

Richard Block
Department of Germanics
Box 353130
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98102
206-543-4580 (w)

Education

Northwestern University, Ph.D., German Literature and Critical Theory/Comparative Literary Studies, (1998).

Northwestern University, MSJ, Journalism (1982).

University of Washington, MA, German Languages and Literature (1979).

Duke University, BA, German Literature/Psychology, Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude (1975).

Dissertation

The Spell of Italy: Goethe and the German Literary Imagination.
Director: Geza von Molnar.

Current Position

Professor, Germanics, University of Washington, September 2019 . Associate Professor, 2007-2019. Assistant Professor, 2004-2007.

Adjunct Faculty: Stroum Center for Jewish Studies. Program in the Comparative History of Ideas. Program in European Studies, Executive Committee: Global Literary Studies.

Previous Teaching Positions

Guest Professor, Germanistik, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, spring 2009.

Assistant Professor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 2000 to August 2004. Department of Comparative Literature and the Humanities, appt. spring 2004.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Departments of German and Comparative Literature, University of Oregon. 1999-2000.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Departments of German and Comparative Literary Studies, Northwestern University, 1998-1999.

Monographs

Echoes of a Queer Messianic: From Frankenstein to Brokeback Mountain. Albany, NY: State University Press of New York, 2018. 213 pp.

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Edited Books and Special Issues

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"I'll Love You Forever, Wilhelm." Queer Echoes in Roland Barthes' Reading of "Werther," and the Eternal Return of the Same in *A Lover's Discourse: Fragments*. *Literatur für Leser*, 10:3 (Spring 2011) 147-65.

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"Textual Narcissism: Undoing Queer Readings in Kleist's 'Über das Marionettentheater,'" *The Self as Muse: Narcissism and Creativity in the German Imagination, 1750-1830*. Ed. Alex Mathäs (Lewisburg: Bucknell UP, 2011) 171-194.

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Arcadia, 36:2 (winter 2001) 376-79.

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Im Kopf vom Maxim Biller: Essays zum Werk. Ed. Kai Sina. *Monatsheft*.
forthcoming November 2022.

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Kenneth M. Ralston, *The Captured Horizon: Heidegger and the "Nacht-wachen von Bonaventura"* (Tübingen: Niemeyer, 1994) *Colloquia Germanica*, 29, 1 (winter 1996): 70-72.

Works in Progress

Essays:

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"After the Skies Have Fallen: Kafka, Chicken Little, and the Big Lie' (under consideration)."

"The Limits of Endogamy in Tieck's "Der blonde Eckbert."

Monographs and Books:

'Echoes of a Queer Messianic II: From Caring to Community.'" Explores the

possibilities or articulations of care (Sorge) in marginalized societies that refuse hierarchical structures, anticipated completion 2025-26.

Research Grants

Research Fellow, Society of Scholars, Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington, Seattle. 2005-06.

Junior Faculty Development Award, University of Colorado, Boulder, Summer 2002

Holocaust Educational Foundation, Fellowship to attend workshop in Evanston, Il. June 2001.

Humanities Consortium of the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville, Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1998-1999 (declined).

College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University, Award for Outstanding Teaching, 1996-1997.

Alice Berline Kaplan Center for the Humanities, Northwestern University, teaching fellowship, 1995-96.

Talks and Presentations

Conferences and Symposia

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"Sibling Rivalries: From Cain and Abel to *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane*. GLITS conference to introduce new major, University of Washington, Seattle, April 2021.

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"The Fifth Commandment: Divine Justice and Betrayal in Kleist's 'The Foundling,'" MLA, January 2012.

"Questions of Jewish Sovereignty in Rosenzweig and Benjamin," moderator respondent, University of Washington Symposium, April 2011.

"Goethe in Italy," Roma, Terza Università, September 2010.

"Echoes of Queer Messianism: Barthes' Reading of *Werther* and Nietzsche's Eternal Return of the Same. University of Washington, 2010.

"Textual Narcissism in Kleist's *Über das Marionettentheater*." GSA, Minneapolis, 2008.

"Censoring the Censors: Heine's 'Florentine Nights.'" North American Heine Society, MLA, Chicago, December 2007.

"From Art to History: Schelling's Modern Mythology." Inventions of the Imagination Conference, University of Washington, May 2007.

"Goethe's Italian Scribbles in the Hands of Cy Twombly." MLA (Lessing Society), Philadelphia, December 2006.

"I'll Love You Forever, Wilhelm": Queer Messianism in Goethe's *Werther*. GSA, Pittsburgh, September 2006.

"Birthing Italy: Goethe's Custody Battle with Bachmann," PAMLA, Portland, November 2004.

"Taking the Words out of the Father's Mouth: Goethe and his Father in Italy," University of Washington, June 2003.

"Schelling and the Aesthetics of History," MLA (standing committee on Comparative Literature), New York, December 2002.

"Castration and the Feminine Gaze in Winckelmann's Art History," GSA, San

Diego, CA, October 2002.

"You can never be too rich or too queer: Peter Schlemihl's Wonderful History," MLA (standing committee on Literature and the Other Arts), New Orleans, LA. 2001

"From Weimar to Zion: Remapping a Literary History," Humanities Workshop, University of Colorado, Boulder, April 2001.

"Mehr Licht, Mehr Licht: Nietzsche's Homecoming in Weimar," MLA, (standing committee on German Literature of late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries), Washington, D.C., December 2000.

"Speaking of the Father: Goethe's Translation of his Father's Diaries," American Association of Italian Scholars, University of Oregon, Eugene, Or., April 1999.

"Nietzsche in Italy: The Eternal Return of the Fascist Same," International Narrative Conference, Evanston, Ill., May 1998.

"Italy and the German Nightmare: The Coming Home of the Unacknowledged Roots of German Classical Culture," German Studies Association, Seattle, October 1996.

"Benjamin and the George Circle," Colloquium of the German Departments of the University of Chicago, Loyola University, and Northwestern University, Chicago, December 1995.

"Selective Affinities: Ludwig Klages and Walter Benjamin," Midwest German Studies, Chicago, May 1995.

"Photo-athesis: Walter Benjamin on Translation and Photography," Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, January 1995.

"Dueling Dialectics: Adorno and Benjamin on Kafka," Literary Studies Colloquium, Northwestern University, Evanston, February 1994.

Disregarded Political Subtexts in Stifter's Novellas," MMLA, Minneapolis, November 1993.

Invited Talks and Presentations

Sophie Hartmann interview and conversation. Northwest Film Forum, sponsored by Pop-Up Goethe, March 2022.

"High Falutin and the legacy of Volker Spengler." Northwest Film Forum with Pop-Up Goethe. (Fall 2021)

"The Rise and Fall of the Modern Homosexual." Keynote Address,
 "Conceiving the (Un)Quiet Mind." University of Washington, Seattle, April
 2021.

"Irene Butter and Richard Block: From Holocaust to Hope"; Town Hall
 Meetings; 4/16/19.

"E nessun valore": Il ruolo della letteratura nell' universita' statunitense
 (9/12/3rd Univ. Roma).

"Che servono i poeti nei tempi poveri: Hölderlin, Leopardi, e la poesia della
 immanenza." Positano Cultural Center, Italy, September 2105.

"The Holocaust in Film." Hilel Society, Seattle, October 2013.

"Losing Sight of the Holocaust: A Short and Indelicate History of Holocaust
 Film." Hillel Society, Seattle, February 2013.

"Queer Reiterations in Roland Barthes' *A Lover's Discourse*." Northwestern
 University, May 2009.

"I'm Nothin. I'm Nowhere.' Queer Potentialities in *Brokeback Mountain*.' U.
 Bonn, June 2008.

"Echoes of Queer Messianism in *Brokeback Mountain*." U. Frankfurt am
 Main, May, 2008.

"Schelling's *System of Transcendental Idealism and the Poetry of Friendship*."
 U. Muenster, May 2008.

"Globalization and the New Cologne Artists." (podcast). Henry Art
 Museum, March 2007.

"The Loss of Berlin Salon Culture." Frye Museum, January 2007.

"Scribbles from Italy: Cy Twombly's Goethe Experiment," University
 of Southern California, November 2005.

"Queering the Jew Who Would Be German: Peter Schlemihl's Strange and
 Wonderful History," Northwestern University, March 2004.

"Mechanically Reproduced Visions of Italy: Goethe, Stendhal, and James,"
 Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, March 1997.

Conference Planning and Organization

"Heine, Goethe and the Bible" Panel organizer for first joint session
 of the North American Heine Society and Goethe Society of North
 America, MLA, Philadelphia, December 2009.

"Heine In Italy." Panel organizer for the North American Heine Society.
MLA, San Diego CA., December 2003.

"Realizing Aids: Action, Intervention, Discourse, Sites," February 21-23, 1997,
Northwestern University, Evanston. Member of the planning and steering
committees.

Languages:

German, near native fluency.

Italian, fluent

French, Reading Knowledge.

Spanish, Conversational competency.

Other Professional Service:

Editorial Board: *Kontouren. NCR (pending).*

Peer Reviews

of book manuscripts:

Stanford UP; Northwestern UP, Fordham UP, Rutledge, Palgrave.

...of articles:

*Diacritics, The German Quarterly, Seminar, Kontouren,
New Centennial Review, Gender and History, Goethe Yearbook.*

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"I'll Love You Forever, Wilhelm": Queer Messianism in Goethe's *Werther*. GSA, Pittsburgh, September 2006.

"Birthing Italy: Goethe's Custody Battle with Bachmann," PAMLA, Portland, November 2004.

"Taking the Words out of the Father's Mouth: Goethe and his Father in Italy," University of Washington, June 2003.

"Schelling and the Aesthetics of History," MLA (standing committee on Comparative Literature), New York, December 2002.

"Castration and the Feminine Gaze in Winckelmann's Art History," GSA, San Diego, CA, October 2002.

"You can never be too rich or too queer: Peter Schlemihl's Wonderful History," MLA (standing committee on Literature and the Other Arts), New Orleans, LA. 2001

"From Weimar to Zion: Remapping a Literary History," Humanities Workshop, University of Colorado, Boulder, April 2001.

"Mehr Licht, Mehr Licht: Nietzsche's Homecoming in Weimar," MLA, (standing committee on German Literature of late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries), Washington, D.C., December 2000.

"Speaking of the Father: Goethe's Translation of his Father's Diaries," American Association of Italian Scholars, University of Oregon, Eugene, Or., April 1999.

"Nietzsche in Italy: The Eternal Return of the Fascist Same," International Narrative Conference, Evanston, Ill., May 1998.

"Italy and the German Nightmare: The Coming Home of the Unacknowledged Roots of German Classical Culture," German Studies Association, Seattle, October 1996.

"Benjamin and the George Circle," Colloquium of the German Departments of the University of Chicago, Loyola University, and Northwestern University, Chicago, December 1995.

"Selective Affinities: Ludwig Klages and Walter Benjamin," Midwest German Studies, Chicago, May 1995.

"Photo-athesis: Walter Benjamin on Translation and Photography," Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, January 1995.

"Dueling Dialectics: Adorno and Benjamin on Kafka," Literary Studies Colloquium, Northwestern University, Evanston, February 1994.

Disregarded Political Subtexts in Stifter's Novellas," MMLA, Minneapolis, November 1993.

Invited Talks and Presentations

Sophie Hartmann interview and conversation. Northwest Film Forum, sponsored by Pop-Up Goethe, March 2022.

"High Falutin and the legacy of Volker Spengler." Northwest Film Forum with Pop-Up Goethe. (Fall 2021)

"The Rise and Fall of the Modern Homosexual." Keynote Address, "Conceiving the (Un)Quiet Mind." University of Washington, Seattle, April 2021.

"Irene Butter and Richard Block: From Holocaust to Hope"; Town Hall Meetings; 4/16/19.

"E nessun valore": Il ruolo della letteratura nell' universita' statunitense (9/12/3rd Univ. Roma).

"Che servono i poeti nei tempi poveri: Hölderlin, Leopardi, e la poesia della immanenza." Positano Cultural Center, Italy, September 2105.

"*The Holocaust in Film.*" Hillel Society, Seattle, October 2013.

"Losing Sight of the Holocaust: A Short and Indelicate History of Holocaust Film." Hillel Society, Seattle, February 2013.

"Queer Reiterations in Roland Barthes' *A Lover's Discourse.*" Northwestern

University, May 2009.

"I'm Nothin. I'm Nowhere.' Queer Potentialities in *Brokeback Mountain*.' U. Bonn, June 2008.

"Echoes of Queer Messianism in *Brokeback Mountain*.'" U. Frankfurt am Main, May, 2008.

"Schelling's *System of Transcendental Idealism and the Poetry of Friendship*." U. Münster, May 2008.

"Globalization and the New Cologne Artists." (podcast). Henry Art Museum, March 2007.

"The Loss of Berlin Salon Culture." Frye Museum, January 2007.

"Scribbles from Italy: Cy Twombly's Goethe Experiment," University of Southern California, November 2005.

"Queering the Jew Who Would Be German: Peter Schlemihl's Strange and Wonderful History," Northwestern University, March 2004.

"Mechanically Reproduced Visions of Italy: Goethe, Stendhal, and James," Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, March 1997.

Conference Planning and Organization

"Heine, Goethe and the Bible" Panel organizer for first joint session of the North American Heine Society and Goethe Society of North America, MLA, Philadelphia, December 2009.

"Heine In Italy." Panel organizer for the North American Heine Society. MLA, San Diego CA., December 2003.

"Realizing Aids: Action, Intervention, Discourse, Sites," February 21-23, 1997, Northwestern University, Evanston. Member of the planning and steering committees.

Languages:

German, near native fluency.

Italian, fluent

French, Reading Knowledge.

Spanish, Conversational competency.

Other Professional Service:

Editorial Board: *Kontouren*. *NCR* (*pending*).

Peer Reviews
of book manuscripts:

Stanford UP; Northwestern UP, Fordham UP, Rutledge, Palgrave.

...of articles:

*Diacritics, The German Quarterly, Seminar, Kontouren,
New Centennial Review, Gender and History, Goethe Yearbook.*