German Studies are an integral part of the Humanities. Implicitly and explicitly the role of the Humanities with its changes and challenges as well as with the defensive position they are in right now are on the mind of all contributors. When they started studying or teaching German literature and culture in the United States, their professors or senior colleagues often were Jewish scholars who had fled Germany in the 1930s and 1940s. The exiled scholars were aware of the value-oriented teaching and research in the Humanities. In order to signal the connection to that earlier generation we are arranging the symposium in memory of Egon Schwarz.

Friday, September 15, 2017
8:30-9:00 a.m.: Coffee/cookies available in the DUC Goldberg Lounge (adjacent to DUC 276)
9:00-9:15 a.m.: Official Welcome
- William F. Tate, Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Washington University
- Denise Stephens, Vice Provost and University Librarian, Washington University
- Matt Erlin, Chair of the German Department, Washington University

Session 1
Chaired by Laurie Johnson, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
9:15-10:00 a.m.: Russell A. Berman, Stanford University: “Transatlantic Space and My History of Globalization”
10:00-10:45 a.m.: Leslie A. Adelson, Cornell University: “From Erfahrungshunger to ‘Realitätsfutter’: Futurity, Difference, and Migrant’
10:45-11:15 a.m.: Coffee Break in DUC Goldberg Formal Lounge
11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Lynne Tatlock, Washington University: “Passing, Of Foreignness and ‘Contact Zones’, Continuity and Change”
12:00-1:15 p.m.: Lunch in DUC Goldberg Formal Lounge

Session 2
Chaired by Peter Höyng, Emory University
1:15-2:00 p.m.: Mark W. Roche, University of Notre Dame: “Being at Home in the Other: Thoughts and Tales from a Typically Atypical Germanist”
2:00-2:45 p.m.: Robert C. Holub, Ohio State University: “German Studies as Vocation: My Path into it, out of it, and Back into it”
2:45-3:00 p.m.: Coffee Break in DUC Goldberg Formal Lounge
3:00-3:45 p.m.: Exhibit in Olin Library, Special Collections Classroom: “Max Kade Center and Olin Library’s Distinctive Contemporary German Literature Collection,” organized by Brian Vetruba, Germanic Languages and Literatures, Comparative Literature, and European Studies Librarian, and Erin Sutherland, Curator of Exhibits

Session 3
Chaired by Brad Prager, University of Missouri, Columbia
4:00-4:45 p.m.: Jane K. Brown, University of Washington: “Deplacierten Personen: Why would an American become a Germanist?”
4:45-5:30 p.m.: Leroy T. Hopkins, Millersville University: “From the 2nd Ward to Marburg and Harvard: My Way to Germanistik”
6:00-9:00 p.m.: For the speakers, moderators and invited guests: Cocktail Reception and Dinner in The Whitmore House, Faculty Club
Banquet Speaker: Wilhelm Krull, Head of the Volkswagen Foundation: “The Usefulness of Useless Studies”

Saturday, September 16, 2017
8:45-9:15 a.m.: Coffee/cookies available in the DUC Goldberg Lounge (adjacent to DUC 276)