

Clemens Spahr

Curriculum Vitae

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Since 10/2009 Junior Professor (Assistant Professor), Department of
English/American Studies, Mainz University
- 10/2005-9/2009 Instructor, Department of English/American Studies, Mainz
University

EDUCATION

- June 2009 Defense of Dissertation
- 2006-2009 Ph.D. program in English/American Studies
Dissertation: "Aesthetics and Utopia in American
Transcendentalism"
Director: Prof. Dr. Oliver Scheiding
- Sept.-Oct. 2007 Visiting Student Research Collaborator, Princeton University
(DAAD/German Academic Exchange Service-Scholarship)
Adviser: Prof. William Gleason
- March-April 2006 Visiting Student Research Collaborator, Princeton University
(DAAD/German Academic Exchange Service-Scholarship)
Adviser: Prof. Eduardo Cadava
- Aug. 2005 M.A. in American Studies and German Literature, Tübingen
University
- 2004/2005 State Exam German and English, Tübingen University
- 2001/2002 University of Massachusetts, Amherst (DAAD/German
Academic Exchange Service-Scholarship)
- 1999-2005 Studies in English, German, and Philosophy at Tübingen
University

AREAS OF RESEARCH

New England Puritanism; Transcendentalism, Transatlantic Romanticism;
Modernism; Contemporary Novel; Graphic Novel; Aesthetics and Literary
Theory

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Radical Beauty: Transcendentalism and the Aesthetic Critique of Modernity. Paderborn: Schöningh 2011.

(ed., with Oliver Scheiding, Frank Obenland) *Kulturtheorien im Dialog.* Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 2011.

Articles

"Don DeLillo, Ian McEwan, and the Literary Imagination after 9/11." *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 45.2 (Summer 2012) , forthcoming.

"Die relative Autonomie der Kultur: Text und Kontext aus Sicht neomarxistischer Kulturtheorie." *Kulturtheorien im Dialog.* Eds. Oliver Scheiding, Frank Obenland, Clemens Spahr. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 2011, 39-60.

"Der aphoristische Stil des amerikanischen Transzendentalismus." Eds. Volker Kapp, Dorothea Scholl. *Literatur zwischen Ethik und Ästhetik. Die Tradition der europäischen Moralistik.* Berlin: Duncker und Humblot, 2011, forthcoming.

"Fashioned Saints: Anne Bradstreet's Literary Genealogy." *American Cultural Icons: Configurations, Re-Figurations.* Eds. Günter Leypoldt, Bernd Engler. Würzburg: Königshausen und Neumann, 2010, 31-56.

"Sherman Alexie and the Limits of Storytelling." *Native American Studies across Time and Space: Essays on the Indigenous Americas.* Ed. Oliver Scheiding. Heidelberg: Winter, 2010, 145-164.

"Transcendentalist Class Struggle: Orestes Brownson's Early Writings." *Nineteenth-Century Prose* 36.2 (2009): 31-76.

"Puritanism in the New World." *A Companion to American Cultural History: From the Colonial Period to the End of the 19th Century.* Eds. Bernd Engler, Oliver Scheiding. Trier: WVT, 2009, 55-85.

"A Babel City with a Hundred Gates: Concepts of Space in Melvin Tolson's *Harlem Gallery*." *Territorial Terrors: Contested Spaces in Colonial and Postcolonial Writing.* Ed. Gerhard Stilz. Würzburg: Königshausen und Neumann, 2007, 239-260.

"Holding up the 'Poetry Front': Anne Waldman's Politics of the Aesthetic." *Ideas of Order in Contemporary American Poetry.* Eds. Diana von Finck, Oliver Scheiding. Würzburg: Königshausen und Neumann, 2007, 131-158.

Reviews

"Ralph Waldo Emerson: Bicentenary Appraisals." *Literaturwissenschaftliches Jahrbuch* 49 (2008): 385-389.

"Jörg Richter: Nationalität als literarisches Verfahren: Der amerikanische Roman (1790-1830)." *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 53.4 (2008): 582-584.

"Jan Stievermann: Der Sündenfall der Nachahmung: Zum Problem der Mittelbarkeit im Werk Ralph Waldo Emersons." *Emerson Society Papers* 18.2 (Fall 2007): 13.

"Paul Poplawski, ed. Encyclopedia of Literary Modernism." *ZAA: Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik* 54.4 (2006): 418-420.

Shorter Articles

"Amos Bronson Alcott, Concord Days." *Kindlers Neues Literatur Lexikon*. Ed. Heinz Ludwig Arnold. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2009.

"Native American Studies Across Time and Space: Conference Proceedings, 2008."

http://www.amerikanistik.uni-mainz.de/symposium/documents/Conference_Review_Mainz07.pdf

"Puritanism in the New World." *Key Concepts in American Culture and History: From the Colonial Period to the End of the 19th Century*. Eds. Bernd Engler, Oliver Scheiding. Trier: WVT, 2005, 63-66.

"Providential Readings of American History." *Key Concepts in American Culture and History: From the Colonial Period to the End of the 19th Century*. Eds. Bernd Engler, Oliver Scheiding. Trier: WVT, 2005, 103-106.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

"Negative Dialectics: The Transcendentalists, Adorno, and Continental Philosophy." Special Session: "The American Transcendentalists as Continental Philosophers." 127th MLA Convention, Seattle, January 2012.

"'Cosmopolis of Mankind': The Revolutionary Cosmopolitanism of Modernist Proletarian Poetry." American Literature Association, 22nd Annual Conference, Boston, May 2011.

"Wessen Amerika? Der zeitgenössische amerikanische Roman und die Kritik an der Gesellschaft." Seminar "Menschlicher Makel im Idyll: Politische Aspekte amerikanischer Gegenwartsliteratur." Pfalzakademie, February 2011.

“Erzählwelten: Mark Millars *Kick-Ass* und M. Night Shyamalans *Unbreakable*.”
Lecture Series: Transmediales Erzählen im Zeichen der Medienkonvergenz.
Mainz University, January 2011.

Chair: “Identity Formation and Ethnicization.” German-Speaking People in the
Greater Mid-Atlantic Region: Cross-Cultural Contacts and Conflicts, 1700-1800.
Mainz University, October 2009.

“Der Aphorismus im amerikanischen Transzendentalismus.” Jahrestagung der
Görres-Gesellschaft, September 2009.

“The Intellectual and the Masses: Orestes Brownson’s Radical
Transcendentalism.” Konferenz “Modernization and Intellectual Authority in US
Literary Culture, 1750-1900.” Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg, July 2009.

“American Studies and Marxism in the Post-War Period.” Symposium “Speed,
Mass Mobility, and McCarthyist Stasis: Negotiations of Karl Marx in Post-War
American Culture.” Trier University, June 2009.

“Post-9/11 Literature.” Teachers Academy “Contemporary American
Literature.” Atlantische Akademie, May 2008.

“‘We’d dream together until the sun came up’: Sherman Alexie’s *The Lone Ranger
and Tonto Fist Fight in Heaven* as Literary Intervention.” Conference “Native
American Studies across Time and Space.” Mainz University, July 2005.

CONFERENCES

Conceptions of Collectivity in Contemporary American Literature. Johannes
Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, 6.-8. Juli 2011. (Keynote Speakers Alfred
Bendixen, Cary Nelson, David Simpson)

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

ADVISER/PH.D. THESIS

Muthanna Mohammed Sultan Al-Janabi, “The Absurd in American Modernist
Literature” (since Oct. 2010; DAAD-scholarship).

AFFILIATIONS

DGfA (German Association for American Studies)

MLA

Thoreau Society

TEACHING

Theories of American Studies

Modern American Poetry and Poetics

Conceptions of Community in Contemporary American Literature

Introduction to Colonial American Writing

Literary Theory

American Romanticism

Transatlantic Modernism

The American Novel

American Poetry

Post-9/11 Literature

African-American Modernism

Herman Melville

The Postmodern American Novel

American Transcendentalism

Essay-writing

Introduction to Literary Studies

Culture Studies I & II