

*f*OCUS
ON GERMAN STUDIES

CONTRIBUTORS



JAMESON KISMET BELL studied philosophy, German and literature at Bethel College. He completed a Master's Degree in German Studies at the Pennsylvania State University with the thesis "Literary Criticism and Peter Handke: an Ethic of Textual Experience." He then taught special education English in high school and hospital settings. Thereafter, Jameson returned to the Penn State German Department with a new focus, namely, to explore the production of the brain as a cultural object. A recent Fulbright Fellow under Michael Hagner at the ETH-Zürich, Jameson is currently writing his dissertation, which looks at emblematic presentations of the brain in sixteenth Century Strasbourg.

GAVIN HICKS is currently a Ph.D. candidate in German Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. His research focus is German football (soccer) in documentary, narrative and short film and its relationship to postwar nationalism (west and east), provincialism, cosmopolitanism, multiculturalism and feminism. He recently published an article about the German feature film *Fremder Freund* (2003) in *From Solidarity to Schisms: 9/11 and After in Fiction and Film from Outside the US* (2009).

KATRIN MASCHA completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Augsburg, Germany, with a double major in *Germanistik* and *Historische Wissenschaften*. She received her MA in German Studies in 2009 at the University of Pittsburgh, where she is currently a Ph.D. candidate. Her academic field of interest is memory and trauma within the German context of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. She focuses on the German memory culture as reflected in literature, film, journalism and memorials / monuments. In particular, she is interested in contemporary attempts to commemorate the former GDR in reunified Germany and compares and contrasts this process with the decades-long development of memorializing the National Socialism and the Holocaust.

IMMANUEL NOVER is a doctoral candidate in German Philology at the University of Bonn, Germany, and Florence, Italy. He is currently finishing his dissertation "Ich bin an diesem Ort. Verloren.' – Sprache und Gewalt bei Bret Easton Ellis and Christian Kracht." He has published articles on Bret Easton Ellis ("Nicht-Orte' – die Struktur des Raumes bei Bret Easton Ellis als Spiegelung der Kommunikation"), Christian Kracht

(“Das leere Zentrum. Christian Krachts ‘Literatur des Verschwindens’) and on the film *Hostel* (“Das zweifache amerikanische Trauma. Der amerikanische Film *Hostel* als Wiederkehr des Verdrängten und als Spiegel des Selbst”). He is currently working as a *wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter* at the University of Bonn and as a managing director of the Graduate School / Practices of Literature at the University of Münster.

KATRIN POLAK-SPRINGER completed her B.A. and M.A. in cultural studies at the Europa Universität Viadrina in Frankfurt an der Oder in 2005. Currently she is working on her dissertation about the current wave of Berliner Schule films as a Ph.D. student at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Her academic interests include German film, twentieth century and contemporary German literature, as well as cultural studies approaches to issues like postcolonialism, gender, realism, spatial and chaos theories. She has presented conference papers on films such as Andreas Dresen’s *Halbe Treppe*, Hans-Christian Schmid’s *Lichter*, Sören Voigt’s *Identity Kills*, but also on 19th century German Realism with Theodor Storm’s *Der Doppelgänger*. So far she has published book reviews on Martin Walser, Reinhard Jirgl and Juri Andruchowytch.

CONSTANTIN SONKWÉ TAYIM studied German Studies, Pedagogy and Didactic at the University of Yaoundé I (Republic of Cameroon) and Leipzig. In Yaoundé he earned his M.A. in German Studies in 2004 and a Secondary and High School Teacher’s Diploma in 2005. He has been a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Munich in the Program “Promotionsstudiengang Literaturwissenschaft” (ProLit) since April 2009. His research interests include cultural studies, twentieth-century German literature and German-Jewish literature specifically from the emancipation period. He is currently preparing his dissertation on the exposure to identity in German-Jewish autobiographies from the emancipation period. Some of the authors central to the study are Fanny Lewald, Aaron Hirsch Heymann, Samuel Bloch, Heinrich Enoch Kisch and Sigmund Mayer. He has published an article on Heinrich Heine’s *Almansor* in the Heine-Yearbook 2008 and proposed another paper on Heine’s “Der Rabbi von Bacherach” for the 4th Edition of the “Aussiger Beiträge” (due out Sept. 2010).



FOCUS
ON GERMAN STUDIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CALL FOR BOOK REVIEWERS

The purpose of our book review section is to introduce our readership to primary and secondary works published within the last two years. Our aim is to discuss the work thematically and stylistically and, when possible, to contextualize the work within the author's oeuvre or its respective genre. We have the cooperation of major Austrian, German and Swiss publishers and can provide review copies. Please see our website for current list of books available for review.

<http://www.artsci.uc.edu/collegedepts/german/focus/reviewers.aspx>

If you are interested in reviewing books for *Focus on German Studies*, please send us the following information: (1) name and address, (2) institution, (3) area of interest, (4) topic of MA thesis or dissertation, and (5) your projected date of degree completion. *Focus* also accepts recommendations for books to review.

SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED

Submit an example of your best academic work to *Focus on German Studies!* *Focus on German Studies*, a journal produced by the German Graduate Student Governance Association (GGSGA) at the University of Cincinnati, is an important voice of the next generation of scholars in German Studies. Submissions demonstrating original scholarship in any area of German-language literature or German Studies will be considered for publication. We also publish interviews with German-speaking writers.

Please submit papers to the email below as a Microsoft Word attachment or on disk to the address below in Microsoft Word format. Manuscripts should be ca. 15-20 pages in length, double-spaced. They must follow the MLA style guidelines. The manuscript should be prepared so that it can be read anonymously.

The deadline for submissions to be considered for the 2011 volume of *Focus on German Studies* is January 1, 2011. After that date, *Focus on*

German Studies will accept submissions for its 2012 volume. Inquiries and submissions should be made to the address below:

Focus on German Studies
 Attn: Joshua Arnold
 Department of German Studies
 University of Cincinnati
 PO Box 210372
 Cincinnati, OH 45221-0372
 USA
 Phone: (513) 556-2754
 Fax: (513) 556-1991
 fogs.editor@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

One volume per year

Check appropriate option(s):

- \$ 20 Student Membership
 \$ 22 Faculty Membership
 \$ 28 Institution
 \$ 5 Additional postage for subscriptions outside North America
 Back issue: Send Vol. _____ Issue _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

All orders should be made payable in USD to:

Focus on German Studies
 Department of German Studies
 University of Cincinnati
 Box 210372
 Cincinnati, OH 45221-0372
 USA
 Phone: (513) 556-2752
 Fax: (513) 556-1991



OCUS
ON GERMAN STUDIES

FOCUS ON GERMAN STUDIES 2010 CONFERENCE

CALL FOR PAPERS

The German Graduate Student Governance Association of the University of Cincinnati and the editors of the graduate student journal *Focus on German Studies* present the Fifteenth Annual Focus Graduate Student Conference held on October 15 - October 16, 2010 at the University of Cincinnati Sponsored by the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center and the Graduate Student Government Association of the University of Cincinnati.

(Not) Talking About My Generation: Conflict, Competition, and Criticism Within and Between Generations in German Literature and Film.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Monika Shafi (University of Delaware)

“*Als höre Kindheit nie auf*: Generational Bonds in Günter Grass's Autobiographical Work“

Even in classical literature, conflict between different familial generations has provided a complex yet familiar narrative focus. In the field of German Studies, the term *Väterliteratur* has been widely used to describe a collection of works produced by West German authors in the 1970s and 80s which concerned the generational tension between children of the first post-war generation and their parents. More recently, critics have been examining texts dealing with the third post-war generation and what has come to be called *Enkelliteratur*. In addition, there has been much critical attention paid to the concept of 'postmemory' and the role played by a lack of experiential connection to the horrors of WWII in connection with the ever-evolving notion of *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* within the family unit.

This conference provides an opportunity for graduate students from across the wide field of German Studies to add their unique voices to the academic conversation about generational interaction.

Possible paper topics include, but are not limited to:

- Traditional *Väterliteratur* of the 1970s and 80s
- Family histories or *Generationsromane*
- Postmemory
- Gender roles in generational conflicts
- The role of the 68er Generation
- The *Enkelgeneration* and post-*Wende* generational conflict
- Pre- and Inter-war generational struggle
- Intergenerational memory competition
- Mediation and memory discrepancy

Revised conference papers can also be submitted for publication in our Focus on German Studies journal. Please send an abstract of 250-300 words in either English or German as a MS Word attachment by August 15, 2010 to Joshua Arnold and Wesley Jackson at fogs.editor@gmail.com (ATTN: Focus on GS Conference). On a separate cover sheet, please list the proposed paper title, author's name, university affiliation and email address.

Conference participants have the option of housing with UC graduate students.



