

Ruins of Modernity

PRESENTERS, MODERATORS, AND COMMENTATORS

Kerstin Barndt is Assistant Professor in German Studies and affiliated faculty member in the UM Museum Studies Program. She is the author of *Sentiment und Sachlichkeit. Der Roman der Neuen Frau in der Weimarer Republik* (Köln: Böhlau 2003) and together with Kathleen Canning and Kristin McGuire, she is co-editing an interdisciplinary volume on Weimar Subjects/Weimar Publics. The political culture of Germany during the 1920s (Oxford/New York: Berghahn, forthcoming 2005). Currently, she is working on a book project that explores contemporary museum cultures and politics in Germany and the US. It is in the context of this project that she has developed an interest in the musealization of industrial ruins in West- and East-Germany.

Jon Beasley-Murray is Assistant Professor in Hispanic Studies at the University of British Columbia. His book, *Posthegemony*, is forthcoming from the University of Minnesota Press.

Sarah Beckwith is Professor of English and Theater Studies at Duke University. She is the author of *Christ's Body: Religion, Culture and Identity in English Writing* (Routledge, 1993, 96) and *Signifying God: Social Act and Symbolic Relation in the York Corpus Christi Play* (University of Chicago, 2001). She first began writing on ruins in the context of the revivals of the *Corpus Christi Plays* in the ruins of St Mary's Abbey during the Festival of Britain in 1951 and in the subsequent art festival productions. She is currently writing a book on Shakespeare, reconciliation and forgiveness.

Russell A. Berman is the Walter A. Haas Professor in the Humanities at Stanford University, as well as Professor of German Studies and Chairman of the Department of Comparative Literature. He has published widely on literature, culture and politics in Germany of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His books include *Enlightenment or Empire: Colonial Discourse in German Culture* (1998) and *Anti-Americanism in Europe: A Cultural Problem* (2004).

Sara Blair teaches in the Department of English and the Program in American Culture. She is the author of *Henry James and the Writing of Race and Nation* (Cambridge, 1996) and of numerous articles on literary modernism, urban modernity, and visual culture, and co-editor with Jonathan Freedman of *Jewish in America* (Michigan, 2004). Her current project is titled *Harlem Crossroads: The Novel and the Photograph in the Twentieth Century*.

Jonathan Bolton is Assistant Professor at Harvard's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows. His ruins-related work includes articles on the 1937 funeral of former Czechoslovak president Tomas Masaryk, and on the Czech elegy in the late 1930s and during World War Two. He is currently writing a book on modernism and the culture of loss in interwar Czechoslovakia.

Tom Buresh is Professor of Architecture and Chair of the Architecture Program at the University of Michigan. Buresh is widely recognized for work that engages both critical practice and contemporary theory. Buresh is an outstanding architect and educator whose creative achievements are at the forefront of the generation that is now defining the future of the profession. His work has been widely published and has been exhibited in the U.S. and abroad.

Kathleen Canning is Professor of History with appointments in Women's Studies and German at the UM. She is the author of *Languages of Labor and Gender and of The Gender of Modern German History: Bodies, Class and Citizenship* Cornell (forthcoming, fall 2005.) She is currently working on a book about ruptures of gender at the end of the First World War titled *Embodied Citizenships: Gender and the Crisis of the Nation in Germany 1916–1930*.

Michael Chanan, Professor of Cultural Studies at the University of the West of England, Bristol, began his career as a music critic and a film-maker in the BBC, then made documentaries independently and for Channel Four in the 80s. He also taught film in London until he moved to Bristol four years ago. He has written books on both music and film, including *Musica Practica* on the social history of music, and *Repeated Takes*, a history of recording (both from Verso), and most recently, a new edition of his study of *Cuban Cinema* (University of Minnesota Press, 2004). Having finished the film on Detroit with George Steinmetz, he is now back at work on a book about documentary and the public sphere for the British Film Institute.

Geoff Eley is Sylvia L. Thrupp Collegiate Professor of Comparative History and current Chair of the UM Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. He recently finished a book on the shifts between social history and cultural history during the past four decades, *A Crooked Line: From Cultural History to the History of Society*, which will be published by the University of Michigan Press in September 2005. In 2002 he published *Forging Democracy: The History of the Left in Europe, 1850–1920* (Oxford University Press).

Amir Eshel, Associate Professor and Chair of German Studies; Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Stanford University. Author of the book, *Zeit der Zaesur: Juedische Lyriker im Angesicht der Shoah* (1999). Currently working on a book manuscript on narratives of history in contemporary German and Hebrew prose. In recent years published essays on Paul Celan, Guenter Grass, Alexander Kulge, W. G. Sebald and Durs Gruenbein as well as on Aesthetics and Judaism and on the discourse of space in Jewish literature and thought.

Laurence Goldstein, Professor of English at the UM and since 1977 editor of *Michigan Quarterly Review*, is the author of *Ruins and Empire: The Evolution of a Theme in Augustan and Romantic Literature* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1977) and numerous other books of literary criticism and poetry, as well as many edited volumes of cultural commentary.

Julia Hell is Associate Professor in the UM Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Her research and teaching interests focus on 19th- and 20th-century German Studies, with particular emphasis on the relationship between literature, the visual arts, and politics. Her first book, *Post-Fascist Fantasies*, is the winner of the Modern Language Association's Scaglione Prize for German Studies for 1998. She is currently working on a second book in which she explores the (il)legitimacy of authorship in Peter Weiss, Gerhard Richter, and W.G. Sebald.

Daniel Herwitz joined the UM Institute for the Humanities as its Director in August 2002. For the previous six years he was chair of the philosophy department and director of the Center for Knowledge and Innovation at the University of Natal in Durban, South Africa. His most recent book is a series of essays on that country's transition to democracy, *Race and Reconciliation* (Minnesota Press, 2003). Herwitz is by training a philosopher who has also written and taught in the fields of contemporary philosophy, aesthetics, art, architecture, music, film and "global culture," including on the cultures of universities. Herwitz earned a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, and taught philosophy and in film school in Los Angeles before moving to South Africa. He teaches in departments of Philosophy, History of Art, and in the School of Art and Design at Michigan, and is an Associate in the Program in Film and Video.

Andreas Huyssen is the Villard Professor of German and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. He is one of the founding editors of *New German Critique*. His books include *After the Great Divide: Modernism, Mass Culture, Postmodernism* (1986), *Twilight Memories: Marking Time in a Culture of Amnesia* (1995), and *Present Pasts: Urban Palimpsests and the Politics of Memory* (2003).

Kevin Korsyn received the Emerging Scholar Award from the Society for Music Theory for his article "Schenker and Kantian Epistemology." His book *Decentering Music: A Critique of Contemporary Musical Research* was recently published by Oxford University Press. He teaches at the UM School of Music and is currently a Senior Fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows.

Vassilios Lambropoulos is C. P. Cavafy Professor of Modern Greek Studies, Professor of Modern Greek Studies, and Professor of Comparative Literature at the UM. His interests include modern Greek culture; the ancients and the moderns; ethics and politics; and literature after cultural studies. Among his publications are "The Rise of Eurocentrism; Literature as National Institution;" "On the Concept of the Tragedy of Culture;" "An Ethico-Political Portrait of the Greek Imagination;" "Greek Ethnography in the Age of Ethical Formalism;" and "Syncretism as Mixture and as Method."

Artemis Leontis, Adjunct Associate Professor and Coordinator of Modern Greek at the UM, has published essays on Greek literature in Greek and English. Her books are *Topographies of Hellenism: Mapping the Homeland*, which studies Hellenic ideas of place, including famous sites of ruins such as the Acropolis; Greece, A Travelers' Literary Companion, an edited volume of short stories by Greek authors; and "What These Ithakas Mean...". Readings in Cavafy, coedited with Lauren E. Talalay and Keith Taylor.

Marjorie Levinson, F.L. Huetwell Professor of English at the UM, is the author of works on British Romanticism, New Historicism and postmodern critical theory, and poetries of the early and later 20th century. Her current project investigates the bearing of Spinoza (detoured through today's postclassical sciences) on Romantic politics and poetics.

Olga Maiorova is Assistant Professor in the UM Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.. Her research interests cover the intersections between literature, intellectual history, religious issues, and representations of nationality in nineteenth-century Russia. She is currently writing a book on symbols of national identity in Russian culture of the second half of the nineteenth century.

Rahul Mehrotra is Associate Professor at the UM Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Design. He is an Indian architect and urban designer trained at the School of Architecture, Ahmedabad and the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University. Professor Mehrotra is Executive Director of the Urban Design Research Institute, which promotes awareness and research on the city of Bombay. He has also written several books on Bombay, including *Bombay, the Cities Within*, and has lectured extensively on urban design, conservation and architecture in India. He also serves on several government committees that are responsible for historic preservation and the conservation as well as creation of public spaces in Bombay.

Boris Mikhailov is an internationally acclaimed Ukrainian photographer who divides his time between Kharkov and Berlin. Mikhailov started his work in the Soviet Union in the 1970s. For over thirty years he photographed that nation's passage from established socialism to its dissolution in the early 1990s. Thematically and technically, his work falls into four periods. A selection of his original photographs created in the post-Soviet era, presented in connection with this conference, are on exhibit in the Institute for the Humanities.

Vladimir Paperny, writer, designer and cultural historian, graduated from Stroganov Art School in Moscow and received his PhD in Cultural Studies from the Russian State University for the Humanities. His thesis, *Architecture in the Age of Stalin. Culture Two*, was published in Russian (Moscow, 1996) and in English (Cambridge, 2003). Currently a visiting professor at UCLA, he also works at his design studio in Los Angeles.

Kyong Park is the founder/director of International Center for Urban Ecology, a nomadic laboratory for future cities (1998-present in Detroit/New York/Berlin). Recently, he was a co-curator and artist for the Detroit section of project/exhibition *Shrinking Cities* (2002–2004) that examined Liverpool/Manchester (UK), Halle/Leipzig (Germany), Ivanovo (Russia) and Detroit. He was also a commissioner of the international section of 97 Kwangju Biennale in Korea (1997), where he curated Images of *The Future: The Architecture of a New Geography* a multi-media exhibition that surveyed the cultural and urban landscapes of 23 cities worldwide.

Helen Petrovsky is Senior Research Associate at the Sector of Analytical Anthropology, Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of Sciences. Her major fields of interest are contemporary philosophy, philosophy of literature and art, visual anthropology. She is author of *Part of the World* (1995), *Eye's Delight* (1997), *The Unapparent. Essays on the Philosophy of Photography* (2002), and *Anti-photography* (2003). She is also co-editor of *Jacques Derrida in Moscow: The Deconstruction of a Travel* (1993), editor and co-translator of Jean-Luc Nancy's *Corpus* (1999), as well as of Gertrude Stein's selected writings (2001). Since 2002 she is editor-in-chief of a biannual theoretical journal *Sinij Divan*.

Brian Porter is Associate Professor of history at the UM, where he specializes in modern Roman Catholic history and the history of Poland. He is the author of *When Nationalism Began to Hate: Imagining Modern Politics in Nineteenth Century Poland* (Oxford University Press, 2000), as well as numerous articles on Catholicism, nationalism, antisemitism, and liberalism. He is currently working on a book with the tentative title of *For God and Fatherland: Catholicism, Modernity, and Poland*

Alex Potts is Max Loehr Collegiate Professor of the History of Art and Chair of the Department of History of Art at the University of Michigan. He is the author of *Flesh and the Ideal: Winckelmann and the Origins of Art History* (1994 and 2000) and *The Sculptural Imagination. Figurative Modernist Minimalist* (2000). His current research focuses on the artistic culture of post-war Europe and America and on the new understandings of the artist's project and artistic commitment that emerged both in response to and in reaction against the consumerism of the 1950s and early 1960s.

Todd Presner is Assistant Professor of Germanic Languages and Jewish Studies at the University of California Los Angeles. He works on 19th- and 20th-century German-Jewish literature, intellectual history, visual culture, and media theory. He is completing two book projects: *Dialectics at a Standstill: A Cultural Geography of German/Jewish Modernity* and *Muscle Jews and the Politics of Regeneration, 1890-1930*. His recent articles have been published in *PMLA*, *Criticism*, *German Politics and Society*, and *Modernism/Modernity*.

Helmut Puff is Associate Professor in the UM Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and the Department of History. He publishes on gender history, the history of sexuality, and visual culture with a particular focus on late medieval and early modern German-speaking cultures.

Alexander Regier is a Junior Research Fellow at King's College Cambridge. His forthcoming book *Broken Origins: Fracture and Fragmentation in British Romanticism* addresses European imaginative and philosophical writings. He is currently editing a book on William Wordsworth's theory of poetry as well as preparing a comparative study of Romantic theories of language, with particular attention to the writings of Johann Georg Hamann. He teaches courses in literature, critical theory, and philosophy, at the University of Cambridge.

Eric Rentschler is the Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University where he chairs the German Department. He also teaches in the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies and is a member of the Committee on Literature. Presently on sabbatical, he is working on two book projects: *The Enduring Allure of Nazi Attractions* and *Courses in Time: Film in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1962–1989*.

Lucia Saks is Assistant Professor in the UM Program in Film/Video Studies. Her research focuses on comparative studies of the ways in which global media (cinema and television) intersect with the ongoing processes of globalization and transnationalism and on how media technologies (cinema and television) construct and transform the meaning of home, community, nation and citizenship for diasporic communities and in the developing world.

Andreas Schönle is Associate Professor in the UM Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. He is interested in the ways in which literature promotes specific reading patterns and, by extension, social roles. He is completing a book on the politics of landscape design in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Russian culture. Concurrently, he is working on a project on ruins of modernity in a global, as well as Russian context. With Julia Hell, he has organized this international conference and they plan to prepare a collective volume based on the conference and, ultimately, a monograph on the ruins of Russian culture.

Charity Scribner is Assistant Professor of European Studies at MIT, where she teaches in Foreign Languages and Literatures and Comparative Media Studies. Her first book is *Requiem for Communism* (2003). Her research has appeared in various journals and books, including *Critical Inquiry*, the *New Left Review*, and the *Weimarer Beiträge*.

Tatiana Smoliarova studied in Moscow and in Paris. For the past three years, she was a Junior Fellow at Harvard Society of Fellows. Next year she will assume a position as Assistant Professor of Slavic Literatures at Columbia University. Since completing her doctoral dissertation on the literary myth of Pindar and the history of solemn ode in France and in Russia in the seventeenth–eighteenth centuries, she has been working on the parallel history of literary and architectural theories in both countries. She is particularly interested in Russian palladianism and its literary counterparts.

Scott Spector is Associate Professor in the UM Departments of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Slavic Languages and Literatures. His interests have included: German-speaking Jewish writers and thinkers, the politics of historiography, nationalism and culture, sexuality and culture, and the dialogue between film and historical representation. He is currently working on a book-length manuscript on fantasies of violence against marginal social figures in turn-of-the-century Central European philosophy, science, and popular culture. His book, *Prague Territories: National Conflict and Cultural Innovation in Kafka's Fin de Siècle* was awarded the DAAD/GSA book prize for 1999 and 2000.

George Steinmetz is Professor of Sociology and German Studies at the UM. He works on modern social theory, the history of the social sciences (with a focus on U.S. sociology), and empire and colonialism (with an emphasis on Germany). He edits the series *Politics, History, and Culture* for Duke University Press, with Julia Adams. His recent work includes *State/Culture* (Cornell University Press, 1999); *The Politics of Method in the Human Sciences* (Duke University Press, 2005); and *The Devil's Handwriting: Precoloniality and the German Colonial State in Qingdao, Samoa, and Southwest Africa* (forthcoming, University of Chicago Press, 2006). Together with Michael Chanan, he has just completed the film *Detroit; Ruin of a City*.

Ann Laura Stoler is Willy Brandt Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology and Historical Studies and Chair of the Department of Anthropology at the Graduate Faculty of New School University. She is author of *Race and the Education of Desire* (1995), *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power* (2002). Co-editor with Frederick Cooper of *Tensions of Empire* (1997), and editor of *Tense and Tender Ties: Empire and The Politics of Comparison in North American History* (forthcoming from Duke UP in 2005).

Jonathan Veitch is Dean of Eugene Lang College at the New School in New York. He is the author of *American Superrealism: Nathanael West and the Politics of Representation in the 1930s*. Presently, he is working on a book which explores the mythic geographies and lost histories of America's "defeated" provinces: Maritime New England; Niagara Falls; Patterson, N.J.; Pittsburgh; and the "Cold War West." The book seeks to address the way the contentious past associated with these places is framed for the public in ongoing battles over their preservation, exhibition and representation.

Gustavo Verdesio is Associate Professor in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at University of Michigan, where he teaches courses on colonial Latin America, indigenous cultures, and popular culture. A revised English version of his book *La invención del Uruguay* (1996) has been published as *Forgotten Conquests* (Temple UP, 2001). He is the co-editor (with Alvaro F. Bolaños) of the collection *Colonialism Past and Present* (SUNY P, 2002). His articles have appeared in *Nuevo Texto Crítico*, *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*, *Revista de Critica Literaria Latinoamericana* and *Revista Iberoamericana*, among other journals.

Anthony Vidler is Professor of Architecture and Dean of the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of the Arts and Sciences. A theorist, critic and historian, Vidler's scholarly work extends from a specialization in 18th and 19th century French architectural history, with emphasis on the work of Revolutionary architect Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, to modern and contemporary architecture and urbanism, in theory and practice. His books include *The Writing of the Walls: Theory and Design in the Late Enlightenment*; the prize-winning *Claude-Nicolas Ledoux. Architecture and Society in the Ancien Regime*; *The Architectural Uncanny. Essays in the Modern Unhomely*; and *Warped Space: Art, Architecture, and Anxiety in Modern Culture*, recently nominated by *The Art Book Journal* as one of the best books of the decade. He has received numerous honors and awards including a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, a Senior Fellowship of the National Endowment of the Humanities, and a Getty Scholar's Fellowship. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Johannes von Moltke is Assistant Professor in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and in the Program in Film and Video. His research and teaching centers on film, German cultural history of the 20th century, film theory, critical theory, and cultural studies. He has recently completed a cultural history of the German Heimatfilm, entitled *No Place Like Home: Locations of Heimat in German Cinema*, which will be published by University of California Press later this year. Currently, Prof. von Moltke is working on postwar German cinema, focusing on the role of melodrama and affect.

Jason Young is Associate Professor in the UM Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Design, where he teaches graduate level design studios and coordinates the Thesis Program. He is cofounder and partner of WETSU, a design/build studio in Ann Arbor. Young's research investigates contemporary conditions of American urbanism. He is a contributing co-editor of *Stalking Detroit* (ACTAR 2001).