

**Back to the Future: Tradition and Innovation in German Studies:  
The 50th Annual Wisconsin Workshop**

**Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017** (Pyle Center, ATT Lounge)

ca. 6:30-9 pm: Welcome and Alumni Event “MOSTALGIE” (Madison Nostalgia): an open-mic opportunity to reflect on the experience of graduate studies and professional preparation, with closing comments by Klaus Berghahn and Jost Hermand

**Friday, Sept. 15, 2017** (Pyle Center)

9:00-12:00 pm: *Session 1:*

Moderator:

- David Kim, UC Los Angeles, “**What Is Solidarity? Reading Hannah Arendt between Innovation and Tradition**”
- Johan Siebers, Middlesex University, London, “**Ernst Bloch’s Geist der Utopie after One Century: A Janus-faced Reading**”

[Lunch break]

2:00-5:30 pm: *Session 2:*

Moderator:

- Hunter Bivens, UC Santa Cruz, “**Affective Labors of Socialist Construction in the GDR**”
- Crister Garrett, University of Leipzig, “**Last Liberals Standing? Germany, National Traditions of Politics, and Transcultural Readings of Contemporary Populism**”
- Katrin Sieg, Georgetown University, “**Open Borders? Refugees in European Cinema**”

[Dinner break]

7:30-9:30 pm: *Faculty Recital* (UW School of Music, Mills Concert Hall)

Martha Fischer, Paul Rowe

**Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017** (Pyle Center)

9:30-12:00 pm: *Session 3*

Moderator:

- Ela Gezen, U-Mass, Amherst, “**Turkish Political Theater and Bertolt Brecht;**”
- John K. Noyes, University of Toronto, **Goethe’s Future: Velociferity, Artifice and the Limits of the Human**

[Lunch break]

2:00-5:30 pm: *Session 4*

Moderator:

- Mona Körte, Free University, Berlin, “**Pass pro toto. European-Jewish Responses to State Narratives of Personhood**”
- Ofer Ashkanazi, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, “**Strategies of Exile Photography: From Berlin to Tel Aviv**”
- Frank Trommler, University of Pennsylvania, “**Back to the Future of German Studies: Which Future? Which History?**” [Concluding remarks]

6:30-9:30 pm: Conference banquet (invited guests) at Steenbock on Orchard

The German Department’s Wisconsin Workshop – 1970-2017:

An exhibit in the foyer of Memorial Library

## INVITED SPEAKERS' SHORT BIOGRAPHIES:

### **Ofer Ashkanazi, Hebrew University, Jerusalem**

Ofer Ashkanazi is a senior lecturer in the history department and director of the Koebner Center for German History at the Hebrew University. He was also a Mosse Fellow in the UW Department of History. His research interests include Central European cultural and intellectual history, modern visual culture, and Jewish urban experience in twentieth-century Europe. He has published two monographs on German and German-Jewish film before 1933.

### **Hunter Bivens, University of California, Santa Cruz**

Hunter Bivens is associate professor of German Studies at the University of California in Santa Cruz. His research interests include twentieth and twenty-first century German literature, culture, and film, Marxism and critical theory, socialist realism and proletarian literature, modernism and left avant-gardes, and novel theory. His monograph, *Epic and Exile: Novels of the German Popular Front, 1933-1945*, was published by Northwestern University Press in 2015.

### **Crister Garrett, University of Leipzig**

Crister Garrett is professor for American Culture and History at the University of Leipzig and former executive director of the UW Center for German and European Studies. His research interests include contemporary American politics and society in an international context. His current research projects include "Contesting the Transatlantic Space," "Narratives of Security," and "Constructing Practices for American Foreign Policy."

### **Ela Gezen, University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

Ela Gezen is assistant professor of German & Scandinavian Studies at U-Mass Amherst. Her research and teaching focus on twentieth-century German and Turkish literature and culture, with emphases on literatures of migration, minority discourses, historical and theoretical accounts of transnationalism, and literary and cultural theory. Currently she is working on the completion of her book manuscript, *Literary Encounters: Bertolt Brecht, the Turkish Left and Turkish German Culture since 1960*.

### **David Kim, University of California, Los Angeles**

David Kim is assistant professor in the Department of Germanic languages at UCLA. His research interests include fin-de-siècle Vienna, contemporary German literature, digital humanities, transnational adoption, human rights, and narratives of citizenship and solidarity. He has recently completed a book, titled *Cosmopolitan Parables: Responsibility and Trauma in Contemporary Germany* forthcoming in August 2017 from Northwestern University Press.

### **Mona Körte, Zentrum für Literaturforschung, Berlin**

Mona Körte teaches German and comparative literature at the Technical University and directs the research area of World Literature at the Zentrum für Literaturforschung in Berlin. Her research interests include the literary and cultural history of the face, the materiality of writing, German-Jewish and European-Jewish literature, visual culture, and exile and multilingualism. Her newest monograph, *Undinge: Literarische Epistemologie der Sammlung um 1800* is forthcoming from Wilhelm Fink Verlag.

**John K. Noyes, University of Toronto**

John Noyes is professor of German at the University of Toronto. His research interests include the cultural history of colonialism, post-colonial theory, German classical literature and culture, and the history of sexuality. His book on *Herder: Aesthetics against Imperialism* won the 2016 MLA Prize for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures. His current research project is on “Global Citizenship and the Practice of Being Human.”

**Johan Siebers, Middlesex University, London**

Johan Siebers is associate professor of philosophy and religion at Middlesex University in London. His research interests include metaphysics, critical theory, and the philosophy of Ernst Bloch. He has published numerous essays in journals and edited collections including *Vorschein: Jahrbuch der Ernst Bloch Gesellschaft 2016*, *Russian Journal of Communication*, *Journal of Art & Communities*, and *Oxford German Studies*.

**Katrin Sieg, Georgetown University**

Katrin Sieg is professor of German at Georgetown University. Her recent research concentrates on the documentary work performed at an immigrant theater in Berlin. She is the author of three books on twentieth-century German theater and performance, which focus on the politics of nationality, race/ethnicity, and gender/sexuality.

**Frank Trommler, University of Pennsylvania**

Frank Trommler is professor emeritus of German at the University of Pennsylvania. His research interests include nineteenth and twentieth-century literature, modernism and cultural studies. He has been a leader in the German Studies Association and its efforts to broaden the field of German cultural studies in the USA. Among his many relevant monographs on this topic are *Germanistik in den USA* (1989), *The Cultural Legitimacy of the Federal Republic* (1999), and *Kulturmacht ohne Kompass: Deutsche auswärtige Kulturbeziehungen im 20. Jahrhundert*.