

HENRY ERIK BUTLER

Employment History

Assistant Professor of German Studies, Emory University. 2004 – .
Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures, Swarthmore College.
2002 – 2004.

Education

Yale University. Ph.D., Comparative Literature. December 2001.
Dissertation: *Writing and Vampires in the Works of Lautréamont, Bram Stoker, Daniel Paul Schreber, and Fritz Lang*. Advisor: David Quint.
University of California, Santa Cruz. B.A., German Literature *summa cum laude*. June 1995.

Current Research

Book-length study of vampires and post-Enlightenment mythology: *Political Vampires: Cultural Transformation and the Modern Monster*. Manuscript complete.

Book-length study of the emergence of vernaculars and the politics of linguistic standardization in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries: *War of the Words: The Bellum Grammaticale and the Rise of European Literature*.

Book-length study of the role of ruse in modernist literature and film: *Modernism and Mystification:*

The Illiberal Arts in Germany.

Translation and commentary of *Vidervuks (Regrowth)* by Yiddish author Der Nister (Pinkhas Kahanovich).

Research Interests

- Literature and film of the fantastic
- Institutions and literatures of instruction in the Renaissance
- European cultural history
- Aesthetics of mystification

Peer-edited Publications

"The Schreber Case Revisited: *Realpolitik* and Writing in the Asylum." *New German Critique*. Summer 2008.

"Canetti, Schreber, and the Nervous Voice." *The Worlds of Elias Canetti*. Eds. William Donahue and Julian Preece. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2007.

"Empires of Future Past: Justus Georg Schottelius and the *Bellum Grammaticale*." *Forum for Modern Language Studies*, Fall 2006.

"Dr. Mabuse: Terror and Deception of the Image." *German Quarterly*, Fall 2005.

"Writing and Vampiric Contagion in *Dracula*." *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*. Special Issue on Mediation, Fall 2002.

"Vulgar Voices: Turbulence in Literature and Philosophy." *Voyages of the Sign: Language, Ideology, and the Human*. Eds. Sanja Bahun and Dusan Radunovic. Accepted; forthcoming.

"The Noble Northern Savage and German Political Mythology." To appear in an edited volume by the organizers of the North and Nordicity Conference, University of Toronto.

"Benjamin at the Barricades: The *Arcades Project* as Combat and Intrigue." *Glossator*. Accepted; forthcoming.

Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries

- "Dada." *Columbia Encyclopedia of Modern Drama*. Eds. Gabrielle H. Cody and Evert Sprinchorn. New York: Columbia University Press, 2007.
- "Epic Theater." *Columbia Encyclopedia of Modern Drama*. Eds. Gabrielle H. Cody and Evert Sprinchorn. New York: Columbia University Press, 2007.
- Review. Joachim Knape, *Poetik und Rhetorik in Deutschland 1300-1700. Renaissance Quarterly*, Summer 2007.
- Review. Nicola Kaminski, *Ex Bello Ars oder Ursprung der »Deutschen Poeterey«*. *Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache und Literatur*, Summer 2007.

Fellowships and Honors

- Woodruff Faculty Research and Travel Grant, Emory University. January 2009.
- Senior Honors Examiner, Department of Modern Languages and Literature, Swarthmore College. Spring 2008.
- ICIS Travel Grant for International Conference Presentation, Emory University. Summer 2005, Summer 2007.
- European Studies Project research stipend, Emory University. Fall 2005 - Spring 2006.
- American Council of Learned Societies East European Language Training Grant for study in Krakow, Poland. Summer 2003.
- Faculty Summer Research Award, Swarthmore College. Summer 2003.
- Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, Swarthmore College. Fall 2002 – Spring 2004.
- Yale University Dissertation Fellowship. Spring 2001.
- Comparative Literature Departmental Award for Summer Language Study, Yale University. Summer 2000.
- State of Baden-Württemberg Grant for research in Tübingen, Germany. Summer 1999.
- Prize Teaching Fellowship, Yale University. Spring 1999.
- Comparative Literature Departmental Award for Summer Language Study, Yale University. Summer 1998.
- Comparative Literature Departmental Award for Summer Research, Yale University. Summer 1997.
- University Fellowship, Yale University. Fall 1996 - Spring 1998.
- A. Bartlett Giamatti Graduate Fellowship, Yale University. Fall 1996 – Spring 1998.

Papers and Talks

- Featured Speaker.* Tam Institute for Jewish Studies Seminar Series, Emory University. Presentation: "The Aesthetics and Ethics of Mystification: Der Nister's 'Flora.'" February 2009.
- Featured Speaker.* German Studies Roundtable, Emory University. Presentation: "Das Urgesicht: Benn, Kafka, and the Terrorist Aesthetics of Modernism." December 2008.
- Featured Speaker.* Samuel Beckett and the Silent Film Tradition, Emory University. Presentation: "Karl Valentin and Samuel Beckett." October 2006.
- Featured Speaker.* European Studies Project, Emory University. Presentation: "War, the Playful Muse, and the Emergence of European Vernaculars: Justus Georg Schottelius and the *Bella Grammaticalia*." November 2005.
- Featured Speaker.* Goethe Institute, Atlanta. Presentation: "Leni Riefenstahl, Africa, and the German Noble Savage." October 2005.
- Featured Speaker.* Goethe Institute, Atlanta. Presentation: "Leni Riefenstahl's *Blue Light*: The Flight from History." September 2005.
- Featured Speaker.* Muriel Gardiner Program in Psychoanalysis and the Humanities at Yale. Presentation: "Wonders of the Writing Cure: Daniel Paul Schreber and Freud." September 2000.
- Panelist.* Glosing is a Glorious Thing: The Past, Present, and Future of Commentary. CUNY Graduate Center, New York. Presentation: "Willful Obscurity and the Scholarly Epic: Benjamin's *Arcades Project* and the Barricades." April 2009.
- Panelist.* Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference. University of Kentucky, Lexington. Presentation: "*Les Bienveillantes* and the Intellectual Picaro." April 2009.
- Panelist.* British Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, Annual Conference. St. Hugh's, Oxford. Presentation: "Joseph de Maistre, the Very Long Eighteenth Century, and Metaphysical Revenge." January 2009.
- Panelist.* Modernist Studies Association. Modernism and Global Media. Vanderbilt. Presentation: "Art as Terror: The Fantastic and *das Urgesicht* in the Early Twentieth Century." November 2008.
- Panelist.* British Comparative Literature Association XI Annual Conference, "Folly." Goldsmiths, University of London. Presentation: "The World Gone Mad from Plato to Hegel: Systems Theory and the Eclipse of Reason." July 2007.
- Panelist.* North and Nordicity Conference, University of Toronto Department of Germanic Languages and Literature. Presentation: "The Noble Northern Savage and the Politicization of Mythology in Germany." May 2007.
- Panelist.* Cultural Studies Association, Annual Meeting, Portland. Presentation: "Turbulence and Taste: Appetites for Distinction and Destruction." April 2007.
- Panelist.* Society for the Study of Narrative Literature, International Conference on Narrative, Washington, D.C. Presentation: "New Ways of Perversion: Mimesis, Markets, and Modernism." March 2007.
- Panelist.* South-Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Annual Meeting, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Presentation: "Vampire Country: Contested Borders in Eighteenth-Century Europe." February 2007.

Panelist. Modernism—Fascism—Postmodernism, University of New Mexico. Presentation: “The Fascist Night.” September 2006.

Panelist. Renaissance Society of America, Annual Meeting, San Francisco. Presentation: “Dialogue, Games, and the Seventeenth-Century *Sprachgesellschaft*.” March 2006.

Panelist. South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Annual Meeting, Atlanta. Presentation: “Grammar as Theory.” November 2005.

Panelist. German Studies Association, Annual Meeting, Milwaukee. Presentation: “Justus Georg Schottelius and the Language Wars.” October 2005.

Panelist. The Worlds of Elias Canetti Conference, University of Kent, U.K. Presentation: “Canetti, Schreber, and the Nervous Voice.” July 2005.

Panelist. Modern Language Association, Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Presentation: “*Realpolitik* of the Schreber Case.” December 2004.

Panelist. Anomalia Conference, Concordia University, Montreal. Presentation: “Anima ex Machina: Fritz Lang’s Serial Killers and German Gothic Traditions.” October 2003.

Panelist. American Comparative Literature Association, Annual Meeting, San Diego, California. Presentation: “Witold Gombrowicz, Minor Literature, and the Novel of Deformation.” April 2003.

Panelist. American Comparative Literature Association, Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Presentation: “*Hi ludi in seria ducunt*: Justus Georg Schottelius and the Tradition of the *Bellum Grammaticale*.” (Nominated for Horst Frenz Prize.) April 2002.

Guest Lecturer. “Critical Analysis of the Theater,” University of Washington, Seattle. Presentation: “Structuralist Approaches to Drama.” February 2001.

Guest Lecturer. “Introduction to Literary Theory,” Yale University. Presentation: “Heidegger on Art and Technology.” March 1999.

Respondent. European Studies Project, Emory University. February 2009.

Respondent. History and German Studies Roundtable, Emory University. April 2008.

Respondent. Empire and Nation in East Asia: Rhetorics and Images, Emory University. March 2007.

Respondent. “Back to the Text?” 13th Annual Graduate Student Conference, Department of Germanic Literatures, Yale University. April 2002.

Roundtable Participant. Second Southeast German Studies Workshop. University of South Carolina, Columbia. Position Paper: “Apropos of Ethnicity and German Studies: A Reactionary Voice for Progress.” March 2009.

Teaching Experience

- Emory University. Assistant Professor, Department of German Studies.
 - “From Expressionism to Film Noir.” Fall 2008.
 - “Middle High German and Old Yiddish.” Fall 2008.
 - “The ‘Problem Child’ of Europe: German Culture after 1945.” Spring 2008.
 - “Intensive German.” Spring 2008.
 - “German for Reading Knowledge.” Summer 2005, Summer 2007.
 - “First-year German.” Fall 2004, Spring 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Spring 2007.
 - “Love and Death, Hatred and Life.” Survey of German poetry from Luther to Celan. Spring 2007.
 - “Inwardness and Irrationalism in a Franco-German Context.” Graduate seminar on traditions of Enlightenment and Counter-Enlightenment. Fall 2006.
 - “German Film and the Grotesque.” Fall 2006.
 - “Metamorphoses of the Fantastic.” Seminar exploring the *Kunstmärchen*, Romanticism, and Expressionist literature. Taught in English. Spring 2006.
 - “Politics on/of the German Screen.” Fall 2005.
 - “German Literature until 1750.” Spring 2005.
 - “Freedom, Fear, and Fate on the German Screen.” Fall 2004.
- Swarthmore College. Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.
 - “Introduction to German Literature: Man/God/Animal.” Survey of major works by German-language authors including Brant, Gryphius, Goethe, Keller, Kafka, and Seghers. Taught in German. Fall 2003.
 - “Intensive German.” First-year language instruction. Fall 2003.
 - “Metamorphoses of the Fantastic.” Senior seminar exploring the *Kunstmärchen*, Romanticism, and Expressionist literature and film. Taught in German. Spring 2003.
 - “Introduction to German Literature: Crime and Suspicion.” Close examination of major works by German-language authors including Bachmann, Brecht, Droste-Hülshoff, Dürrenmatt, Handke, Hoffmann, and Kleist. Taught in German. Fall 2002.
- Yale University. Instructorships. Duties include syllabus design, preparing and delivering lectures, advising students, and grading.
 - “Elementary German.” Intensive first-year language instruction. Fall 2001.
 - “The European Literary Tradition.” Survey of great dramatic works for first-year students planning to major in the humanities. Authors discussed: Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Shakespeare, Racine, Molière, Ibsen, Chekhov, Brecht, and Beckett. Fall 1999, Fall 2001.

"Introduction to Literary Study." Survey of major literary genres/key works by English-language authors for first-year students. Works by Shakespeare, Poe, Dickinson, Melville, Henry James, Conrad, and Heaney. Fall 2000.

"Eros in the Novel." Upper-division course exploring the relationship between narrative and desire in works by Petronius, Heliodorus, Sade, Goethe, Mary Shelley, Gombrowicz, and Nabokov. Spring 2000.

- Yale University. Assistantships for Literature Courses. Responsibilities include leading discussion sections, meeting with students, and grading.

"Introduction to Literary Theory." Upper-division survey of critical methodologies (Marxism, formalism, feminism, structuralism, poststructuralism, psychoanalysis, philosophical hermeneutics). Texts by Bakhtin, Barthes, Butler, Derrida, Foucault, Freud, Gadamer, Gates, Irigaray, Lacan, Lévi-Strauss, and Propp. Spring 1999.

"Dante in Translation." Upper-division course examining the *Vita Nuova*, *Divine Comedy*, and *Monarchia* in relation to Christian autobiographical tradition and the poetics of exile. Fall 1998.

- Yale University. Assistantships for Language Courses. Responsibilities include reviewing grammar with students, overseeing translations, and administering quizzes.

"Beginning Latin." Fall 2000, Fall 1998.

"Beginning Ancient Greek." Fall 1998, Spring 1999.

- Kosciuszko Foundation, Krakow, Poland. English and German Language Instructor for Polish students preparing for university study. Conversation, grammar, and creative writing exercises. Summer 2000.
- Stanford University. Teaching Assistant, Classics Department. "Greek Mythology." Lower-division course on ancient myths and modern interpretations. Primary sources include Homer, Hesiod, Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides; commentary and interpretations by Malinowski, Lévi-Strauss, Vernant, and Detienne. Spring 1996.

National/Professional Service

- Roundtable participant, "Ethnicity and German Studies," Second Southeast German Studies Workshop, University of South Carolina (Columbia). March 2009.
- MALCA (Modern Austrian Literature and Culture Association) Annual Conference Review Committee. 2008-9.
- Section Editor, *Glossator*. 2008-.
- Executive Committee, Classics and Modern Literature Discussion Group, Modern Language Association. 2008-.
- Honors Examiner, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Swarthmore College. May 2008.

Institutional Service

- Woodruff Fellowship Selection Committee, Emory University. 2009.
- Respondent, European Studies Project, Emory University. February 2009.
- German Studies Graduate Certificate Coordinator, Emory. 2008-9.
- New graduate course design, "German for Scholars," Emory. 2008-9.
- Third-Year Curriculum Review Committee, German Studies, Emory. 2008-9.
- German for Graduate Students Reading Group Coordinator, Emory. 2008-9.
- Dissertation Reader for Candler School of Theology, Emory University. 2008-9.

- Organizer of Visit/Lecture by Robert Norton (Notre Dame University): "Ernst Troeltsch and the Ideas of 1914." November 2008.
- Respondent, History and German Studies Roundtable, Emory University. April 2008.
- Respondent. Empire and Nation in East Asia: Rhetorics and Images, Emory University. March 2007.
- Independent Study Advising, German Studies. Fall 2008, Spring 2007, Fall 2006, Summer 2006, Spring 2006, Fall 2006.
- Translation of intertitles for *Das Alte Gesetz* (1923), Department of Film, Emory University. April 2008.
- Translation of academic material pertaining to the works of Sofia Gubaidulina and Wolfgang Rihm for Professor Lynn Wood Bertrand, Department of Music, Emory University. Summer 2005, Spring 2008.
- Editor, German Studies Newsletter. Spring and Summer 2007.
- Editor, German Studies Self-Study. Winter 2007.
- Coordinator, German Studies Film Series. 2004-7.
- Web page design, Department of German Studies, Emory University. 2006- 7.
- Search Committee, Faculty Line in Second Language Acquisition, German Studies, Emory. 2006-7.
- European Studies Project, Steering Committee, Emory University. 2006-7.
- "Frankenstein, Dracula, and Germany." Emory German Studies High-School Outreach Lecture. November 2006.
- Featured Speaker, *Samuel Beckett and the Silent Film Tradition*, Emory University. Presentation: "Karl Valentin and Samuel Beckett." October 2006.
- Language consultation for dissertation student in Department of Religion. Spring 2005.
- Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory (SIRE), Selection Committee. 2004-5.

Teaching Interests

- German language, literature, film, and culture
- The Western canon and its margins
- Literary and cultural history and theory

Memberships in Professional Organizations

- Modern Language Association
- German Studies Association
- Renaissance Society of America
- Modernist Studies Association

Foreign Languages

German (near-native), French (near-native), Polish (advanced), Italian (reading), Ancient Greek (reading), Latin (reading), Yiddish (reading).