

Robert Blankenship
CV, Updated August 2017

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Education

Ph.D. in German, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2011

M.A. in German, Bowling Green State University, 2005

B.A. in Foreign Languages and International Studies, University of Southern Mississippi, 2003

Professional Appointments

Assistant Professor of German, California State University, Long Beach, 2016-

Bingham Scholar in German (rank of Assistant Professor, non-tenure track), Transylvania University, 2015-2016

Visiting Assistant Professor of German, University of Central Arkansas, 2013-2015

Term Assistant Professor of German, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 2012-2013

Visiting Assistant Professor of German, Middle Tennessee State University, 2011-2012

Books

Suicide in East German Literature: Fiction, Rhetoric, and the Self-Destruction of Literary Heritage. Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2017.

Articles and book chapters

(with Jill Twark) "‘Berliner Sonderschule’: Facing German History in the Post-Wall Berlin Present in Jan Ole Gerster’s *Oh Boy (A Coffee in Berlin)*." *Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies*. 53.4 (November 2017). (Forthcoming)

"Subjective Authenticity as Realism: Christa Wolf and Georg Lukács." *What Remains: Essays on the Legacy of Christa Wolf*. Patricia Herminhouse and Gerald Fetz (Eds.). Oxford; New York: Berghahn (manuscript accepted by editors, waiting for volume to be reviewed).

“Erzählt ist erzählt’: The Ethics of Narration in Christa Wolf’s *Stadt der Engel oder the Overcoat of Dr. Freud*.” *Envisioning Social Justice in Contemporary German Culture*. Jill Twark and Axel Hildebrandt (Eds.). Rochester: Camden House, 2015.

“The Imperative to Remember: *Hamlet* as Unmarked Intertext in Christoph Hein’s *Horn’s End*.” *The Hamlet Zone: Reworking Hamlet in European Cultures*. Ruth J. Owen (Ed.). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012.

“The One-Armed Carpenter: Forced Migration, Labor, and Humor in Christoph Hein’s *Landnahme*.” *Strategies of Humor in Post-Unification German Literature, Film, and Other Media*. Jill Twark (Ed.). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Der geteilte Himmel.” *Directory of World Cinema: Germany*. Vol. 2. Michelle Langford (Ed.). Bristol, UK: Intellect, 2013.

“Lotte in Weimar.” *Directory of World Cinema: Germany*. Vol. 2. Michelle Langford (Ed.). Bristol, UK: Intellect, 2013.

“Hälfte des Lebens.” *Directory of World Cinema: Germany*. Vol. 2. Michelle Langford (Ed.). Bristol, UK: Intellect, 2013.

“Die Unberührbare.” *Directory of World Cinema: Germany*. Vol. 1. Michelle Langford (Ed.). Bristol, UK: Intellect, 2012.

“Karbid und Sauerampfer.” *Directory of World Cinema: Germany*. Vol. 1. Michelle Langford (Ed.). Bristol, UK: Intellect, 2012.

“Die Architekten.” *Directory of World Cinema: Germany*. Vol. 1. Michelle Langford (Ed.). Bristol, UK: Intellect, 2012.

Book and Film Reviews

“Picking at a Scabbed Wound.” Review of: *Jadup and Boel* (dir. Rainer Simon). DEFA Film Library, 2008. *Edge: A Graduate Journal for Germanic and Scandinavian Studies*. 1.1 (2010). <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/edge/vol1/iss1/6>

Review of: Kristin Schulz. *Attentate auf die Geometrie: Heiner Müllers Schriften der Ausschweifung und Disziplinierung*. Berlin: Alexander, 2009. *theaterforschung.de*, 2009. <http://www.theaterforschung.de/rezension.php4?ID=816>

“Lyricizing Transitions: Poetry and Political Caesurae.” Review Essay of: Anthony Bushell. *Poetry in a Provisional State: The Austrian Lyric 1945-1955*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2007. and Karen Leeder (Ed.). *Schaltstelle: Neue deutsche Lyrik im Dialog*. Amsterdam; New York: Rodopi, 2007. *H-German*. July 2008. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=14781>

Blog Entries

“Preventing Apathy.” *Teaching Matters @ UCA*. November 18, 2014. <http://teachingmattersatuca.wordpress.com/2014/11/18/preventing-apaty/>

Invited Talks

“Selbstmord in der DDR-Literatur: Ein Buchgespräch.” Deutsche Sommerschule am Pazifik, Portland, OR. July 2017.

“Wie die Osis westlich wurden: Junge Ostdeutsche, die Flüchtlingskrise und der Kurzfilm *Charda*.” German Summer School of New Mexico, Taos, NM. July 2016.

“The Blind Spot: Christa Wolf’s Theory of Knowledge and Narration.” World Languages Faculty Symposium, Conway, AR. November 2014.

“Literatur im kommunikativen Deutschunterricht: wie, wann, welche und warum?” Alaskans For Language Acquisition, Fairbanks, AK. September 2012.

“Christa Wolf: wie und warum liest man ihre Prosa?” Sommer in Sewanee, Sewanee, TN. July 2012.

“Warum hat Schultze den Blues?” Sommer in Sewanee, Sewanee, TN. July 2012.

Conference Presentations

“Christa Wolf’s Russian Revolution.” German Studies Association, Atlanta, GA. October 2017. (abstract accepted)

“Rethinking East and West: Young East Germans, the Syrian Refugee Crisis, and the Short Film *Charda*.” Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, KY. April 2017.

“Shifting Identities of East and West: Unification Films, the Syrian Refugee Crisis, and the Short Film *Charda*.” CSULB Comparative Literature Conference, Long Beach, CA. April 2017.

“Berlin Cinema Against the Berlin School: Depictions of Berlin in *Oh Boy* and *Victoria*.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Pasadena, CA. November 2016.

“Jonathan Franzen’s East Germany: An Ecology of Secrets.” German Studies Association, San Diego, CA. October 2016.

“Penthesilea’s Dagger: Christa Wolf, Kleist, and the Stabbing of Literary Heritage.” Drive-By Theatre Double Feature: Brecht+60/Kleist+205, Long Beach, CA. September 2016.

“‘Berliner Sonderschule’: Jan Ole Gerster’s Critical Relationship to Berlin School Cinema.” Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, KY. April 2016.

“The Blind Spot: Christa Wolf’s Subversive Epistemology.” German Studies Association, Washington, DC. October 2015.

“Christa Wolf’s Ethics of Seeing.” Northeastern Modern Language Association, Toronto, Canada. May 2015.

“Looking Back: Christa Wolf, the Stasi, and Focalization.” German Studies Association, Kansas City, MO. September 2014.

“Erzählt ist erzählt’: The Ethics of Narrative in Christa Wolf’s *Stadt der Engel oder the Overcoat of Dr. Freud*.” German Studies Association, Denver, CO. October 2013.

"Subjective Authenticity as (Anti)Realism: Christa Wolf and Georg Lukács." German Studies Association, Milwaukee, WI. October 2012.

“Exile and Intertextuality in Christa Wolf’s *Stadt der Engel oder The Overcoat of Dr. Freud*.” Northeast Modern Language Association, Rochester, NY. March 2012.

“Death, Immortality, and Intertextuality in Johannes R. Becher’s Exile Sonnets.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA. November 2011.

“The Overcoat of Wolf Biermann: Space, Intertextuality, and the Biermann Affair in Christa Wolf’s *Kein Ort. Nirgends* and *Stadt der Engel oder The Overcoat of Dr. Freud*.” German Studies Association, Louisville, KY. September 2011.

“When the Dead Tell Stories: Haunting and Epistolarity in Ulrich Plenzdorf’s *Die neuen Leiden des jungen W.*” International Conference on Narrative. St. Louis, MO. April 2011.

“Haunting Borders: Space and Spectrality in Christoph Hein’s *Horns Ende*.” German Studies Association conference, Washington, DC. October 2009.

“Detecting East German History: Reading Werner Heiduczek’s *Tod am Meer* as Detective Fiction.” Con(tra)vention: Crime and the Boundaries of Genre. Corke, Ireland. June 2009.

“Erinnere dich’: *Hamlet* as Intertext in Christoph Hein’s *Horns Ende*.” *Hamlet: Reception in European Cultures*. Cardiff, Wales. May 2009.

“Bad Guldenberg: Christoph Hein’s Fictional Provincial Town.” *Beyond Berlin: Local Cultures in Divided Germany, 1945–1989*. Austin, TX. March 2008.

“Memorialization and *linke Melancholie*: An Examination of Stefan Heym’s *Pargfrider* and Günter Grass’s *Unkenrufe*.” Focus on German Studies Graduate Student Conference. Cincinnati, OH. October 2004.

Other Conference Activity

Moderator: “Ecologies of Socialism III: Unruly Nature.” German Studies Association, San Diego, CA. October 2016.

Commentator: “Voicing Social Injustice as Exclusion in Twenty-First-Century German Novels by Women Writers.” German Studies Association, Washington, DC. October 2015.

Moderator: "Bilder, Machwerke, Nachlässe: Barbara Honigmann, Volker Braun, and Christoph Hein on East(ern) Germany's Past and Present." German Studies Association. Milwaukee, WI, October 2012.

Courses Taught

Christa Wolf (in preparation for Fall 2017)

Contemporary German Cinema

Marx, Nietzsche, Freud

Two Perspectives: 1945-1990

German Cinema

Fiction and Fact: Short Texts

The Road to Modernity: Marx, Nietzsche, Freud

Contemporary Germany

Berlin, Weimar: Birth and Rebirth of a Nation, 1871-1933

Survival: Representations of Violence, Oppression, and Hope in Central Europe (writing-intensive first-year seminar)

Rebuilding from the Screen Up: Postwar German Cinema

Introduction to German Literature

The German Novella

East Germany: Oppression, Protest, and Every Day Life

Advanced Conversation and Comprehension 1

Advanced Conversation and Comprehension 2

Beginning German 1

Beginning German 2

Intermediate German 1

Intermediate German 2

German for Reading Knowledge (graduate course)

Introduction to Twentieth-Century German Philosophy (recitation sections)

Austrian Culture (tutorial section)

Politics of the German-speaking world (tutorial section)

Honors and Fellowships

CLA College Travel Award, 2016-2017

Assigned Time, 2016-2017

Bingham Startup Grant, 2015

DAAD Summer Grant, 2011

Future Faculty Fellowship, UNC, August 12-18, 2009

Kent James Brown Fellowship, UNC, 2005-2008, 2009-2010

Baden-Württemberg Exchange, 2008-2009

Bowling Green On-Campus Assistantship, 2004-2005

AYA Salzburg Assistantship, 2003-2004

Service to the Profession

Interpreter for filmmaker Annekatriin Hendel, Santa Monica, December 2016

Reader for *Directory of World Cinema: Germany* (4 mss.)

Reader for the journal *The Kennesaw Tower* (15 mss.)

Reader for the journal *Edge: A Graduate Journal for German and Scandinavian Studies* (2 mss.)
Reader for the journal *Intersections: Women's and Gender Studies in Review across Disciplines*
(1 ms.)
Reader for *Kenya at Fifty: Milestones, Challenges, and Prospects*. Eds. Michael Kithinji (1 ms.)

Service to the Department

RGRLL Curriculum Committee, Cal State Long Beach, August 2016-
Composed a Standard Course Outline for German 397: Marx, Nietzsche, Freud (Writing Intensive GE), Fall 2016
Conducted 3 LOTE interviews, November 2016
Conducted 1 LOTE interview, March 2017

Service to the Program

Examiner for Josh Todarello's MA exam on the Gruppe 47, Spring 2017
Examiner for Jeff Jarzomb's MA exam on Marx, Engels, and Luxemburg, Spring 2017
Examiner for Asher Stolte's MA exam on Nazi Propaganda Films, Spring 2017
Co-Examiner (with Professor Jeffrey High) for Asher Stolte's MA exam on Freudian Approaches to Kleist's "Der Findling," Spring 2017
Examiner for Madeline Foss's MA exam on German Expressionist Cinema, Spring 2017
Examiner for Madeline Foss's MA exam on Bertolt Brecht and the Verfremdungseffekt, Spring 2017
Helped organize Documentary Double Feature with Director Annekatriin Hendel, and gave a lecture introducing Hendel and her work, November 2016
Helped organize the conference Drive-By Theatre Double Feature: Brecht+60/Kleist+205, October 2016
Examiner for Brenda Lamboy's MA exam on East German Cinema, Fall 2016
Weekly attendance at the German Club's Stammtisch

Professional Associations

American Association of Teachers of German
German Studies Association
Modern Language Association
Pacific and Modern Language Association
International Brecht Society

Languages

English – native
German – near-native
French – reading knowledge, basic conversation skills

References Available Upon Request