

## **MAY MERGENTHALER**

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures  
498 Hagerty Hall  
Ohio State University  
1775 College Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43210-1340, U.S.A.  
Email: mergenthaler.4@osu.edu  
Phone: (614) 824 9569

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Associate Professor (with tenure) Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures,  
The Ohio State University, 2013-present  
Assistant Professor (tenure-track) Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures,  
The Ohio State University, 2007-2013  
Assistant Professor Department of Modern Languages and Literatures,  
Ithaca College, 2006-2007

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. German Literature, Princeton University, 2007  
Dissertation: "Ein unendlicher Dialog: Das Projekt der Frühromantik in den  
'Athenaeums-Fragmenten,'" directed by Barbara Hahn, Vanderbilt University, and  
Arnd Wedemeyer, Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Berlin  
M.A. German Literature, Johns Hopkins University, 1998  
Visiting student Comparative Literature and Philosophy, FU Berlin, 1997-99  
B.A. (equiv.) German Literature, Philosophy, and Journalism, University of Hamburg, 1995

## **GRANTS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS**

Research Enhancement Grant, The Ohio State University for "Counter-Figures: The Critique of Metaphor  
in German Romantic and Contemporary Poetry," 2012-2014  
New Honors Course Competition Award 2009, The Ohio State University, for "Religion and Society:  
German Reflections on Secularization" (now entitled "Religion in German Literature and Philosophy")  
Women in German Best Article Prize 2009 for "Die Frühromantik als Projekt vollendeter Mitteilung  
zwischen den Geschlechtern: Friedrich Schlegel und Dorothea Veit im Dialog über Friedrich Richters  
Romane," *The German Quarterly* 81:3 (2008), 302-321  
Princeton German Department Award for top candidate, 1999  
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst fellowship (DAAD), Johns Hopkins University, 1995-96  
Fulbright Travel Grant, Johns Hopkins University, 1995-1996

## **MONOGRAPH**

*Zwischen Eros und Mitteilung: Die Frühromantik im Symposium der "Athenaeums-Fragmente,"*  
Paderborn et al.: Schöningh, 2012 [Reviews: Roger Paulin, *The Modern Language Review*, 109.4  
(2014), 1124-1125; Andreas Arndt, *Seminar Toronto* 50.3 (2014), 403-405; Yvonne Joeres, *German  
Studies Review* 37.1 (2014), 170-172; Robert Leventhal, *The German Quarterly* 87.1 (2014), 113-  
115; Yael Almog, *MLN* 128.3 (2013), 669-671; Christopher Busch, *Athenäum* 23 (2013), 179-184;  
Adrian Daub, *Goethe Yearbook* 20 (2013), 289-291; Gerhart Hoffmeister, *Monatshefte* 105.1 (2013),  
144-146; Franz Siepe, "Sehnsucht nach einem schwer benennbaren Ganzen oder Absoluten,"  
[www.literaturkritik.de](http://www.literaturkritik.de) 6 (2012)]

## **CO-EDITED BOOK**

*Cultural Transformations of the Public Sphere: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives*, ed.  
with Bernd Fischer, series: Christian Emden and David Midgley, *Cultural History and Literary  
Imagination*, Oxford, et al.: Lang (submitted; forthcoming in spring 2015)

### ARTICLES (peer-reviewed)

- “The ‘Paradox’ of Poetic Courage: Hölderlin’s Ode ‘Timidity’ and Benjamin’s Commentary Reconsidered,” *The Germanic Review* 85:3 (2010), 224-49
- “Die Frühromantik als Projekt vollendeter Mitteilung zwischen den Geschlechtern: Friedrich Schlegel und Dorothea Veit im Dialog über Friedrich Richters Romane,” *The German Quarterly* 81:3 (2008), 302-321

### ARTICLE IN PROCEEDINGS

- “Entgrenzung lyrischer Subjektivität: Keats’ ‘Wolken’ und Hölderlins ‘Hände,’” *Proceedings of the XII. Congress of the International Association for Germanic Studies (IVG)*, 2010, ed. Franciszek Gruzca et al., Bern et al.: Lang, 2012, 219-223

### WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

- The Sun: Figures of Light in Germany Lyric Poetry* (working title, monograph)
- “Metaphor and Symbol in Goethe’s Early Lyric” (in preparation)
- “Fragment,” *Friedrich Schlegel-Handbuch. Leben – Werk – Wirkung*, ed. Johannes Endres, Stuttgart: Metzler, 2015 (solicited; in preparation)
- “Mayröcker’s Hölderlin” (revised and expanded conference paper)
- “‘Below Individuality’: Anja Utler’s Lyric of Emergence” (revised and expanded conference paper)

### REVIEWS

- Dorit Messlin, *Antike und Moderne: Friedrich Schlegels Poetik, Philosophie und Lebenskunst*, Berlin/New York: de Gruyter, 2011, *IASL* online (solicited; under review)
- Adrian Daub, *Uncivil Unions: The Metaphysics of Marriage in German Idealism and Romanticism*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2012, *German Studies Review* 36.3 (2013), 691-693 (solicited)
- Marie Wokalek, *Die schöne Seele als Denkfigur: Zur Semantik von Gewissen und Geschmack bei Rousseau, Wieland, Schiller, Goethe*, Göttingen: Wallstein, 2011, *Seminar* 49:2 (2013), 251-254 (solicited)
- Anja Utler, *engulf – enkindle*, translated by Kurt Beals, Anyart, Providence: Burningdeck, 2010, *International Poetry Review* XXXVIII.1 (Spring 2012), 120-121
- Edgar Landgraf, *Improvisation as Art. Conceptual Challenges, Historical Perspectives*, London, UK and New York, USA: Continuum, 2011, *The German Quarterly* 85.1 (2012), 89-91 (solicited)
- Angela Esterhammer, *Romanticism and Improvisation, 1750-1850*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008, *The German Quarterly* 84.4 (2011), 500-501 (solicited)

### INVITED LECTURES

- “Is there Something like Metaphor?,” Sixth Annual Midwest Symposium in German Studies, University of Notre Dame, April 2014
- “Friedrich Schlegel’s ‘Fragmente’ and Plato’s ‘Symposium’: A Dialogue between Communication and Eros,” Lecture Series organized by the Department of Classics, The Ohio State University, October 2008

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (peer-reviewed unless marked with “\*”)

- “Reading the Sun: Figures of Light in Goethe’s Early Poetry.” IVG Shanghai, August 2015 (upcoming)
- “Metaphor and Subjectivity in Goethe’s Early Lyric: Reflections on David Wellbery’s *The Specular Moment* and an Alternative Interpretation,” paper in co-organized seminar on “Recycling Romanticism,” GSA, Denver, October 2013
- “Poetics of Knowledge and the Critique of Language: Metaphor in Contemporary German Poetry,” presentation on organized panel “Defenses of the Aesthetic,” GSA, Milwaukee, October 2012
- “Memory, Repetition, and Synthesis: Mayröcker’s *Scardanelli*,” ACLA, Brown University, April 2012
- “Reading Romanticism as Perfected Communication,” presentation in special session, “The Mediality of Literature,” organized by Patricia McBride, MLA, Seattle, 2012

- \*“Hölderlin’s Ode ‘Timidity’: Solving the ‘Paradox’ of Poetic Courage and Challenging Notions of Gender,” WiG, Augusta, MI, October 2010
- “‘Below Individuality’: Anja Utler’s Lyric of Emergence,” presentation in co-organized series of panels, “Recalling the Lyrical I: The Persistence of Poetic Intimacy,” GSA, Oakland, CA, October 2010
- “Dichtung als gemeinschaftliche Geschicklichkeit oder einsame Trägheit: Hölderlins Ode ‘Blödigkeit’ und Keats ‘Ode on Indolence,’” presentation in Section 26: “Ich, Individualität, Individuum,” XII. Congress of the International Association for Germanic Studies (IVG), Warsaw, August 2010
- “Das Ende der Furcht? Adornos Begriff des ästhetischen ‘Schauers’ und die expressive Kunsttherapie,” presentation at conference “Emotionale Grenzgänge: Konzeptualisierungen von Liebe, Trauer und Angst in Sprache und Literatur,” Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Munich, October 2009
- “On Translating Religion into a Universal Rational Discourse: Jacques Derrida, Jürgen Habermas, and the Poetry of Zafer Şenocak,” presentation at conference “Translatable: Creativity and Knowledge Formation Across Cultures,” Duke University and the University of North Carolina, Durham, NC, April, 2009
- “Hölderlin’s Fear and Courage: The Poetic Transformation of Feeling and its Anthropological Limitations,” presentation on organized panel, “Literature as Antidote to Fear and Anxiety: Reconsidering the Power of Poetic Language at the ‘Emotional Turn,’” GSA, St. Paul, October 2008
- “Facing Fear: Keats and Hölderlin,” presentation in organized special session, “Emotion and Sympathy in Romanticism,” MLA, Philadelphia, December 2006
- “Vom Dialog zum Traktat: Walter Benjamins ‘philosophischer Stil’ als Vergeistigung des Geschlechtlichen,” presentation on panel, “‘Revueformen der Philosophie’—jenseits der Systeme,” organized by Ashraf Noor, Jerusalem, and Erik Porath, ZfL, Benjamin-Festival, Berlin, October 2006
- “Poetry and the Psyche (Lasker-Schüler, Apollinaire, Freud, Bergson),” ACLA, Princeton University, April 2006
- “No Comparison, but Impartation? Friedrich Schlegel’s ‘Fragments’ as a Modern Symposium,” ACLA, Penn State University, April 2005
- “Through Critical Dialogues toward Autonomous Art. Friedrich Schlegel, Oscar Wilde, and their Resistant Interlocutors,” GSA, Washington, D. C., October 2004
- “Romantic Socratic Dialogue—A Means to ‘Freedom and Community’? Friedrich Schlegel’s *Poesy* as a *Symposium* and Caroline Schlegel’s and Dorothea Veit’s Responses,” MLA, San Diego, December 2004
- “Emancipation and Revolution in East German Women’s Literature before and after the Fall of the Wall: Brigitte Burmeister’s Pre- and Post-‘Wende’ Novels *Anders* (1987) and *Norma* (1994),” presentation at Focus on German Studies Graduate Conference, University of Cincinnati, October 2004
- “Arguing with a Friend—Reading Kafka’s *Process* in a New Edition,” presentation at graduate conference on “Authorship and the Materiality of the Text,” Rutgers University, February 2000
- “Writing and Reading Benjamin’s *One-Way Street*—A Revolutionary Action?,” presentation at graduate conference on “Action and Identity,” SUNY of New York, Stony Brook, March 2000
- “Rilke’s Poetics of the Sacred,” presentation at graduate conference on “Theology and Criticism—Literature and the Sacred,” Johns Hopkins University, March 1999

### **CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP, AND PANEL ORGANIZATION**

- “Lesen Germanisten anders? Zur kritischen Kompetenz von Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaft, IVG Shanghai, 2015, series of panels, co-organized with Bernd Fischer, Julia Ng, and Erica Weitzman (upcoming)
- “Recycling Romanticism”, seminar, co-organized with Laurie Johnson, GSA, Denver 2013
- “Defenses of the Aesthetic,” panel, GSA, Milwaukee, October 2012
- “Transformations of the Public Sphere,” international conference, co-organized with Alan Beyerchen, Bernd Fischer, John Davidson, and Fernando Unzueta, The Ohio State University, April 2012
- “Mood and Gender,” panel, co-organized with Lisabeth M. Hock, WiG, Augusta, MI, October 2010
- “Recalling the Lyrical I: The Persistence of Poetic Intimacy,” series of panels, co-organized with Arnd Wedemeyer, GSA, Oakland, CA, October 2010
- “The Public Sphere and Modern Social Imaginaries,” working group, co-founder and co-organizer, Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities (ICRPH), The Ohio State University,

2009-2011

- “The Public Sphere and Modern Social Imaginaries,” research initiative, co-founder and co-organizer, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2008-2009
- ““Post-Secular Europe?”: Religion and Spirituality in Contemporary Fiction and Film,” organized special session, MLA, San Francisco, December 2008
- “Enlightenment, Culture, and the Public Sphere: Kant and Mendelssohn,” reading group meeting, co-organized with Bernd Fischer, as part of the working group “The Public Sphere and Modern Social Imaginaries,” Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, The Ohio State University, October 2008
- “Literature as Antidote to Fear and Anxiety: Reconsidering the Power of Poetic Language at the ‘Emotional Turn,’” panel, GSA, St. Paul, October 2008
- “Emotion and Sympathy in Romanticism,” special session, MLA, Philadelphia, December 2006
- “Else Lasker-Schüler: From the Heart,” special session, MLA, Washington D. C., December 2005
- “The Program in the Study of Women and Gender Graduate Works-in-Progress Colloquium,” co-organized with Alexandra Neel, Princeton University, 2002-2004
- “Remnants of Auschwitz—the Witness and the Archive,” a colloquium with Giorgio Agamben, co-organized with the graduate students of the German Departments at Princeton and New York Universities, Princeton, October 2000

### EDITORIAL REVIEWS

*The German Quarterly* (2014), *Focus on German Studies* (2009), *SEARCH - Journal for New Music and Culture* (2010)

### PUBLISHED TRANSLATIONS

- Stanley Corngold, “‘Ein Glaube wie ein Fallbeil’: Kafka über Kunst und Ethik,” *Skepsis und Literarische Imagination*, eds. Bernd Hüppauf and Klaus Vieweg, München: Wilhelm Fink, 2003, 199-231
- Stanley Corngold, “Von wegen der Wahrheit: Kafkas späte Aphorismen und Erzählungen,” *Franz Kafka. Zur ethischen und ästhetischen Rechtfertigung*, eds. Beatrice Sandberg and Jakob Lothe, Freiburg i. Br.: Rombach, 2002, 17-31
- Alexander Walker, *Stanley Kubrick: Leben und Werk. Mit einer Bildanalyse von Sybil Taylor and Ulrich Ruchti*, Berlin: Henschel, 1999, with Henning Thies
- George Parry, *Close up: Steven Spielberg*, Reinbek: Rowohlt, 1998
- Geoffrey Nowell-Smith, ed., *Geschichte des internationalen Films*, Stuttgart: Metzler, 1998 (nine essays)

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### The Ohio State University (2007-present)

##### Graduate Teaching

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| SP 2015          | Philosophy of Poetic Language  |
| SP 2015          | Independent Study: MA preparation  |
| SP 2014          | Doctoral Colloquium  |
| SP 2014          | Independent Study: MA preparation  |
| SP 2013          | Seminar in Intellectual History and Cultural Studies: Poetologien des Wissens – Der Fall der Metapher (taught partially in English)* |
| SP 2012, AU 2009 | Development of German Poetry: Questions of the Lyric   |
| WI 2012          | German Proseminar: Literature and Madness and the Origin of Modern Psychology  |
| SP 2010          | Periods of German Literary History (1700-1850): The Re-Invention of Aesthetics and Literature  |
| SP 2009          | Development of German Drama: Practice and Theory of Comedy   |
| WI 2009          | German Proseminar: Antidotes to Fear in Literature, Aesthetics, and Philosophy (1767-1812)   |
| WI 2008          | Periods of German Literary History (1400-1700): Literature and Religion  |
| AU 2007          | German Proseminar: A Perfect Human Being? Afterimages of Socrates in the 18 <sup>th</sup>  |

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**Undergraduate Teaching**

Mayterm 2015	Berlin, Then and Now: People, Places, and Experiences (general education study abroad course)
SP 2015	Berlin: Stories, Languages, and Ideas (general education course)
SP 2014, SP 2013	Texts and Contexts III: Historical Perspectives (advanced German language course)
AU 2012, SP 2013	Religion in Modern German Literature and Philosophy (honors and general education course)*
AU 2012	Senior Seminar in German: Literature, Art and Film - The Languages of Poetry: Contemporary Lyric and Its Theory
SP 2011, SP 2012	Religion and Society: German Reflections on Secularization (honors and general education course)
SP 2011	Studies in German Literature II (1700-1870): Madness and Literature
WI 2011	Topics in German Literature and Culture: German Pop Literature and Culture
WI 2009-2012	Advanced German II: Texts and Contexts to 1848
SP 2009	Modern German Literature in Cultural Context: Secularization and its Discontents: Religion and Society in German and German-Jewish Philosophy and Literature (General Education course)*
WI 2008	Studies in German Literature II (1870-present): Literature and the Sacred
AU 2007	Intermediate German III: Text and Contexts from 1945 to the Present

**Ithaca College (2006-2007)**

SP 2007	Movements of Poetry around 1800
AU 2006, SP 2007	Elementary and intermediate German language courses
AU 2006	Masterworks in German Literature: Emotion in Art and Theory, from the Enlightenment to Late Romanticism

**Princeton University (2000-2006)**

SP 2004	Introduction to German Philosophy, Teaching Assistant for Arnd Wedemeyer*
SP 2002	European Politics and Society in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century, Teaching Assistant for Philip Nord and Ezra Suleiman*
AU 2000-SP 2006	Elementary, intermediate, and advanced German language courses

**Evangelisches Studienwerk e.V. Villigst, Summer University “AnWenden” (2001)**

SU 2001	Gender an der “Wende”: Das Ende der DDR und seine Folgen für die Repräsentation von Geschlechterdifferenzen in “offizieller” und “inoffizieller” Literatur von ostdeutschen Schriftstellerinnen
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**Johns Hopkins University, Department of German (1995-1997)**

AU 1995-SP 1997	Elementary and advanced German language courses
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**ADVISING**

**The Ohio State University (2007-present)**

**Ph.D. Committee Member**

Alexander Holznienkemper, “Making Sense of Terrorism – An Examination of Narratives of Religion and Modernity” (SP 2014)
Amber Suggitt, “Between Becoming and Being: Male and Female Selves in the German Novel around 1800” (since SP 2011; defense SP 2015)
Bethany Richetti, “Realism in 19 <sup>th</sup> Century German Painting and Narrative” (since SP 2013)

**Ph.D.-Exam Committee Member**

Sara Luly (SP 2008), Thomas Stefaniuk (SP 2009), Alexander Holzniekemper (SP 2010), Amber Suggitt (SP 2011), Bethany Richetti (SP 2013), Simon Lösch (AU 2013), Sarah Larson (SP 2015)

**Undergraduate Thesis Co-Advisor**

Amy Jones ('13), "The Translation of Musicality in the Lyric Poetry of Helmina von Chézy and Marceline Desbordes-Valmore" (Honors thesis written in English, French, and German), co-advisor with Louisa Shea, Department of French and Italian, The Ohio State University

**SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Chair Search Committee Member, 2012-2014

The Coalition of Women in German, Best Article Prize, Committee Member 2011-12, Chair 2013

German Graduate Student Association, faculty advisor, The Ohio State University, 2010-12

Honors Advisor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, The Ohio State University, 2009-12

Minor Advisor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, The Ohio State University, 2007-12

Faculty Judge, Edward F. Hayes Graduate Research Forum, April 12, 2008

Assistant Director, Summer Work Program, German Department, Princeton University, 2005-06

**RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Film critic, *tageszeitung hamburg* and *Szene Hamburg*, 1992-95

Editorial Intern, German Program of *Radio Kiev International*, Ukraine, 1993

**LANGUAGES**

German, native; English, near-native; French, fluent; Ancient Greek, intermediate reading knowledge; Russian, basic knowledge

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

GSA, MLA, ACLA, IVG, WiG