Richard Block

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Education

Northwestern University, Ph.D., German Literature and Critical Theory/Comparative Literary Studies, (1998).

Northwestern University, MSJ, Journalism (1982).

University of Washington, MA, German Languages and Literature (1980).

Duke University, BA, German Literature/Psychology, Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude (1975).

Dissertation: *The Spell of Italy: The Goethe Effect and the German Literary Imagination*. Géza von Molnár, director.

Current Position

Associate Professor, Germanics, University of Washington, September 2007 to present. Assistant Professor, 2004-2007.

Participating Faculty, Program in Jewish Studies and Graduate Program in Theory and Criticism, European Studies (Advisory Board).

Previous Teaching Positions

Guest Professor, Germanistik, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, spring 2009.

Assistant Professor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 2000 to August 2004. Department of Comparative Literature and the Humanities, appt. spring 2004.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Departments of German and Comparative Literature, University of Oregon. 1999-2000.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Departments of German and Comparative Literary Studies, Northwestern University, 1998-1999.

Monographs

The Spell of Italy: Vacation, Magic and the Attraction of Goethe. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2006. 310 pages. Reviews: German Studies Review (32.1: 2009); Goethe Yearbook (15.1 2009); Monatshefte (100.2: 2008). German Quarterly (Winter 2008).

Edited Books

With Peter Fenves. *The Spirit of Poesy: Essays on Jewish and German Literature and Thought in Honor of Géza von Molnár*. Evanston, IL: Northwestern UP: 2000. 221 pages.

With Simon Richter. *Goethe's Ghosts: Essays in Honor of Jane Brown*, forthcoming 2013.

With Michael Duplessis: *Betrayal*. Special issue of *NCR* (forthcoming).

Translations of Books

Peter Bürger, *The Thinking of the Master*. Evanston, IL.: Northwestern UP: November 2002. 128 pages.

Introductions to Books

"Peter Bürger's Turn," *The Thinking of the Master*. Evanston, IL.: Northwestern UP, November 2002, v-xii

With Simon Richter, Goethe's Ghosts. Camden Press, forthcoming.

With Michael Duplessis,"Betrayal is a Treacherous Subject" as part of a special issue for *New Centennial Review*, 12:3 Winter 2012) 1-17.

Refereed Articles in Journals

"The Bloody Price of Adoption: Betrayal and Absolution in Kleist's "Der Findling", New Centennial Review, 12:3 (Winter 2012) 27-52.

"'I'll Love You Forever, Wilhelm." Queer Echoes in Roland Barthes' Reading

of Goethe's "Werther" and Nietzsche's Eternal Return of the Same" *Literatur für Leser*, 10:3 (Spring 2011) 147-65.

"I'm nothing. I'm Nowhere." Echoes of Queer Messianism in 'Brokeback Mountain." New Centennial Review, 9:1 (Spring 2009) 253-278.

"Falling to the Stars: Georg Trakl's Utopian Poetics," *German Quarterly*, 78:2 (Spring 2005), 24-44.

"Queering the Jew who would be German," Seminar, 40:2 (May 2004) 93-110

"From Classical Weimar to Hess' Zion: Remapping a Literary History through Textual Configurations of Sexuality," *MLN*, 119:3 (April/May 2004) 409-30.

"Selective Affinities: Walter Benjamin and Ludwig Klages," *Arcadia* 35 (Fall 2000) 117-36.

"Stone Deaf: The Gentleness of Law in Stifter's 'Brigitta'," *Monatshefte*, 33:1 (Spring 1998) 33-47.

"Strings Attached: Interpretive Ruse in Kleist's 'Über das Marionettentheater'," *New German Review*, 3 (Fall 1995) 42-60.

"Second Reads: Althusser Reading Marx Reading Hegel," *boundary* <u>2</u>, 22:1 (Spring 1995) 211-34.

"Baal Dancing: The Unsettling Position of Baal in Brecht's Theater of the

New," German Quarterly, 68:2 (Spring 1995) 117-30.

"The End of Reading: Adorno on Brecht," Faultline, 3 (Fall 1994) 63-78.

Articles in Collections

"From Art to History: Schelling's *System of Transcendental Idealism* and The Coming Community," in *Inventions of the Imagination*. Ed. Richard Gray et al. (Seattle and London: UP Washington, 2011) 141-59.

"Textual Narcissism: Undoing Queer Readings in Kleist's 'Über das Marionettentheater," I _The Self as Muse: Narcissism and Creativity in the German Imagination, 1750-1830. Ed. Alex Mathäs (Lewisburg: Bucknell UP, 2011) 171-194.

"Scribbles from Italy: Cy Twombly's Experiment in Seeing Goethe See Language," in *Enlightened Eye: Goethe and Seeing*. Ed. Evelyn Moore and Patricia Simpson (Amsterdam: Rodopoi, 2007) 284-309.

Invited Review Articles

Peter McIssac. *Museums of the Mind. German Modernity and the Dynamics Of Collecting*. (College Park, Pa.: Penn State UP: 2007). MLQ 70:3 (Spring 2009) 394-8).

Bernd Witte and Mauro Ponzi, eds. *Theologie und Politik: Walter Benjamin Und ein Pardigma der Moderne*. Berlin: Erich Schmidt, 1005. Arcadia 42: 1 (Winter 2007) 189-92.

Susannah Gottlieb Yah: *Regions of Sorrow. Anxiety and Messianism in Hannah Arendt and W. H. Auden.* Stanford: Stanford UP 2002. Arcadia 39:2 (fall 2004) 434-7.

"Goethe at War: An Invisible School of Thinkers vs. the Industry." Benjamin Bennett: *Goethe as Woman: The Undoing of Literature*. Detroit: Wayne State University, 2001. Astride Orle Tantillo: *Goethe's Elective Affinities and the Critics* Rochester and Suffolk: Camden House, 2001. Martin and Erika Swales: *Reading Goethe: A Critical Introduction to the Literary Work*. Rochester and Suffolk: Camden House, 2002. *Eighteenth Century Studies*, 36:2 winter 2003. 299-304.

Michael Eskin: *The Ethics of Dialogue in the Works of Bakhtin, Levinas, Celan, and Mandel'shtam.* New York: Oxford University, 2000. *Arcadia*, 36:2 (winter 2001) 376-79.

Reviews of Books

Samuel Weber. Benjamin's –abilities. Cambridge, London: Harvard UP, 2007. *German Studies Review* 32:1 (Feb. 2009) 699.

Simon Richter. *Missing the Breast: Gender, Fantasy, and the Body in The German Enlightenment*. Seattle: UP Washington, 2006 Lessing Yearbook XXXVIII (2008-2009) 338-9.

Georg Trakl: Poems and Prose. A Bilingual Edition. Alexander Stillmark, Trans. Evanston: Northwestern UP. German Quarterly 79:2 (Spring 2006) 282-4.

Gary Schmidt. *The Nazi Abduction of Ganymede: Representations Of Male Homosexuality in Postwar German Literature.* New York: Peter Lang, 2003. German Quarterly, fall 2004, 509-10.

Kenneth M. Ralston, *The Captured Horizon: Heidegger and the "Nachtwachen von Bonaventura"* (Tübingen: Niemeyer, 1994) *Colloquia Germanica*, 29, 1 (winter 1996): 70-72.

Works in Progress

Book project: "Echoes of a Queer Messianic: Queer Configurations of Sexuality in German Literature around 1800." Anticipated completion, 2014.

Articles: "Betrayal and Queer Love in *Frankenstein* and 'The Foundling.'" Anticipated completion, 2014.

"Metaphor of a Jewish Sucide: Stefan Zweig's 'The Royal Game.'" Anticipated completion, 2014.

Research Grants

Research Fellow, Society of Scholars, Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington, Seattle. 2005-06.

Junior Faculty Development Award, University of Colorado, Boulder, Summer 2002

Holocaust Educational Foundation, Fellowship to attend workshop in Evanston, Il. June 2001.

Humanities Consortium of the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville, Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1998-1999 (declined).

College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University, Award for Outstanding Teaching, 1996-1997.

Alice Berline Kaplan Center for the Humanities, Northwestern University, teaching fellowship, 1995-96.

Dissertations Directed (All in progress)

Elizabeth Cnobloch: "'Messengers of Ill Tidings': Situating the Language of Refugees in the Works of Jakob Wassermann, Franz Kafka, Emine Svege Özdamar, and Herta Mueller." (Defended December 2012).

Lena Heilmann: "Remodeling the *Frauenzimmer*: Women and Spatiality in German Literature, 1770-1820."

Jan Hennge: "War on Exceptionalism: Terrorism and State Violence in German Revolutionary Dramas" (Defense schedule for May 2013).

Japhet Johnstone: "Identity Acts: Queer Identities in Nineteenth Century Germany."

Professional Offices/Awards/Services

Member, MLA Delegate Assembly, 2000-03.

Member, Modern Language Association, German Studies Association, Lessing Society, North American Heine Association.

Referee, The German Quarterly and Seminar,

Reader, Fordham University Press, Stanford University Press.

Director, Graduate Studies, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2001-02 and 2003-04.

Member of the following search committees: University of Colorado, Boulder: Scandinavian 2000-01 (Asst. Professor); German 2001-02 (Asst. Professor); German and Comparative Literature 2003-04 (Assoc. Professor).

Outstanding Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 1996-97.

University of Washington Committees/duties/services

Graduate Program Coordinator, Germanics, Fall 2009 to present.

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, German, 2007-08.

Executive Board: Graduate Program in Theory and Criticism, 2006-2009.

Board: Program in European Studies, 2006-present.

Coordinator, Germanics Lecture Series, 2005-06, 2006-07.

Member, Graduate Program Committee, Germanics, 2004-05.

Member Graduate Admissions Committee, 2004-5, 2006-07. 2009 to present.

Member, MA Exam Committee, Summer 2005, 2006-07, Summer 2007, Summer 2008, Summer 2009 (chair), Summer 2010 (chair) Winter 2011 (chair)

Member, Special Events Committee, Program in Jewish Studies, 2005-06 To present.

Member, Committee for Funding of Special Projects and Faculty Research, Program in Jewish Studies, 2005, 2007.

Member, Slavic Chair Search Committee, Winter 2007

Member, Jewish Studies Curriculum Committee, 2006-07.

Member, Search Committee, Cole Fellowship in Jewish Studies, 2009.

Member, Stroum Search Committee, Winter 2011

Member, Euro Studies Curriculum Committee, Winter/Spring 2011

Faculty Senator, 2010-2011

FLASS Selection Committee, Winter 2011

Talks and Presentations

Conferences and Symposia

"The Ornament of Sight and the Politics of the Ornament in Stifter's 'Bunte Steine,'" GSA, Denver, October 2013.

"Sephardim and the Holocaust," moderator and respondent, U of Washington, April 2013.

"The Metaphor of a Jewish Suicide: Stefan Zweig's "The Royal Game," Association of Jewish Studies, December 2012.

"The Fifth Commandment: Divine Justice and Betrayal in Kleist's 'Der Findling," MLA, January 2012.

"Goethe in Italy," Roma, Terza Universita', September 2010.

"Echoes of Queer Messianism: Barthes' Reading of *Werther* and Nietzsche's Eternal Return of the Same. University of Washington, 2010.

"Textual Narcissism in Kleist's Über das Marionettentheater." GSA, Minneapolis, 2008.

"Censoring the Censors: Heine's 'Florentine Nights.'" North American Heine Society, MLA, Chicago, December 2007.

"From Art to History: Schelling's Modern Mythology." Inventions of the Imagination Conference, University of Washington, May 2007.

"Goethe's Italian Scribbles in the Hands of Cy Twombly." MLA (Lessing Society), Philadelphia, December 2006.

"I'll Love You Forever, Wilhelm": Queer Messianism in Goethe's <u>Werther</u>. GSA, Pittsburgh, September 2006.

"Birthing Italy: Goethe's Custody Battle with Bachmann," PAMLA, Portland, November 2004.

"Taking the Words out of the Father's Mouth: Goethe and his Father in Italy," University of Washington, June 2003.

"Schelling and the Aesthetics of History," MLA (standing committee on Comparative Literature), New York, December 2002.

"Castration and the Feminine Gaze in Winckelmann's Art History," GSA, San Diego, CA, October 2002.

"You can never be too rich or too queer: Peter Schlemihl's Wonderful History," MLA (standing committee on Literature and the Other Arts), New Orleans, LA. 2001

"From Weimar to Zion: Remapping a Literary History," Humanities Workshop, University of Colorado, Boulder, April 2001.

"Mehr Licht, Mehr Licht: Nietzsche's Homecoming in Weimar," MLA, (standing committee on German Literature of late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries), Washington, D.C., December 2000.

"Speaking of the Father: Goethe's Translation of his Father's Diaries," American Association of Italian Scholars, University of Oregon, Eugene, Or. April 1999.

"Nietzsche in Italy: The Eternal Return of the Fascist Same," International Narrative Conference, Evanston, Ill., May 1998.

"Italy and the German Nightmare: The Coming Home of the Unacknowledged Roots of German Classical Culture," German Studies Association, Seattle, October 1996.

"Benjamin and the George Circle," Colloquium of the German Departments of the University of Chicago, Loyola University, and Northwestern University, Chicago, December 1995.

"Selective Affinities: Ludwig Klages and Walter Benjamin," Midwest German Studies, Chicago, May 1995.

"Photo-athesis: Walter Benjamin on Translation and Photography," Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, January 1995.

"Dueling Dialectics: Adorno and Benjamin on Kafka," Literary Studies Colloquium, Northwestern University, Evanston, February 1994.

"Disregarded Political Subtexts in Stifter's Novellas," MMLA, Minneapolis, November 1993.

Invited Talks and Presentations

"Losing Sight of the Holocaust: A Short and Indelicate History of Holocaust" Film. Hillel Society, Seattle, February 2013.

"Queer Reiterations in Roland Barthes' *A Lover's Discourse.*" Northwestern University, May 2009.

"I'm Nothin. I'm Nowhere." Queer Potentialities in *Brokeback Mountain*." U. Bonn, June 2008.

"Echoes of Queer Messianism in *Brokeback Mountain.*" U. Frankfort, May, 2008.

"Schelling's "System of Transcendental Idealism and the Poetry of Friendship." U. Müenster, May 2008.

- "Globalization and the New Cologne Artists." (podcast). Henry Art Museum, March 2007.
- "The Loss of Berlin Salon Culture." Frye Museum, January 2007.
- "Scribbles from Italy: Cy Twombly's Goethe Experiment," University of Southern California, November 2005.
- "Queering the Jew Who Would Be German: Peter Schlemihl's Strange and Wonderful History," Northwestern University, March 2004.
- "Rome and Jerusalem: Italian Origins of German-Jewish Zionism," Macalaster College, St. Paul, MN., February 1999.
- "Mechanically Reproduced Visions of Italy: Goethe, Stendhal, and James," Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, March 1997.
- "Heidegger and Photography: 'In the Age of the World Picture'," Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, February 1996.
- "Stone Deaf: The Gentleness of Law in Stifter's 'Brigitta," Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, March 1996.

Conference Planning and Organization

"Heine, Goethe and the Bible" Panel organizer for first joing session of the North American Heine Society and Goethe Society of North America, MLA, Philadelphia, December 2009.

"Heine In Italy." Panel organizer for the North American Heine Society. MLA, San Diego CA., December 2003.

"Realizing Aids: <u>Action</u>, <u>Intervention</u>, <u>D</u>iscourse, <u>S</u>ites," February 21-23, 1997, Northwestern University, Evanston. Member of the planning and steering committees.

Languages:

German, near native fluency.

Italian, near native fluency.

French, reading knowledge.

Spanish, reading knowledge.