



CREATED BY PAUL BOSONETTO

ABOVE: DUKE IN BERLIN – ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAM

# DUKE GERMAN

## SUMMER 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

## SHARING KNOWLEDGE

A vital part of any community is creation and discussion. We can proudly say that our department has done a fantastic job in furthering this ideal. In addition to teaching, publishing papers, books and essays, our faculty and students have also found time to present and organize lectures, seminars, and exhibits on a wide variety of topics.

### JEWISH BORDERLANDS

**Kata Gellen Ph. D** is an assistant professor of German at Duke University. For 2013-2014, however, she was also a Mellon-Volkswagen Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities at the Dahlem Humanities Center at the Freie Universität Berlin. While in Berlin, she organized a workshop on Jewish language, literature, and Culture since the 1900's.

In addition to organizing the two-day event, she also presented a paper titled "Narration Against Tone: The Violent Harmony of Soma Morgenstern's *Sparks in the Abyss*".

**Professor William Donahue** also presented a paper at the workshop titled "Das überirdische Licht": Barbara Honigmann and the Transcendence of the Religious-Secular Divide".

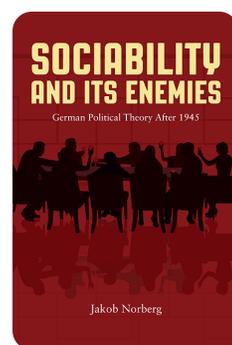
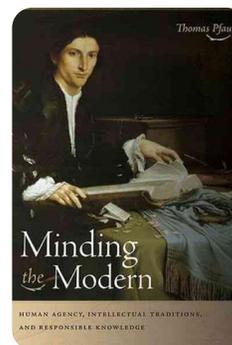
The conference was well attended with participants and speakers coming from many countries, including Israel, Sweden, Switzerland, and, of course, Germany and the United States.

### SCENES FROM THE HISTORY OF THE IMAGE

**Professor Thomas Pfau**, Alice Mary Baldwin Professor of English, as well as a member of the Carolina-Duke Graduate Studies Program in German, is co-directing a post-doctoral seminar in Berlin this July.

The seminar aims to explore primary and critical writings related to the history of the image. It seeks to trace and discuss the function of images in literature, philosophy, aesthetic theory, and phenomenology, as they have existed in Western history.

He will co-direct the seminar with Dr. David Womersley of Oxford University.



### PUBLICATIONS

Our faculty continues to distinguish itself with its numerous, often award-winning, publications. Works range from books on human agency and sociability in postwar Germany, to essays on narratological strategies in "Spiegelgeschichte" and in-depth analyses of Wagner's works.

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Left to Right: Kata Gellen, William Donahue, Thomas Pfau



## RESEARCH

### CLICHÉ IN MODERN CRITICISM

Assistant Professor Jakob Norberg spent 2013-2014 at the Dahlem Humanities Center at the Freie Universität Berlin as a Volkswagen Foundation fellow as well. In his time overseas, he started a research project on the concept of the cliché in modern literary and cultural criticism and was invited to lecture on his new work at the University of Bonn, the University of Siegen, and at the Freie Universität Berlin.

While in Berlin, Dr. Norberg published a book titled: "[Sociability and Its Enemies: German Political Theory After 1945](#)" (Northwestern University Press) in which he reconstructs the postwar arguments concerning the nature and value of sociability as a form of interaction and interconnection particular to modern bourgeois society.

Erik Grell, PhD candidate within the Carolina-Duke graduate program is going to represent the department at the FU in Berlin. He was awarded the DAAD fellowship for 2014-2015, during which he will be conducting research and finishing his dissertation. His research focuses on German politics and prose fiction in the mid-nineteenth century, with chapters that explore the works of Heinrich Heine, Berthold Auerbach, and Adalbert Stifter, among others.

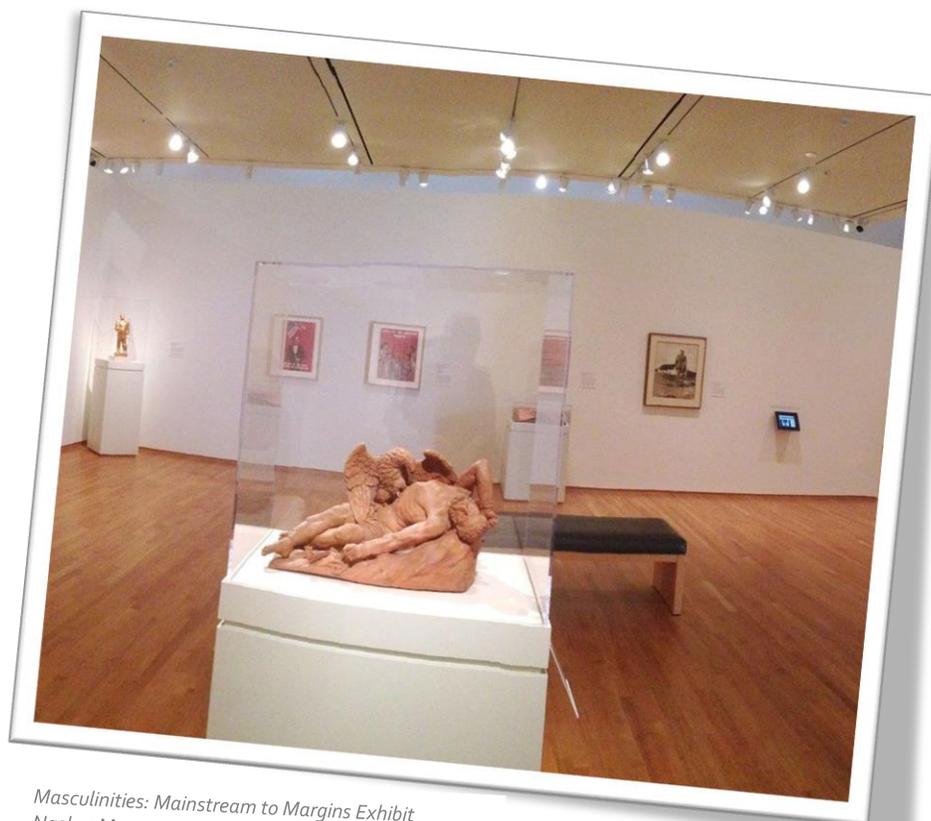


Erik Grell

### THE MANY ASPECTS OF GENDER

Professor Ann Marie Rasmussen's Fall 2013 class *Rivalrous Masculinities*, co-taught with graduate student Christian Straubhaar, created and curated an exhibit in the Nasher Museum of Art.

Their exhibit, titled 'Masculinities: Mainstream to Margins', examined how the idea of a 'real man' has changed over time. Both challenging and supporting modern definitions of masculinity, the exhibit reveals the complexity of gender and the construction of masculine perfection.



*Masculinities: Mainstream to Margins Exhibit*  
Nasher Museum of Art

## A man is...

Just  
An  
Idea

A visitor's response to the exhibit's question: "What is a man?"



The Steering Committee for 'From Harlem to Hamburg', from left to right: Ralph Hardy, William Donahue, Bryan Gilliam, Priscilla Layne, Michelle Eley, Jonathan Wipplinger, Rory Bradley.

## FROM HARLEM TO HAMBURG

Founded by the Humanities Writ Large initiative at Duke University, From Harlem to Hamburg explored the complex, but under-researched, exchange of African American and German culture throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The exchange of these cultures was examined using an interdisciplinary as well as intercultural approach that investigated the Harlem Renaissance and Civil Rights movement, to name a few.

The project was created by a steering committee that was assembled by **Professor William Donahue** and included faculty from UNC-Chapel Hill, NC State, NC Central University, and Duke (pictured above). The multi-institutional mix was created not only for the wealth of knowledge that professors from different schools could bring, but also in an effort to create an inter-institutional network.

Undergraduate students participated in the four-part film series, an academic symposium, and a concert. To further extend involvement with undergraduates and promote individual research on the topic, an agreement with the academic journal *andererseits* to publish undergraduate research was made.

## GUESTS & LECTURERS

PART 1/2

### REDUCTIONISM IN HERMENEUTICS



By Vittorio Hölse

The lecture looks at a variety of transcendental presuppositions of understanding and explores how the focusing on limited features of the interpretandum leads to the manifold hermeneutical reductionisms that plague the humanities today.

Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 pm - Old Chem 119  
*Dinner will be served during lecture*

### VITTORIO HÖLSE

#### Reductionism in Hermeneutics

The lecture looked at a variety of transcendental presuppositions of understanding and explored how the focusing on limited features of the interpretandum leads to the manifold hermeneutical reductionisms that plague the humanities today.

Weimar cinema, contemporary fiction, and beyond ...

### NOSFERATU IN LOVE



Please join the Duke German Department for a talk by visiting scholar

DR. JØRGEN BRUHN

Professor of Comparative Literature at Linnaeus University in Växjö, Sweden, Dr. Bruhn has written on Proust, Bakhtin, and Chrétien de Troyes; he is also a noted scholar of intermediality and adaptation studies. His talk will trace visions of vampirism back in time from Jim Shepard's 1998 Weimar-cinema novel *Nosferatu in Love*, raising questions of adaptation, medium specificity, and intermediality that reach far beyond novels or films about pale, bloodsucking gentlemen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 4:30 P.M.  
OLD CHEM 119

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#### Nosferatu in Love

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# DIGITAL FAUST:

## A DIGITAL LOOK AT AN AGE-OLD IDEA

Professors **Michael Morton** and **Heidi Madden** received a Paletz Grant for innovation in Teaching for their course: The Devil's Pact, where they introduced undergraduate students to the digital workflow involved in archival research.

The purpose of the Digital Faust project was to visualize the chronology and history of the Faustian themes in literature and art by paying close attention to editions of works, and illustrations contained in works, written in the Faustian tradition.

While exploring the age-old Faustian idea of 'selling one's soul', students worked with over 80 rare books at the Rubenstein library, as well as public domain cultural works. Students were able to apply their research when they were introduced to OMEKA, a presentation software commonly used by museums and cultural organizations.

As the digital part of the course ended, **Professor Joe Viscome**, of the Blake Archive at the University of Virginia, spoke at its conclusion. Viscome helped students understand how large literary digital archives are used in research.



Professor Heidi Madden  
Not shown: Michael Morton



Red Boxing: The interpretation of a complex image motif by motif, with a different undergraduate researcher assigned to each red box.

## GUESTS & LECTURERS

The Duke German department makes a point of bringing in speakers from all around the world, providing new perspectives and unparalleled expertise on a variety of subject matter.

**Dr. Matthias Pabsch** from the Humboldt Universität shared his expertise on art, architecture, and urban design in two talks: Contemporary Art in Berlin and Max Liebermann – Painting, Space, and Architecture.

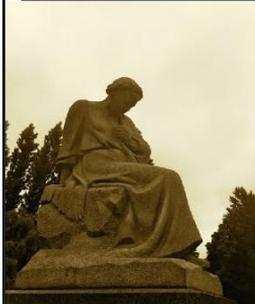
Students in the course Green Germany, taught by **Stephen Milder**, were treated to guest lectures from **Andreas Kraemer** and **Benjamin Görlach**, experts in environmental policy.

**Heidi Hart, Thomas Manganaro, and Gabriel Trop** – the trio played the music of Strauss, Tavener, Eisler, and more in a concert titled 'Musik/Politik – Sounding the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.'

**Dr. Elizabeth Bridges**, from Rhodes College in Tennessee, presented 'Graphic Novels in the L12 Classroom'. Her research focuses on representations of science and technology in literary and visual culture.

## PART 2/2

**MUSIK/POLITIK**  
Sounding the 20<sup>th</sup> Century



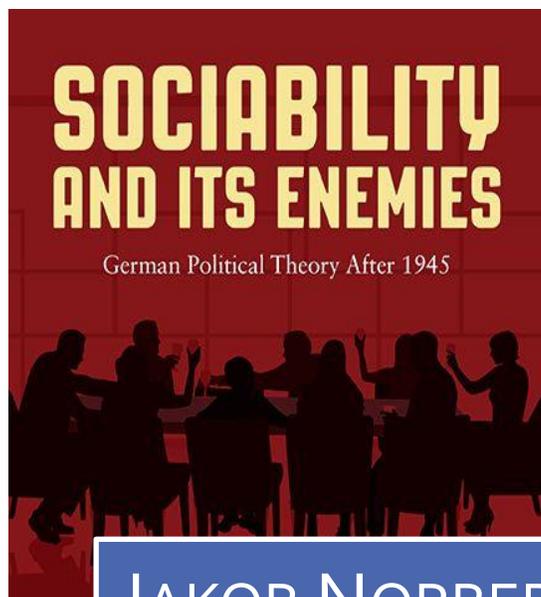
Heidi Hart, mezzo-soprano  
Thomas Salem Manganaro, piano  
Gabriel Trop, cello

Music of Richard  
Strauss, John Tavener,  
Hanns Eisler, John  
Adams, Kurt Schwann,  
and Kurt Weill

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2014  
5:00 P.M.

5503 WOODBERRY ROAD  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

## NEW BOOKS...



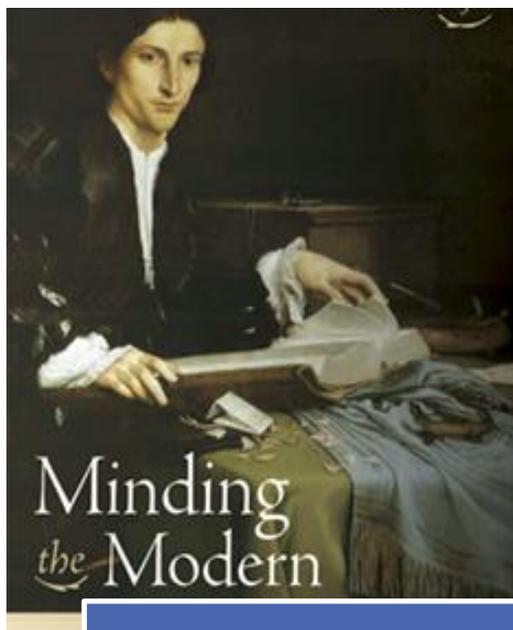
JAKOB NORBERG

***SOCIABILITY AND ITS ENEMIES: GERMAN POLITICAL THEORY AFTER 1945*** (Northwestern University Press) 2014.

[Sociability and Its Enemies](#)

Jakob Norberg argues that the writings of Hannah Arendt, Jürgen Habermas, Carl Schmitt, and the historian Reinhart Koselleck present conflicting responses to a hitherto neglected question or point of contention: whether bourgeois sociability should serve as a therapeutic practice and politically relevant ideal for postwar Germany.

The book sheds light on previously neglected historical and conceptual connections among political theorists, and it enriches established narratives of postwar intellectual history.



THOMAS PFAU

***MINDING THE MODERN***

*HUMAN AGENCY, INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS, AND RESPONSIBLE KNOWLEDGE* (University of Notre Dame Press) 2013.

[Minding the Modern](#)

“A book of transcendent vision, and one that deserves to be studied in depth.” – *The Sun News Miami*

“The The ensuing debate, and the intellectual traditions it will engage, could help restore seriousness and urgency to the humanities.” – *The Hedgehog Review*

“[A] learned, deeply important, and accomplished study...”  
“The sweep and comprehensiveness of the work are remarkable.” *James Engell, Harvard University*