MAY MERGENTHALER

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

498 Hagerty Hall Ohio State University 1775 College Rd.

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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

VISITING PROFESSORSHIP

Visiting Associate Professor Department of German Studies, Comparative Literature, and Cultural

Studies, University of Bonn, SU 2018

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

Abitur Herder-Oberschule (Gymnasium) Berlin, 1990 (Grade: 1.2)

GRANTS, AWARDS, and FELLOWSHIPS

2012-2014 Research Enhancement Grant, The Ohio State University (\$4,150)

2013 Finalist: IPODI fellowship, TU Berlin

2009 New Honors Course Competition Award, The Ohio State University, for "Religion

and Society: German Reflections on Secularization" (now "Religion in German

Literature and Philosophy") (\$15,000; for the department)

2009 Women in German Best Article Prize 2009 for "Die Frühromantik als Projekt

vollendeter Mitteilung zwischen den Geschlechtern" (see publications)

1999 Princeton German Department Award for top candidate (\$1,500)

1995-1996 Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst fellowship (DAAD), Johns Hopkins

University

1995-1996 Fulbright Travel Grant, Johns Hopkins University

Book award for the best Abitur at the Herder-Oberschule in 1990

MONOGRAPH

Zwischen Eros und Mitteilung: Die Frühromantik im Symposion 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 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. [Review: Christoph Suntrup, "Die Macht der Kultur und des sozialen Imaginären," Neue Politische Literatur H.3 (2017) (forthcoming)]

ARTICLES (peer-reviewed)

- "The 'Paradox' of Poetic Courage: Hölderlin's Ode 'Timidity' and Benjamin's Commentary Reconsidered," *The Germanic Review* 85:3, 224-49.
- 2008 "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, 302-321.

ARTICLES IN PROCEEDINGS, HANDBOOKS, and EDITED BOOKS

- in prep. "The Climate of Language: Hölderlin's Suns." (ed. Olaf Berwald) (solicited)
 forthcom. "Ästhetische Öffentlichkeit und Herrschaft bei Schiller und Goethe," *Öffentlichkeit Veröffentlichen Öffentlichkeit herstellen*, ed. by Georg Stanitzek und Gesa Frömming,
 special issue of *Sprache und Literatur*. (submitted Nov. 2017) (solicited)
- 2017 "Fragment," *Friedrich Schlegel-Handbuch. Leben Werk Wirkung*, ed. Johannes Endres, Stuttgart: Metzler. (solicited)
- 2015 "Introduction," with Bernd Fischer, *Cultural Transformations of the Public Sphere*, ed. by Fischer and Mergenthaler. (see co-edited books)
- "Entgrenzung lyrischer Subjektivität: Keats' 'Wolken' und Hölderlins 'Hände,'" *Proceedings of the XII. Congress of the International Association for Germanic Studies* (IVG), 2010, ed. Franciszek Grucza et al., Bern et al.: Lang, 2012, 219-223.

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

Lyrische Lichtfiguren (monograph in progress)

- "Goethes Sonnentropen" (article in preparation)
- "Mayröckers Lyrik und die Krise der Kritik" (article and conference paper in preparation)
- "Mayröcker's Hölderlin" (article in preparation)

REVIEWS

- Hannah Eldridge V., *Lyric Orientations: Hölderlin, Rilke, and the Poetics of Community*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press and Cornell University Library, 2015, *Goethe Yearbook*. (forthcoming) (solicited)
- Dorit Messlin, *Antike und Moderne: Friedrich Schlegels Poetik, Philosophie und Lebenskunst*, Berlin/New York: de Gruyter, 2011, *IASL* online. (solicited)
- 2015 Andreas Hjort Møller, Der lebensphilosophische Frühromantiker. Zur Rekonstruktion der frühromantischen Ethik Friedrich Schlegels, Paderborn 2014, Athenäum: Jahrbuch der Friederich Schlegel-Gesellschaft 25 (2015), 115-121. (solicited)
- 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, 691-693.
- Marie Wokalek, *Die schöne Seele als Denkfigur: Zur Semantik von Gewissen und Geschmack bei Rousseau, Wieland, Schiller, Goethe*, Göttingen: Wallstein, 2011, *Seminar* 49:2, 251-254. (solicited)
- Anja Utler, *engulf enkindle*, translated by Kurt Beals, Anyart, Providence: Burningdeck, 2010, *International Poetry Review* XXXVIII.1 (Spring), 120-121.
- Edgar Landgraf, *Improvisation as Art. Conceptual Challenges, Historical Perspectives*, London, UK and New York, USA: Continuum, 2011, *The German Quarterly* 85.1,

89-91.

Angela Esterhammer, *Romanticism and Improvisation*, 1750-1850, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008, *The German Quarterly* 84.4, 500-501. (solicited)

INVITED LECTURES and CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 "Licht und Anschaulichkeit in Goethes Lyrik," University of Bonn
- 2016 "Die Veröffentlichung des Nichtöffentlichen: Über die Publizierbarkeit lyrischer Sprache bei Goethe, Hölderlin und Günderrode," Workshop Öffentlichkeit Veröffentlichen Öffentlichkeit herstellen at the University of Siegen, Germany
- 2016 "Light black, White light: Sun Figures in Friedrich Schlegel's Lucinde and Dorothea Schlegel's Florentin," Symposium, "Affairs of the Mind: The Salon and Jewish Women Writers," organized by Renata Fuchs, Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies, UCLA
- "Goethe's Suns: Re-inventing the Lyric and Metaphor," *Re-Thinking Reading Un-Thinking Gender*, University of Oregon, conference co-organized by Sabine I. Gölz and Jeffrey S. Librett
- 2014 "Is there Something like Metaphor?," Sixth Annual Midwest Symposium in German Studies, University of Notre Dame
- 2008 "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

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (peer-reviewed unless marked with "*")

- 2018 "Ecopoetic Critiques of Language and Hölderlin," GSA 2018 (proposed paper for proposed panel)
- "Mayröckers Lyrik und die Krise der Kritik," Conference on "Fragen zum Lyrischen in Friederike Mayröckers Poesie," Brussels, Belgium (upcoming)
- 2018 "Ecocriticism and Literary History: The Case of Goethe," ninth annual Binghamton University German Studies Colloquium (BUGSC), "News from Nature." (upcoming)
- 2018 "Climate Migration Fiction: Fantasy, Cliché, and Activism in James Miller's 'What is Left to See'?" (working title), 2nd Annual OSU Migration Studies Symposium "Walls and Passages," organized by the Migration Studies Working Group at Ohio State (upcoming)
- 2016 "Von der Bild-Metapher zum Symbol: Goethes lyrische Sonnentropen," ICLA, Vienna, Austria
- 2015 "German Studies as Knowledge Production and Critique: A Case Study (Goethe)," GSA Washington, D.C.
- "Reading the Sun: Figures of Light in Goethe's Early Poetry," IVG Shanghai
- 2013 "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
- 2012 "Poetics of Knowledge and the Critique of Language: Metaphor in Contemporary German Poetry," presentation on organized panel "Defenses of the Aesthetic," GSA, Milwaukee
- 2012 "Memory, Repetition, and Synthesis: Mayröcker's Scardanelli," ACLA, Brown University
- "Reading Romanticism as Perfected Communication," presentation in special session, "The Mediality of Literature," organized by Patricia McBride, MLA, Seattle
- 2010* "Hölderlin's Ode 'Timidity': Solving the 'Paradox' of Poetic Courage and Challenging Notions of Gender," WiG, Augusta, MI
- 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
- "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 IVG, Warsaw
- "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

- "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
- 2008 "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
- 2006 "Facing Fear: Keats and Hölderlin," presentation in organized special session, "Emotion and Sympathy in Romanticism," MLA, Philadelphia
- 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
- 2006 "Poetry and the Psyche (Lasker-Schüler, Apollinaire, Freud, Bergson)," ACLA, Princeton University
- 2005 "No Comparison, but Impartation? Friedrich Schlegel's 'Fragments' as a Modern Symposium," ACLA, Penn State University
- "Through Critical Dialogues toward Autonomous Art. Friedrich Schlegel, Oscar Wilde, and their Resistant Interlocutors," GSA, Washington, D. C.
- 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
- 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)," Focus on German Studies Graduate Conference, University of Cincinnati
- 2000 "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
- 2000 "Writing and Reading Benjamin's *One-Way Street*—A Revolutionary Action?", graduate conference "Action and Identity," SUNY of New York, Stony Brook
- "Rilke's Poetics of the Sacred," graduate conference on "Theology and Criticism—Literature and the Sacred," Johns Hopkins University

CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP, and PANEL ORGANIZATION

- 2018 "Continuing the Critique of Language," panel series, co-organized with Carly Martin (to be proposed to the GSA by Feb. 15, 2018)
- 2016 "Lyric Matters." GSA 2016, seminar, co-organized with Martin Bäumel and Hannah Eldridge
- 2015 "Lesen Germanisten anders? Zur kritischen Kompetenz von Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaft, IVG Shanghai, series of panels, co-organized with Bernd Fischer, Julia Ng, and Erica Weitzman
- 2013 "Recycling Romanticism", seminar, co-organized with Laurie Johnson, GSA
- "Defenses of the Aesthetic," panel, GSA, Milwaukee
- 2012 "Transformations of the Public Sphere," international conference, co-organized with Alan Beyerchen, Bernd Fischer, John Davidson, and Fernando Unzueta, The Ohio State University
- "Mood and Gender," panel, co-organized with Lisabeth M. Hock, WiG, Augusta, MI
- 2010 "Recalling the Lyrical I: The Persistence of Poetic Intimacy," series of panels, co-organized with Arnd Wedemeyer, GSA, Oakland, CA
- 2009-11 "The Public Sphere and Modern Social Imaginaries," working group, co-founder and coorganizer, Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities (ICRPH), The Ohio State University
- 2008-09 "The Public Sphere and Modern Social Imaginaries," research initiative, co-founder and coorganizer, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
- 2008 "'Post-Secular Europe?': Religion and Spirituality in Contemporary Fiction and Film,"

	organized special session, MLA, San Francisco
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
2008	"Literature as Antidote to Fear and Anxiety: Reconsidering the Power of Poetic Language at
	the 'Emotional Turn,'" panel, GSA, St. Paul
2006	"Emotion and Sympathy in Romanticism," special session, MLA, Philadelphia
2005	"Else Lasker-Schüler: From the Heart," special session, MLA, Washington D. C.
2002-04	"The Program in the Study of Women and Gender Graduate Works-in-Progress Colloquium,"
	co-organized with Alexandra Neel, Princeton University
2000	"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

EDITORIAL REVIEWS

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

PURI ISHED TRANSLATIONS

PUBLISH	ED TRANSLATIONS
2003	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,
	199-231
2002	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, 17-31
1999	Alexander Walker, Stanley Kubrick: Leben und Werk. Mit einer Bildanalyse von Sybil Taylor
	and Ulrich Ruchti, Berlin: Henschel (with Henning Thies)
1998	George Parry, Close up: Steven Spielberg, Reinbek: Rowohlt, 1998
1998	Geoffrey Nowell-Smith, ed., Geschichte des internationalen Films, Stuttgart: Metzler (9 essays)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Bon	n (summer semester 2018, guest teaching)
SU 2018	Literatur, Umwelt und Öffentlichkeit (Seminar)
SU 2018	Einführung in die Literaturtheorie am Beispiel der Frühromantik (Proseminar)

The Ohio State University (2007-present)

(1767-1812)

The Omo State Omversity (2007-present)				
Graduate Teaching				
SP 2018	Introduction to Environmental Humantities (co-taught with Dr. Christian Meierhofer)			
SP 2017	Sonnenfiguren in der Lyrik von Goethe, Hölderlin, Novalis und Günderrode			
AU 2015	Linguistics of Poetry			
SP 2015	Philosophy of Poetic Language			
SP 2015	Independent Study: MA preparation			
SP 2014	Doctoral Colloquium			
SP 2014	Independent Study: MA preparation			
SP 2013	Poetologien des Wissens – Der Fall der Metapher			
SP 2012, AU 2009	Development of German Poetry: Questions of the Lyric			
WI 2012	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			

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 18th

Century

Undergraduate Teaching

AU 2016 Introduction to German Aesthetics: Kant, Nietzsche, Adorno, Gernot Böhme

SP 2016, SP 2015, Berlin: Stories, Languages, and Ideas (general education course)

AU 2016

AU 2015 Senior Seminar in German: Contemporary Poetry and Music: From Rap to

Ecocriticism

SU 2015, 2017 Berlin, Then and Now: People, Places, and Experiences (general education study

abroad course in Berlin, Germany)

SP 2014, SP 2013 Texts and Contexts III: Historical Perspectives (advanced German language course) AU 2013, SP 2012 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 2012, SP 2011 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)

AU 2000-SP 2006 Elementary, intermediate, and advanced German language courses

SP 2004 Introduction to German Philosophy, Teaching Assistant

SP 2002 European Politics and Society in the 20th Century, Teaching Assistant

Evangelisches Studienwerk e.V. Villigst, Summer University "AnWenden" (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

Johns Hopkins University, Department of German (1995-1997)

Elementary and advanced German language courses

ADVISING

Ohio State University, 2007-present

PhD. Advisor

Carly Martin, "*Der Gedanke klebt am Ausdruck*: Language critique and autobiography in the German Enlightenment" (since SU 2015)

Ph.D. Co-Advisor

Amber Suggitt, "Between Becoming and Being: Male and Female Selves in the German Novel around 1800" (SP 2015)

Ph.D. Committee Member

Sarah Traylor, "Modern Pilgrimages: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Remembering in W.G. Sebald's Works" (since AU 2015, projected completion in SU 2018)

Bethany Richetti, "Learning to Re-present: Realism & Education in Literature and Visual Arts, 1800-1880" (SU 2017)

Sara Rossini, "Wie kommts, daß es mit den Philanthropinen so gar nicht fort will?": Die Kritik an den Erziehungsmethoden der Philanthropen in fiktionalen Texten der Aufklärung" (SU 2015)

Alexander Holznienkemper, "Making Sense of Terrorism – An Examination of Narratives of Religion and Modernity" (SP 2014)

Ph.D.-Examination Committee Chair

Carly Martin (AU 2015)

Ph.D.- Examination Committee Member

Kassi Burnett (SP 2018), Bill Baker (AU 2016), Sarah Larson (AU 2015), Simon Lösch (AU 2013), Bethany Richetti (SP 2013), Amber Suggitt (SP 2011), Alexander Holznienkemper (SP 2010), Thomas Stefaniuk (SP 2009), Sara Luly (SP 2008)

M.A.- Examination Committee Chair

Seth Warncke (SP 2016), Katharina Aigner (SP 2016), Michael Kich (AU 2015)

M.A.- Examination Committee Member

Bill Baker (SP 2015), Sarah Larson (SP 2014)

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor

Erin Sankey (SP 2017), "Klimt and Nietzsche: Philosophy in Language and Painting" Francis Kunkler (SP 2016), "Nature in Jung-Stilling's Lebensgeschichte: A Study of the Portrayal of Nature in German Peasant Literature"

Undergraduate Thesis Co-Advisor

Amy Jones (SP 2013), "The Translation of Musicality in the Lyric Poetry of Helmina von Chézy and Marceline Desbordes-Valmore," co-advisor Louisa Shea, Department of French and Italian, The Ohio State University

SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

Director of Graduate Studies, AU 2015-SP 2017

Graduate Faculty Representative on Dissertation Committee, SP 2015, SP 2016

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, SP 2008

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

LANGUAGES

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

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS GSA, ICLA, MLA