

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### Education:

Columbia University	1989-96	Ph.D. German Literature
Cornell University	1988-89	German Literature
FU Berlin	1984-88	M.A. German Lit, Philosophy

### Academic Positions:

University of Michigan	2008-	Associate Professor
University of Minnesota	2005-2008	Associate Professor
University of Minnesota	2003-2005	Assistant Professor
University of Chicago	1996-2003	Assistant Professor

### Academic Awards:

Michigan Humanities Award	Winter 2012
Single Semester Leave, University of Minnesota	Spring 2007
McKnight Summer Fellowship, University of Minnesota	2004
Research Fellowship, Getty Institute, Los Angeles	1997-1998
Humanities Fellowship, University of Chicago	1997-1998 (returned)
Whiting Fellowship, Columbia University	1992-1993
University Fellowship, Columbia University	1989-1990
Exchange Fellowship, Cornell University	1988-1989
Fulbright Travel Fellowship	1988

### PUBLICATIONS:

#### Book:

Passions of the Sign: Revolution and Language in Kant, Goethe, and Kleist (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006).

- Reviewed in: MLN, Choice, Seminar, German Quarterly, German Studies Review, Monatshefte, AUMLA [Journal of Australasian Universities Modern Language Association]; Arbitrium [Germany]; Goethe Yearbook

### **Journal articles and chapters in books:**

“How Literature Thinks: Robert Musil and the Writing of Modernity.” Germanic Review 88.1 (2013): 1-5.

“Forms of Life: Nature, Culture and Art in Goethe’s Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship.” Germanic Review 87.2 (2012): 138-75.

“Breaking Skulls; Kleist, Hegel and the Force of Assertion.” In Heinrich von Kleist and Modernity, ed. Bernd Fischer, Tim Mehigan (Rochester, New York: Camden House, 2011), 243-57.

“Ein Theater des Infinitesimalen: Musil und die Grenzen der Genauigkeit.” In Dilettantismus als Wissenschaft, ed. Safia Azzouni and Uwe Wirth (Berlin: Kulturverlag Kadmos, 2010), 65-83.

“Language Unmoored: On Kleist’s ‘The Betrothal in St. Domingo.’” Germanic Review 85.1 (2010): 20-43.

- Reprinted in: Rebellion and Revolution, ed. Melissa Etzler and Priscilla Layne (Newcastle, UK: Cambridge University Scholars, 2011), 89-120.

“Introduction.” Germanic Review 85.1. (2010): 1-2.

“Fall und Form: Die deutsche Novelle im 19. Jahrhundert.” In Form. Verhandlungen eines ästhetischen Grundbegriffs in Wahrnehmungslehre und Kunsttheorie, ed. Armen Avanesian, Franck Hofmann, Susanne Leeb, Hans Stauffacher (Berlin: Diaphanes Verlag, 2009), 43-65. [Revised German translation of “La forma e il caso,” listed below]

“Response” to Eric Denton: “Children on Stage” Monatshefte, 98.3 (Fall 2006): 365-9.

“Form and Chance: The German Novella.” In The Novel, ed. Franco Moretti (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006), 1053-1123. [Revised English translation of “La Forma e il Caso,” listed below]

“Anton Reiser, Case History, and the Emergence of Empirical Psychology.” In New History of German Literature, ed. David Wellbery (Harvard: Harvard University Press, 2004), 409-414.

“Energetic Signs: Autonomy and Innovation in the Age of Revolution.” Problemi, no. 3/4 (2004): 109-147. [In Slovenian]

“Poetics of Containment: Goethe’s Conversations of German Refugees and the Crisis of Representation.” Modern Philology 100 (2003): 436-474.

“Über die plötzliche Verwandlung der Geschichte durchs Sprechen: Kleist und das Ereignis der Rede.” Kleist-Jahrbuch (2002): 154-164.

“La forma e il caso: La novella tedesca dell’ Ottocento,” In Il Romanzo, ed. Franco Moretti (Torino: Einaudi, 2002), 505-536.

- Korean translation: Seoul: New Wave, 2005.
- Turkish translation: Istanbul: Everest, 2005.
- English translation: Princeton: Princeton UP, 2006 [see above].
- German translation: Berlin: Diaphanes, 2009 [see above].

“Lessons of the Cryptograph: Revelation and the Mechanical in Kafka’s ‘In the Penal Colony.’” Modernism/Modernity 8, no. 2 (2001): 295-303.

- Reprinted in: Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism, 126 (2003): 334-39.

“A Case of Individuality: K. Ph. Moritz and the Magazine for Empirical Psychology.” New German Critique 79 (2000): 67-105.

“Of Beautiful and Dismembered Bodies: Art as Social Discipline in Schiller’s Letters on the Aesthetic Education of Man.” In Impure Reason, ed. W. Daniel Wilson and Robert C. Holub (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1993), 146-165.

### **Editor:**

Germanic Review 85.1 (2010), special issue on Heinrich von Kleist

Germanic Review 88.1 (2013), special issue on Robert Musil

### **Book in Progress:**

#### Forms of Life

Beginning with an analysis of the co-emergence, towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, of the disciplines of biology and aesthetics, the book explores in detail a particular German obsession with organicist and vitalist figures of thought. The goal of the book is to complicate the dominant negative depiction of this tradition, which is often construed as intrinsically racist and (proto)fascist, and to argue for its critical potential.

### **Articles in Progress:**

“The Life of Cognition and the Cognition of Life: Kant’s *Critique of Judgment*.”

“Satanic Verse: Robert Musil and the Mystical Language of Incest.”

### **Reviews:**

Christoph Menke: Die Gegenwart der Tragödie. Versuch über Urteil und Spiel. Zeitschrift für deutsche Philologie 125 (Winter 2006): 609-13.

Franco Moretti: Modern Epic. The World System from Goethe to Garcia Marquez. Modernism/Modernity 4, no.3 (1997): 175-77.

"Internationales Heine-Symposium: Ein Bericht," Monatshefte 81 (1989): 226-230

## **LECTURES:**

### **Invited Lectures and Scholarly Conference :**

“Gehirne: Schreiben und Wissen in Gottfried Benns früher Prosa.” Conference on Transplantation/Transkulturation, Justus Liebig Universität Gießen, August 2014

“The Infinite Specificity of Life: On Robert Musil’s Man without Qualities.” University of Berkeley, October 2013

“Breaking Skulls: Kleist, Hegel and the Force of Assertion.” Conference on Kleist: Ancient/Modern, University of Michigan, October 2011

“Common Relations: Wittgenstein on Ordinary Language and Wonder,” GSA, Louisville, September 2011

“Breaking Skulls: Kleist, Hegel and the Force of Assertion.” University of Otago, New Zealand, October 2010

“Imaging Man: Kant’s Anthropological Turn,” GSA, Washington D.C., 2009.

“Family Resemblance: Nature and Culture in Goethe’s Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship,” University of Toronto, April 2009.

“Breaking Skulls: Kleist, Hegel and the Force of Assertion,” GSA, October 2008.

“Language Unmoored: Sign and Revolution in Kleist’s ‘The Betrothal in St. Domingo,’” UC Berkeley, March 2008.

“Family Resemblance: Nature and Culture in Goethe’s Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship,” Harvard University, October 2007.

“Dead Signs: Kleist, Haiti, and the Writing of World-History,” workshop, Harvard University, October 2007.

“Family Resemblance: Nature and Culture in Goethe’s Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship,” University of Michigan, January 2007.

“Theater des Infinitesimalen: Musil und die Grenzen der Genauigkeit.” Conference on “Dilettantismus als Beruf,” Zentrum für Literaturforschung, Berlin, July 2006.

“Metamorphoses of Form: On the Disunity of Biological and Human Form in Goethe’s Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship.” Conference on “Re-Thinking Form,” Johns Hopkins University, April/May 2006.

“Musil and the Limits of Reason.” Conference on “Robert Musil: Literature, Science, Politics,” University of Chicago, March/April 2006.

“A Theater of the Infinitesimal: Musil and the Limits of Exactitude,” Conference on “Dilettantism and Innovation,” University of Minnesota, April 2005.

“Goethe’s Wilhelm Meister and the Metamorphosis of Desire,” ACLA, Ann Arbor, April 2004.

“Satanic Verse: Robert Musil and the Mystical Language of Incest,” University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, November, 2003.

“Satanic Verse: Robert Musil and the Mystical Language of Incest,” Johns Hopkins University, November 2003.

“Kleist’s Bodies,” University of Chicago, October 2003.

Official Respondent at GSA, panel on “Childhood in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century,” New Orleans, September 2003

“Modernity and Incest,” Indiana University, February 2003.

“Autonomy and Innovation in the Age of Revolution,” Columbia University, October 2002.

“Sibling Incest and the Problem of Self-Formation,” GSA, San Diego, October 2002.

“Crisis: Foundation and Transgression around 1800,” 18<sup>th</sup> century workshop, University of Chicago, May 2002.

“Narrative Aspects of the Consciousness/Communication Distinction: Systems Theory and Psychoanalysis.” Conference “Narrative Systems/Narratology of Systems”, University of Chicago, March 2002.

“Ausnahmestand: Kleist and the Emergence of History.” Conference “New Research on Kleist,” University of Chicago, February 2002.

“Lessons of the Cryptograph: Revelation and the Mechanical in Kafka’s ‘In the Penal Colony,’” Kafka Symposium, University of Chicago, December 2000.

“Enthusiasm: Kant’s Concept of History,” Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, April 1998.

“Case Histories and Novellas,” University of Chicago Humanities Center, February 1995.

Official Respondent at MMLA, panel “Lessings Frauenbilder,” November 1994.

"Of Beautiful and Dismembered Bodies: Art as Social Discipline in Schiller's Letters on the Aesthetic Education of Man," University of California, Berkeley, October 1991.

"Male Survivors in New York: Saul Bellow's *Mr. Sammler's Planet* and Edgar Hilsenrath's Bronskys Geständnis," Cornell University, April 1989.

### **Professional Services:**

Executive Editor (with Julia Hell and Johannes von Moltke), Germanic Review, Spring 2008 to present.

Referee for book manuscript for Stanford University Press, Fordham University Press, Routledge, Camden UP, and for various journals (German Quarterly, Configurations, Women in German Yearbook, Cultural Critique, Criticism)

Member of Advisory Board, Goethe Society of North America Book Series, Bucknell University Press

### **Professional Organizations**

German Studies Association  
Modern Language Association  
Heinrich-von-Kleist-Gesellschaft  
Goethe Society of North America  
American Comparative Literature Association