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## Contributors

Richard Ascárate received his B.A. in physics from Princeton University, and his M.A. in German from California State (Long Beach) with a thesis entitled "Goethe's Translation of and Anmerkungen to Diderot's 'Le neveu de Rameau'." Before returning to graduate studies, he founded a dance company in Germany and worked as an engineer. He is currently in his third year at the University of California, Berkeley, working on his dissertation: "The Representation of Latin America(ns) in German Literature and Film from 1557 to the Present."

Christian Buss is a third-year German Studies doctoral student with an M.A. in German from the University of California, Berkeley. While an undergraduate at Reed College, Christian completed his B.A. in German Studies and Economics, completing two theses: one on the conflicts of gender construction in Expressionist drama and a second in enrollment demand at American liberal-arts colleges. Most recently, he has been working on questions of new media approaches to history, Weimar Republic strategies of surveillance, and representations of German reunification.

Ulrich Martin Eschborn is in his eight semester of English and German Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz. During the 2001-2 academic year, he studied at the University of California, Davis on a DAAD fellowship. His main interests are the 20th century German and American novel.

After studying Economics and German in Paris, Berlin, Toronto and Berkeley, Patrick Farges is now a Teaching Fellow and a Ph.D. candidate in German Studies at University of Paris 8. His project, entitled "The Cultural Hyphen: Acculturation and Identity of German-speaking refugees in Canada after 1933," is supervised by Prof. Michael Werner (EHESS-Paris).

Ben Hutchinson has just completed his doctorate on Rilke at The Queen's College, Oxford University. As well as the 20th lyric, his interests include narrative style and comparative poetics. He would

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Sonja E. Klocke received her M.A. in American Studies from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz in 1994, her 'Staatsexamen' for teaching high school from the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University of Frankfurt in 1997, and her M. A. in German Studies from the University of Arizona in 2003. Currently, she is a Max Kade fellow and Ph.D. candidate in Germanic Cultural Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. Her research interests include the Romantic Period and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature and Culture, specifically post-colonial literature and GDR literature.

Birte Schulz is a postgraduate student at the University of Limerick, Ireland. She recently completed an M.A. on Ted Hughes's 'Birthday Letters' and will soon begin a dissertation with the title "Overcoming Boundaries? - The Problem of Identity in the Experience of German-Speaking Exiles in Ireland 1933-1945." Her research interests include love poetry, disability studies and the question of identity.

Laura Tráser-Vas received her B.A. in German and History from the University of Szeged, Hungary. In 2001 she completed her M.A. in German Literature from the University of Cincinnati. She has continued on there as a Ph.D. candidate, specializing in city literature, spatial studies and the interplay between literature and fine arts. Her dissertation investigates the literary and artistic representations of Berlin in the early nineteenth century, and her other research interests encompass European Studies and German-Hungarian authors.

David Wachter studied Comparative Literature, Philosophy and Sociology at the University of Bonn and the Freie Universität Berlin, where he is currently working toward his 'Magister.' In 2002 he received his M.A. in German literature from the University of Cincinnati with a thesis entitled "Thinking at a Threshold. Nietzsche and Benjamin on Experience and Art in Modernity." His research interests include literature and philosophy, French novel, early 20th century German novel, and literary theory. He served as co-editor

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of the student journal animal triste in Bonn, and has been published in that journal as well as the *Philosophische Rundschau*.

Andreas Widmann is the current recipient of a Johannes Gutenberg University scholarship and studies German Literature, English Literature and Theatre Studies at the university of the same name in Mainz. His M.A. thesis focused on "Medienkritik in Romanen Martin Walsers." His areas of interest include post-war and contemporary German literature, German-American literary relations, and modernism.

Katherine Wilford holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Philosophy from Cambridge University. Her thesis considered both critical appreciation and performance of the different versions of Frank Wedekind's 'Lulu' plays. She is also the translator of Johannes Albrecht Schröter, Bilder zur Geschichte der Katholisch-apostolischen Gemeinden/Images of the History of the Catholic Apostolic Church (Jena: Glaux, 2001).

Lanlan Xu obtained her B.A. in Germanic Studies at Beijing University, China in 1999. Since then, she has been studying German at Georgetown University. She is currently writing her dissertation on femininity projected in German drama around 1800. Her research interests include 18th and 19th century German literature, literary theories, feminist criticism and gender studies, as well as contemporary writing on modern exile and migration.

# Announcements

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October 29-30, 2004. University of Cincinnati. For more information, contact the 2004 conference coordinator Julia Baker at focusonlit@fastmail.fm or at Focus on German Studies, P.O. Box 210372, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45221-0372, USA. Phone (513) 556-2755, Fax (513) 556-1991. Please also consult our website, <a href="http://www.artsci.uc.edu/german/newsEvents/focus/index.html">http://www.artsci.uc.edu/german/newsEvents/focus/index.html</a> The conference is free and open to the public.

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