

## MATT ERLIN

---

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures  
Campus Box 1104, Washington University  
One Brookings Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63130  
314-935-5106  
merlin@wustl.edu

### EDUCATION

- Ph.D. German, University of California, Berkeley, 2000  
University of Bonn, 1995-96 (*Germanistik/ Politische Wissenschaft*)  
M.A. German, University of California, Berkeley, 1994  
University of Mainz, 1992-93 (*Germanistik/Allgemeine Literaturwissenschaft*)  
B.A. International Relations, Stanford University, 1990

### EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Washington University in St. Louis (2007 – present)  
Assistant Professor, Washington University in St. Louis (2000 – 2007)

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Book

*Berlin's Forgotten Future: City, History, and Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century Germany*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004

#### Edited Volumes

*Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies*. Special Issue on the Eighteenth-Century German Novel. Ed. Matt Erlin and Sean Franzel. Forthcoming 2013.

*Distant Readings/Descriptive Turns: Topologies of German Culture in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Ed. Matt Erlin and Lynne Tatlock. New York: Camden House, forthcoming 2012.

*German Culture in Nineteenth-Century America: Reception, Adaptation, Transformation*. Ed. Lynne Matt Erlin and Lynne Tatlock. Columbia, SC: Camden House, 2005

#### Articles

- “How to Think about Luxury Editions in Late Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century Germany.” In *Publishing Culture and the Reading Nation: German Book History in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Ed. Lynne Tatlock. Columbia, SC: Camden House, 2010. 25-54.
- “Affirmative Culture from Marcuse to Moritz.” In *The Meaning of Culture*. Ed. Martin Kagel. Hannover: Wehrhahn Verlag, 2009. 63-90.

- “Tradition as Intellectual Montage: F. W. Murnau’s *Faust*.” In *Weimar Cinema: An Essential Guide to the Classic Films of the Era*. Ed. Noah Isenberg. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008. 155-72.
- “Useless Subjects: Reading and Consumer Culture in Eighteenth-Century Germany” In *The German Quarterly* 80.2 (2007): 145-64
- “Products of the Imagination: Mining, Luxury, and the Romantic Artist in *Heinrich von Ofterdingen*” In *German Life and Letters* 60:1 (2007): 40-68.
- “Book Fetish: Joachim Heinrich Campe and the Commodification of Literature.” In *Seminar* 42:4 (2006): 355-76.
- “Introduction” (with Lynne Tatlock). In *German Culture in Nineteenth-Century America: Reception, Adaptation, Transformation*. Ed. Lynne Tatlock and Matt Erlin. Columbia, SC: Camden House, 2005. xi-xxi.
- “Absolute Speculation: The St. Louis Hegelians and the Question of American National Identity.” In *German Culture in Nineteenth-Century America: Reception, Adaptation, Transformation*. Ed. Lynne Tatlock and Matt Erlin. Columbia, SC: Camden House, 2005. 90-106.
- , Reprinted in *The St. Louis Philosophical Movement*. Ed. Britt-Marie Schiller. St. Louis, MO: Webster University Press, 2009. 65-86.
- “Goethe’s ‘Ilmenau’ and the Origins of the Aesthetic State.” In *Goethe Yearbook* 13 (2005): 53-74.
- “Reluctant Modernism: Moses Mendelssohn’s Philosophy of History.” In *Journal of the History of Ideas* 63:1 (2002): 83-104.
- , Reprinted in *Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800*. Ed. Thomas J. Schoenberg and Lawrence J. Trudeau. Vol. 142. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2008. 222-32.
- “Aesthetic Experience, Urban Experience, and Enlightenment in G.E. Lessing’s *Minna von Barnhelm*.” In *Monatshefte* 93:1 (2001): 20-35.
- “Friedrich Nicolai.” In *Encyclopedia of German Literature*. Ed. Matthias Konzett. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn. 2000. 760-62.

### Review Essay

- “What’s New in the New Economic Criticism?” *Goethe Yearbook* 18 (2011): 285-95.

### Translations/Reviews

- Translation of Herbert Marcuse, “On Concrete Philosophy.” In *Herbert Marcuse: Heideggerian Marxism 1928-1933*. Ed. Richard Wolin and John Abromite. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska, 2005. 34-52.
- Translation of Gérard Raulet, “Herbert Marcuse’s Negative Dialectics of Imagination.” In *Herbert Marcuse: A Critical Reader*. Ed. John Abromite and Mark Cobb. London: Routledge, 2003. 114-27.
- Nils Reschke, “*Zeit der Umwendung*.” *Lektüren der Revolution in Goethes Roman Die Wahlverwandschaften*. In *Goethe Yearbook* 16 (2008): 238-40.
- Klaus Peter, *Problemfeld Romantik*. In *German Studies Review* 31:3 (2008): 648-49.
- Karin Wurst, *Fabricating Pleasure: Fashion, Entertainment, and Cultural Consumption in Germany, 1780-1830*. H-Net, August 2006.

- Joseph Vogl, *Kalkül und Leidenschaft: Poetik des ökonomischen Menschen*. In *The German Quarterly* 79:3 (2006): 402-3.
- Barbara Becker-Cantarino, ed. *German Literature of the Eighteenth-Century: The Enlightenment and Sensibility*. H-NET, December 2005.
- Toshimasa Yasukata, *Lessing's Philosophy of Religion and the German Enlightenment*. In *German Studies Review* 26:3 (2003): 623-24.
- Robert Tobin, *Doctor's Orders: Goethe and Enlightenment Thought*. In *German Studies Review* 26:1 (2003): 142-44.
- Jonathan M. Hess, *Reconstituting the Body Politic: Enlightenment, Public Culture and the Invention of Aesthetic Autonomy*. In *Colloquia Germanica*, 34:1 (2001): 71-72.
- Beth Bjorklund and Mark R. Cory, eds. *Politics and German Literature*. In *Colloquia Germanica*, 33:3 (2000): 289-91.
- Christoph Perels, *Goethe in seiner Epoche. Zwölf Versuche*. In *Lessing Yearbook*, vol. XXXI, 1999: 202-4.

### Work In Progress

#### *Necessary Luxuries: German Literature and the World of Goods 1770-1815*

A book-length investigation of the interpenetration of literature and consumer culture in late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century Germany. The study demonstrates how ideas about the social function of literature take shape in reaction to an unsettling expansion of commodity culture and can be best understood when placed in dialogue with political-economic theories of the period. Manuscript under review.

#### *Rethinking the History of German Literature 1731-1864: A Statistical Approach*

A digital humanities project that uses probabilistic topic modeling to test a set of longstanding assumptions about the periodization of German literary history. Applying the MALLET topic modeling toolkit to a data set of 154 novels written between 1731 and 1864, I have been evaluating whether these novels do in fact cluster together in ways that supports the scholarly consensus on periodization, or whether there might be hidden thematic structures in these works that point to new ways of thinking about their “proximity” to one another.

### SELECT PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES

“The Location of Literary History: Topic Modeling, Network Analysis, and the German Novel, 1731-1864,” Distant Readings/Descriptive Turns, Washington University, April 2012

“The Semantics of Literary History: Topic Modeling the German Novel 1731-1864,” Networks and Network Analysis in the Humanities, UCLA, October 2011

“To Entertain and Instruct: The Pedagogy of Pleasure in Christoph Martin Wieland’s *Der goldne Spiegel* and Joachim Heinrich Campe’s *Robinson der Jüngere*,” German Studies Association Conference, Louisville, October 2011

“Material Culture and the Objectification of Luxury in the Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century German Novel.” *People in the World of Print*, McGill University, March 2011

- “Luxury and Material Culture in the Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century German Novel.” *The Future of Archives in a Digital Age*, University of Missouri, February 2011
- “Ein Denkmal des deutschen Geschmacks und Kunstfleißes?": Prachtausgaben um 1800." Jahrestagung der DGEJ, Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für die Erforschung der Europäischen Aufklärung, Halle, September 2010
- “The Heart of Romanticism.” NEH Summer Institute on Networks and Network Analysis in the Humanities, UCLA, August 2010.
- “Graphs? Maps? Trees? Quantitative Approaches to Eighteenth-Century German Literature.” Midwest Symposium in German Studies, University of Missouri, April 2010
- “Mapping the Material Culture of the German Novel 1750-1815: A Modest Proposal.” German Studies Association Conference, Washington, DC, October 2009
- “Mythos der Ökonomie: Überlegungen zum Luxusdiskurs in Goethes *Wahlverwandtschaften*.” Leibniz Universität Hannover, July 2009
- “*Die Wahlverwandtschaften*: Goethe's Economic Mythology.” German Studies Association Conference, St. Paul, MN, October 2008
- “Affirmative Culture Reconsidered: From Marcuse to Moritz.” *The Meaning of Culture: German Studies in the 21st Century*, University of Georgia, March 2008
- “The Mirror and the Lamp: Material Culture and Subjectivity in the Novels of Karl Philipp Moritz.” German Studies Association Conference, San Diego, October 2007
- “Aesthetic Autonomy and Commercial Ideology: The Case of Karl Philipp Moritz.” Trans- Cultural German Studies: Building Bridges/Brücken schlagen, University of Arizona, March 2007
- “The Appetite For Reading in Eighteenth-Century Germany.” Eighteenth-Century Studies Working Group, UC Berkeley, March 2006
- “Literaturgeschichte als Konsumgeschichte: ‘Leseluxus’ im 18. Jahrhundert.” Lehrstuhlübergreifendes Kolloquium, Universität Bonn, November 2005
- “Literature and Luxury Production in E. T. A. Hoffmann.” German Studies Association Conference, Washington DC, October 2004
- “Absolute Speculation: The St. Louis Hegelians and the Question of American National Identity.” Transfer Effects: Appropriations of German Culture in Nineteenth-Century America, Washington University, April 2004  
-- also delivered at the Webster University St. Louis Hegelians Conference, St. Louis, April 2008
- “Literature and Commodity Fetishism in J.H. Campe's *Robinson der Jüngere*.” Modern Language Association Conference, San Diego, December 2003
- “Goethe's *Ilmenau* and the Origins of the Aesthetic State.” Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, April 2002
- “Eighteenth-Century Berlin and the Dialectics of Urban Sociability.” German Studies Association Conference, Washington DC, October 2001
- “Moses Mendelssohn and the Mythology of the Text.” German Studies Association Conference, Houston, October 2000

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Graduate**

The German Aesthetic Tradition

Graphs? Maps? Trees? The Past, Present and Future of Literary Sociology

Philosophy and German Literature 1700-1830

The Price of Culture: Economics and the Nineteenth-Century Novel

Consuming Fictions: Commodification and the German Novel, 1775-1815

Marxism and Cultural Criticism

### **Undergraduate**

Get Real: Existentialist Themes in German Literature, Philosophy and Film

The Rise of the Modern European State

Reading Kafka: An Introduction to Theory and Methods in the Humanities (also open to graduate students)

Focus on Nationalism: French and German Nationalism (1789-1914)

Literary Modernities

German for Business and Economics

German Family Values: 1750-1800

Marx, Nietzsche, Freud

Poetry and Society in Germany

German Literature in the Modern Era

Advanced German I & II

Intermediate German

Beginning German I & II

## **FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS**

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers, 2011/2012

Humboldt Renewal Fellowship, Hannover, Summer 2009

Honorable mention, 2006 annual essay competition of the Goethe Society of North America (for "Goethe's 'Ilmenau' and the Origins of the Aesthetic State")

Humboldt Research Fellowship, Wolfenbüttel/Bonn, 2005

Faculty Research Grant, Summer 2005

International Activities Fund grant for course-related research in Berlin, Summer 2002

## **DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Director of Graduate Studies (2010-2011)

Chair, University Curriculum Implementation Committee (2009-present)

Chair, Lecture Committee, Germanic Lang. & Lit. (2009-2011)

Parking and Transportation Committee (2009-2010)

Assembly Series Committee (2009-present)

Steering Committee for Undergraduate Council (2008-present)  
Undergraduate Council (2007-present)  
DAAD Fellowship Review Committee (2007-present)  
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Germanic Lang. & Lit. (2006-2010)  
Steering Committee for Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities (2002-present)  
University Curriculum Committee (2006-2007; 2009)  
Acting Associate Director, IPH (2006)  
Director, summer abroad program in Göttingen (2001-2004, 2007-2009)  
Faculty advisor for Delta Phi Alpha German honorary society (2001)  
Committee member for numerous tenure and non-tenure track faculty searches  
Undergraduate and graduate advising, Senior honors thesis advising, various PhD and MA exam committees (ongoing)

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Symposium co-organizer: "Distant Readings/Descriptive Turns: Topologies of German Literature in the Long Nineteenth Century," Washington University, April 2012  
Participant, NEH Summer Institute on Networks and Network Analysis for the Humanities, UCLA, August 2010.  
Member, PMLA Advisory Committee (2010-present)  
Member, Nominating Committee, Goethe Society of North America (2009)  
Member, MLA Executive Committee of the Division on Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century German Literature (2007-present)  
Co-organizer, First Annual Summer Seminar in Eighteenth-Century German Studies, Newberry Library, Chicago, July 2008  
Symposium co-organizer: "Transfer Effects: Appropriations of German Culture in Nineteenth-Century America, Washington University, April 2004  
Workshop participant: "Introduction to German for the Professions," Goethe-Institut Chicago, December 2002  
Referee for *Intellectual History Review*, *Seminar*, *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, *Eighteenth-Century Thought*, *Focus on German Studies*, *Continuum Books*, *Germanic Review*  
Tenure reviews for various institutions  
Organizer of numerous panels and roundtables at national and international conferences

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Association of Teachers of German, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, German Studies Association, Lessing Society, Goethe Society of North America, Modern Language Association

## References

### **Simon Richter**

srichter@sas.upenn.edu  
745 Williams Hall  
255 South 36th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305

### **Jonathan Hess**

jmhess@email.unc.edu  
Department of Germanic Languages  
University of North Carolina  
438 Dey Hall, CB# 3160  
Chapel Hill NC 27599

### **John A. McCarthy**

john.a.mccarthy@vanderbilt.edu  
Department of Germanic & Slavic Languages  
Vanderbilt University  
VU Station B #351567  
2301 Vanderbilt Place  
Nashville, TN 37235-1567

### **Daniel L. Purdy**

dlp14@psu.edu  
302A Burrowes Building  
Pennsylvania State University  
State College, PA 16802

### **Hinrich C. Seeba (dissertation advisor)**

hcseeba@berkeley.edu  
Department of German  
5319 Dwinelle Hall  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94720-3243

### **Lynne Tatlock (teaching reference)**

ltatlock@wustl.edu  
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Campus Box 1104  
One Brookings Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63130