

Spring
2009



UW GERMANICS

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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Dear friends,

As I am writing this letter, we are currently re-evaluating our situation and thinking about how to move forward in times of economic uncertainty. Germanics at the University of Washington, as most German Departments all over the country, will most likely be smaller than it used to be in the good old days of two-year university-wide language requirements, with possibly fewer faculty (as vacant faculty lines might not be filled as quickly as we had hoped), fewer graduate students (which translates into fewer language sections), and, with fewer language students, possibly fewer majors.

We do not know the exact shape of our new configuration yet but we are determined to come out of this process as leaders in our field with renewed energy for the pursuit of our projects. Over the last few months we have strengthened our alliances with key supporters such as our partner institutions in Germany, the University of Münster, Humboldt University, and the University of Freiburg. We have connected with the new leadership in the New York office of the DAAD and initiated conversations with German



Sabine Wilke with Visiting Scholar Hamid Tafazoli.

and American organizations and foundations about supporting student mobility. I will keep you informed as these new initiatives will hopefully bear fruit in the near future.

We have had great accomplishments to celebrate over the last six months. Most importantly, we made a new faculty appointment: Dr. Klaus Brandl, who joined us on a 50% appointment last September and whose research was featured in the last newsletter, will become Manfred Bansleben's successor as our director of language and supervisor of teaching assistants. This is exciting news and we are all very eager to work with Klaus as our newest colleague. Klaus, who is in charge of our hybrid "Moodle" program for first

year, has already proven to be a reliable team player in our efforts to modernize language teaching in an increasingly technologically savvy time.

Even in these difficult times, our graduate students are still receiving job offers in academia. Three graduate students finished their PhD degrees this year: Viktoria Harms, Geoff Cox and Amy Emm. Viktoria will be teaching at the University of New Hampshire in the fall and Amy has a continuing position at The Citadel. You will be able to read the latest news from our graduate students in this newsletter. We have also successfully recruited new students into the program for 2009-2010.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, CONT.

Our undergraduates will be performing a German Play in June. Our German Express students are spending spring and summer at the university in Tübingen. Another group of undergraduates are enrolled in "Spring in Vienna" and are taking intensive language courses at the Internationales Kulturinstitut Wien. Next year, a group of students will be participating in a transatlantic symposium sponsored by the Humboldt University in Berlin.

You will also be able to read about our visitors in this newsletter. UW Germanics (thanks to who we are and to our location in the Pacific Northwest) continues to be a popular place to spend some time. Dr.

Hamid Tafazoli joined us in January. He is working towards his advanced German degree (Habilitation) and has a two-year grant from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Dr. Monika Eig Müller (sociology, Leipzig), a fellow of the Volkswagen Foundation, spent a month in Seattle researching a project on European Social Policy. Albrecht Koschorke from Konstanz was this year's Max Kade Distinguished Professor and taught a seminar on baroque tragedy in spring quarter.

We are graduating a strong group of students at convocation in June. We will also continue our outreach work with popular programs such

as the "Connections and Contexts" at the Frye Museum and "Wine & Wisdom" at local businesses. We are thankful for strong community support for what we do and what we represent.

Finally, we mark the retirement of Professor Joe Voyles after 44 years at the University. Joe is one of our most beloved and accomplished professors and we are grateful that we will not be without his wit and wisdom for the next several years as he will still offer occasional classes as an Emeritus Professor.

Enjoy the summer months. I look forward to reconnecting with all of you during the next school year.

Sabine

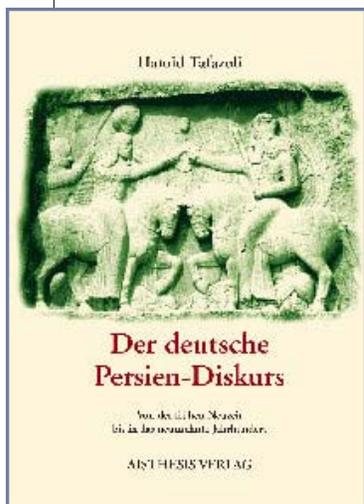
VISITING SCHOLAR DR. HAMID TAFAZOLI

Dr. Hamid Tafazoli joined our department as a Visiting Scholar from the University of Muenster in the beginning of this year, and he will stay for two years researching his new topic "heterotopias." Dr. Tafazoli won the 2007 Sibylle-Hahne Prize for his dissertation "Der deutsche Persien-Diskurs," which is described as a work that closes gaps in the field. For this work, Dr. Tafazoli collected and analyzed all available primary texts about the influence the Persian culture had on German literature. The work was published by the Aisthesis publishing house, Bielefeld, in 2007.

Those who attended Dr. Tafazoli's lecture on March 13th are already familiar with his new research topic and its interconnectedness with topics also explored in his dissertation work, including inter- und transcultural and inter- and transnational places as heterotopias. Dr. Tafazoli illustrated how the text itself is such a heterotopical space with Goethe's *West-östlicher Divan*: "Wer sich selbst und andere kennt/ wird auch hier erkennen/ Orient und Okzident/ sind nicht mehr zu trennen." The heterotopical space where the inseparability of the Orient and the Occident are poetically expressed is the "hier," meaning the

"Divan," the text. The text is the third space, the space where Orient and Occident are indistinguishable from each other. Students will have the unique opportunity to take part in his seminar on these issues in the B-term of summer quarter this year.

Another area of interest for Dr. Hamid Tafazoli is German as a Second Language. He taught and researched a variety of language classes, both in methods as well as literature in the language classroom. For more information about Dr. Tafazoli's work, please visit his website at www.hamid-tafazoli.de. Contributed by Elisabeth Cnobloch.



ALBRECHT KOSCHORKE VISITS UW AS 2009 KADE DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

Dr. Albrecht Koschorke teaches at the Germanics Department of the University of Konstanz. He is board member of the Excellence Cluster *Cultural Foundations of Integration*, board member of the research program *Norm and Symbol*, coordinator of the Graduate Program *The Figure of the Third*, coordinator of the *Network of Transatlantic Cooperation*, and co-editor of the *Deutsche Vierteljahrschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Geistesgeschichte*. This quarter, Dr. Koschorke was the University of Washington's visiting Max Kade professor and led a graduate seminar on Baroque Tragedy. He recently spoke with Germanics graduate student Gloria Man:

Q: Prof. Koschorke, we are honored to have you at the Germanics Department in Seattle. Tell us about the fortunate circumstances that brought you here.

AK: First of all, it was simply an invitation from Sabine Wilke. Since I travel every spring to the University of Chicago, with which we have an exchange program, I thought, for the sake of variation and due to my interest in other good German departments, I should try something else. I was curious to come here and now I am glad to be here.

Q: This quarter you are leading a graduate seminar on Baroque Tragedy. What is the focus of this seminar?

AK: My main interest is to reconsider the political dimension of baroque drama something that has fallen out of sight because of other tendencies in the literary studies. I also think that it is worth looking at those dramas without reading Walter Benjamin. This is my main, and maybe in America, provocative approach.

Q: How does the examination of baroque drama relate to your research?

AK: I participated in writing a book on what we dubbed the "fictitious state". It is a history of the metaphor of the social body and its specific political, legal and religious implications. The baroque drama is highly interesting in this respect. There is connection between the work that I have been doing for the past six or seven years and this topic.

Q: On April 24th, you gave a public lecture on the issue of the real in the history of science and literature. Does this represent a shift from your interest in early modern literature?

AK: No, I wouldn't say that. I have been writing a lot about what we call the dimension of the imaginary in political, legal, and social discourse. I'm interested in terms which transfer something that we can study in literature and in aesthetics in particular to a broader notion of social symbiosis and aesthetics. And so, once the Imaginary has

been sort of worked out, now I turn to the Real as another category. What I tried to show [in my lecture] is connected to another collective project, for which we are trying to establish a new graduate program in Konstanz, which will be under the sign of the Real.

Q: Can you tell me more about this project and Ph.D. program?

AK: The financial structure of departments in Germany is different from that in the U.S. In order to get funding for a Ph.D. program in Germany, one has to center the program on a specific topic and to write a proposal to the financing institutions. I have done this before as the speaker of a Ph.D. program on the Figure and the Figurations of the Third. This project has come to an end, and now we are interested in the examination of history and theory of science. We try to figure out which is the theoretical ground common to the theory of literature and the theory of science. And the Real is at the core of it.

Q: In closing, what would you say has been at the core of your experience in Seattle?

Working with the graduate students. It is an excellent class!

More information on Dr.

Koschorke's research online at:

[http://www.unikonstanz.de/](http://www.unikonstanz.de/FuF/Philo/LitWiss/)

[FuF/Philo/LitWiss/](http://www.unikonstanz.de/FuF/Philo/LitWiss/)

[Germanistik/sites/personalia/](http://www.unikonstanz.de/FuF/Philo/LitWiss/Germanistik/sites/personalia/)

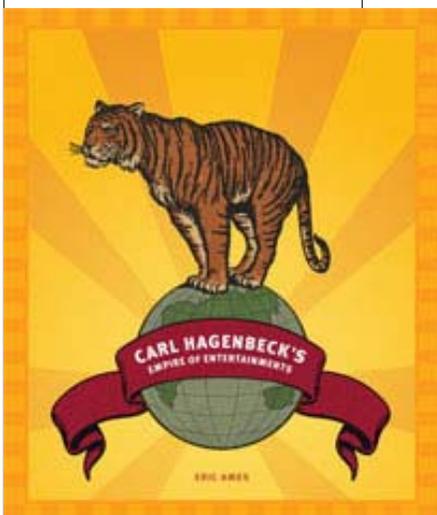
[koschorke/koschorke.htm](http://www.unikonstanz.de/FuF/Philo/LitWiss/Germanistik/sites/personalia/koschorke/koschorke.htm)



Professor Albrecht Koschorke

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS: ERIC AMES ON CARL HAGENBECK AND WILD ENTERTAINMENTS

Eric Ames, *Carl Hagenbeck's Empire of Entertainments*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2008. *The following is excerpted from rorotoko.com.*



Eric Ames' new book tells the story of one of the greatest showmen in the history of zoos and circuses. Carl Hagenbeck (1844-1913) may not be well-known today, but his name was once as evocative and celebrated as that of P. T. Barnum and Buffalo Bill. In the late nineteenth century, when zoos were being built at a rate of almost one per year, the Hamburg-based entrepreneur was hailed as the world's leading supplier of wild animals. The infrastructure that enabled him to capture and trade wild animals also became a platform for Hagenbeck's venture into public entertainments, beginning with his so-called "anthropological-zoological exhibition." It was a high-sounding name for the practice of grouping together "exotic" humans and animals in the same space of display -- a practice that soon became a regular attraction of world's fairs.

Between 1874 and 1913, Hagenbeck sponsored and exhibited as many as one hundred different troupes of "foreign peoples," making him the most important ethnographic showman of

the period. And that was not all. In 1907, he unveiled his revolutionary *Tierpark* (or "animal park") on the outskirts of Hamburg. Its unusual design fundamentally changed the way that live animals were displayed and observed by staging them in natural settings and so-called open enclosures (cage-less displays). Both of these practices would later be imitated by zoos across the board. At the time, however, Hagenbeck's park was not a zoological garden. It was an early theme park, combining live animal panoramas, ethnographic performances, native villages, moving pictures, mechanical rides, and merchandise -- all themed around the exotic.

More than just a descriptive account, *Carl Hagenbeck's Empire of Entertainments* re-envisions the way in which themed environments have been made and experienced in history. Specifically, it fleshes out the dominant practice in the late nineteenth century, which was based on choreographing the material objects and living bodies (humans and animals) on display, while immersing spectators in the simulated environment. This part of the argument is made especially vivid by the book's design: It is a large-format volume with more than eighty illustrations -- maps, drawings, paintings, postcards, photographs, film images, and advertising posters -- fourteen in color.

Drawing on all this material, Ames shows that Hagenbeck helped shape the preference of mass spectators for immersing themselves in themed environments, for physically plunging themselves into fantasy worlds of wild adventure. Around 1900, the very scope and scale of Hagenbeck's enterprise became a source of fascination. Reporters from various countries, who visited him in Hamburg, regularly commented on what today we'd call the "modernity" of his operation. They were particularly impressed by the idea that he coordinated modern systems of transportation and communication (steamship, railway, telegraph), for such unusual ends. One commentator imagined Hagenbeck literally telephoning his agents in Africa and Asia to capture and deliver so many lions and elephants, as if he were ordering bottles of wine. The journalist was exaggerating, but the analogy is spot-on. Hagenbeck did in fact cater to a burgeoning industry of leisure and mass consumption. And he did so by exploiting not only the latest technologies, but also the expanding networks of commerce and power in the context of colonialism. The Hagenbeck Company was a colonial enterprise whose range of operation extended well beyond the German colonies, spanning trade routes and communication lines that circled the globe.

JOE VOYLES RETIRES AFTER 44 YEARS

Joe Voyles is retiring this spring after 44 years of service to the Department of Germanics. I entered the Department as a graduate student in the same quarter, autumn 1965, that Joe arrived here. What endeared Joe to those of us who studied under him is what we saw as the marriage of a brilliant, disciplined mind with humility and an incredible, infectious sense of humor.

Joe's interests center not only on linguistics but on formal systems in general including logic and mathematics. It is no exaggeration to count Joe among the foremost experts in the

fields of both Germanic as well as Indo-European linguistics. There is probably no living scholar who possesses a greater breadth of knowledge in this area. This expertise will soon be on display in a text Joe invited me to coauthor with him: "An Introduction to Proto-Indo-European and the early Indo-European Languages" will soon be published by Slavica and is designed not only to be a reference work, but also contains exercises and thus can be used as a textbook.

It is no surprise that Joe has received much recognition in the form of numerous scholarships (e.g., Rotary,

Wilson) over the years for his brilliance and discipline. He has also accepted visiting professorships at UC Berkeley, Linguistic Institute of University of Cologne, and Princeton and was invited to lecture at the Universities of Oxford and London.

What is not revealed in this distinguished record is Joe's humility and avuncular attitude toward students. Few of Joe's colleagues are aware of the volunteer work he has done over the years in tutoring at-risk high school students. Joe will always enjoy both the admiration and deep affection of both his students and colleagues.

Contributed by Prof. Charles Barrack



Professor Joe Voyles

AMES, CONTINUED

Ames hopes to challenge and revise the whole idea of theme space as being an essentially American phenomenon, which begins with Disneyland and goes into other theme parks, theme restaurants, shopping malls, and so on. Theme space has a history, and it has been imagined and constructed in many different ways. In the late nineteenth century, it was defined by the wide-scale collection and physical transport of materials to the spectator, as evidenced by Hagenbeck's live animal environments and ethnographic performances. In this case, themed environments were built with objects and bodies that had literally been imported from other parts of the globe, to be arranged,

transformed, and exhibited in public.

The main difference between themed environments of today and their nineteenth-century predecessors is the emphasis on the signs and traces of physical presence within the space of display, as opposed to the contemporary fascination with "virtual reality." And yet the Hagenbeck material, which extends all the way from live animal environments and performances to early silent films, turns out to be extremely useful for addressing questions of change over time. It is the double nature of Hagenbeck's entertainments -- as devoted to both the material world of collecting and the imaginary

world of storytelling -- that makes it rich ground for rethinking the origin of theme space.

Eric Ames is an associate professor in the Germanics Department and an adjunct in the Department of Comparative Literature at the University of Washington. He teaches courses on film history, visual culture, and German cultural studies, and is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities. Currently, he is writing a book about the filmmaker Werner Herzog, with special focus on his documentaries (such as Grizzly Man and Encounters at the End of the World). His 2005 book Germany's Colonial Pasts (University of Nebraska Press) is now available in paperback.

GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATES

2008-09 has been a very productive year for the graduate students in the Germanics Department. You will see on the final page of this newsletter that we have granted three Ph.D. degrees and seven Master's degrees since September. In addition, two students have passed their preliminary examinations and have begun work on their dissertations; two more are writing the exams at this printing. Here is a brief update on those who have recently graduated and those who are currently working in the program:

Katherine Hirt St. John, who successfully defended her dissertation in April 2008, is working with Prof. Hellmut Ammerlahn on his most recent book project. **Gabi Eichmanns**, who also defended her dissertation last year, is currently in her first year of a tenure-track position at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **Tim Gruenewald** returned to his lecturer position at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, after completing his defense last summer. **Viktoria Harms** defended her dissertation in March 2009 and will be heading to a new job at University of New Hampshire, Durham, in the fall. **Amy Emm** completed her Ph.D. in March 2009 as well and is continuing to teach at The Citadel in Charleston, North Carolina.

Sabina Pasic passed her preliminary exams last year and is currently studying at

the University of Freiburg, Germany. **Sunny Parrot** is currently directing Gryphius's *Absurda Comica* or *Herr Peter Squenz* for the German 304 course (see poster, facing page). Performances will be on June 3 and June 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ethnic Cultural Theater. Next year, Sunny will be teaching in the Art History Program at the University of Tübingen after a summer fellowship at the Humboldt University in Berlin. **Verena Schowengerdt-Kuzmany** is reprising her role as the on-site expert for the Spring in Vienna program. This year she is focusing her course on the "Americanization of Vienna," taking full advantage of Vienna's rich bounty of historical, cultural and artistic venues.

Our 2008-09 cohort of graduate students included two Kade fellows, **Lena Heilmann** and **Chris Burwick**, and a Graduate Opportunity Minority Achievement (GoMAP) Fellow, **Bryan Aja**. Together with Elisabeth Cnobloch, this trio joined forces to continue the popular weekly German film series, sponsored by the Department.

Rachel Herschman is organizing this year's 2009 Interdisciplinary Graduate Student conference which took place on May 21-22. The topic, "Transcendent Ecologies, Immanent Economies," has attracted presenters from a wide vari-

ety of fields from all over the globe.

Our graduate student exchange programs continue to thrive. UW students **Eric Scheufler** and **Japhet Johnstone** spent 2008-09 at the University of Münster while Münster students **Katharina Koening** and **Torsten Leine** traveled to Seattle to teach in the Department. Next year, UW's **Tommy Bell** and **Seth Berk** will study on the exchange and the Seattle campus will welcome two new faces in their stead. UW Ph.D. student **Jan Hengge** has likewise spent the year in Berlin, while Humboldt University student **Björn Schubert** has taught in UW Germanics. Next year, **Elisabeth Cnobloch** will study in Berlin.

Finally, **Pete Scheppe** is our roving ambassador, working as an International Program Coordinator's Assistant through the Extension Office, coordinating the many groups of incoming international students who come to study at the UW for anywhere from 3 weeks to several quarters or more.

For more information about our graduate students, please visit our website at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwgerman/Graduate/gradstudents.html>.

Contributed by Kate Howe

DIES UND DAS...

The **Denny Hall** renovation project, originally slated to begin summer 2009, has been postponed for at least two years. The Washington State Legislature cancelled the funding for this latest phase of the University's "Restoring the Core" initiative in answer to the State's historic budget deficits. In addition to the Denny Hall project, funding for the renovation of Balmer and Lewis Halls was also postponed. Existing funding (approved in 2008) will allow for the completion of the design phase of the Denny Hall project, led by Portland's THA Architecture, Inc. (formerly Thomas Hacker Architects). While the exterior walls, roof and cupola will remain in place, plans call for the existing building to be substantially gutted and reconfigured in order to improve

earthquake safety, mechanical systems and ADA accessibility. A proposed central stair and light well will bring back some of the 1895 building's original open character, while a reorganized floor plan will make it easier for students and visitors to locate offices and classrooms.

Germanics students will be participating in the "**Freedom without Walls**" campaign commemorating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The University of Washington is one of more than 25 U.S. universities granted funding from the German Embassy in Washington, D.C., for a week of activities tailored for current undergraduates for whom the fall of the wall may seem like distant history. The week will include public speaking and

art competitions as well as a gala featuring Karsten Voigt, Coordinator for German-American Cooperation in the German Foreign Office. Mr. Voigt will be on campus for a conference sponsored by the Simpson Center for the Humanities and coordinated by Germanics and the Center for West European Studies in the Jackson School. That conference, entitled "Legacies of Unification: Twenty Years of German Unity" will take place on November 19-20, 2009. Look for more conference information in our monthly email newsletters. For more information concerning the "Freedom without Walls" project, please see www.Germany.info/withoutwalls <<http://www.Germany.info/withoutwalls>>.



Join us for the performance of Gryphius's *Absurda Comica* or *Herr Peter Squenz* on June 3 and 7 at 7:30 in

German 304

Performing an Adaptation of...

Gryphius's Absurda Comica or Herr Peter Squenz (1658)

Spring 2009
MWF 1:30-2:20, DEN 317
T 1:30-3:20, DEN 317
5 credits, VLPA, sln: 13771
Instructor: Sunny Parrott
sunnyp@u.washington.edu

Remember the comic absurdity of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"? "Absurda Comica" is also a play within a play based on Ovid's "Pyramus and Thisbe." It offers much situational, slapstick humor. The characters decide to perform a play written by the town's schoolmaster-playwright. Once they perform for the Royal Court, they constantly fall out of character and their acting skills are incorrigible. Good, clean fun! No acting experience necessary! Improve language skills through physical movement and imaginative invention. Great course for improving pronunciation.

Poster Design by Stephanie Welch



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2009

The following graduates will be honored at the Department of Germanics' convocation on Saturday, June 13:

Doctor of Philosophy:

Geoffrey Cox
Amy Emm
Viktoria Harms

Master of Arts:

Tommy Bell
Seth Berk
Heidi-Marie Clemens
Rachel Herschman
Nathan Magnusson
Gloria Man
Melissa Reddish

Bachelor of Arts:

Alison Bailey
Amanda Bauer
Spencer Bray
Alexandra Duncan
Evan Easton-Calabria
Jordan Froemke
Rebekah Gebhardt
Sean Miller
Mariya Minzer
Joshua Phelps
Rachel Schlecty

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Inductees:

Jordan Froemke
Joshua Phelps
Rachel Schlecty

The following inductees to the Iota Chapter of the *Delta Phi Alpha German Honor Society* will be celebrated on Sunday, June 7:

Bryan Aja
Snoqualmie Beadles
Aaron Blalack
Myles Brenner
Heidi-Marie Clemens
Bradley Day-Bazhaw
Mark Donahue
Christian Grieb
Danielle Heilmann
Cassandra Kincaid
Kristina Kledzik
Kelly Miller
Michael O'Leary
Peter Schweppe
Amanda Sekijima
Vedada Sirovica



Support Germanics...

Donate \$35 or more to the *Friends of Germanics Fund*, the *Behler Graduate Support Fund*, the *William Rey Library Fund*, or the *Bansleben Graduate Teaching Fund* and receive:

- Personal invitations to events sponsored by the Germanics Department
- Semi-annual Germanics Newsletter
- Monthly electronic bulletins from the Chair.

A donation of \$100 or more to your favorite fund adds to these

- personal invitations to the Germanics lecture series, an occasional series featuring internationally recognized authors and scholars, held in the Rey Library.

For a gift of \$500 annually, you will also become a member of the *Dean's Club* and receive

- Personal invitations to lectures and events sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences
- Personal invitations to the Arts and Sciences Dean's Club Insider Series

Send checks, made out to the fund of your choice, to The Department of Germanics, Box 353130, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195

For more information, call 206-543-4580 or visit our webpage at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwgerman/>