

Prof. Dr. Christa Buschendorf

Education

Study of English and American Literature, German Literature and Philosophy at the Universities of Mainz and Düsseldorf
Ph.D. Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf 1983
Habitation Düsseldorf 1995

Work

1983-1988 Instructor, Universität Düsseldorf
1988-1995 Assistant Professor American Studies Universität of Düsseldorf
1995-1997 Visiting Professor at the Universities of Bielefeld, Jena, and Frankfurt
1997- Full Professor/Chair American Studies, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main
2003/2004 Visiting Scholar, Harvard University
2007/2008 Visiting Scholar, Harvard University
2011-2012 Visiting Scholar, African and African American Department, Harvard University

Grants/Fellowships

1972 Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes
1986 Forschungsstipendium John F. Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikastudien, Freie Universität Berlin
1987 Forschungsstipendium John F. Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikastudien, Freie Universität Berlin
1990/1991 ACLS Scholarship, Visiting Scholar, Harvard University

Professional Activities

- Director of the Center for North American Research, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main (1998/99; 2001/02; 2005/06; 2006/07; 2008/09; 2010-)
- Chairperson of the Institute of English and American Studies, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main (April 2000 - September 2001 and October 2009 - September 2011)
- Member of the Senate, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main (2000-2007)
- Board Member of the German Association for American Studies (1999-2002; 2005-2009)
- Vice-President of the German Association for American Studies (2002-2005)
- Fulbright Liaison Professor Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main
- Co-Editor Amerikastudien/American Studies (2002-)

Publications

I. History of Ideas

1. German-American Intellectual Exchanges

Books

'The High Priest of Pessimism'. Zur Rezeption Schopenhauers in den USA, Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2008

Transatlantic Negotiations, eds. Christa Buschendorf und Astrid Franke, Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter 2007

Articles

"Rezeption in den USA". *Schopenhauer-Handbuch: Leben – Werk—Wirkung*, eds. Daniel Schubbe und Matthias Koßler. Weimar/Stuttgart: Metzler Verlag, 2014, 372-376

"The Challenge of German Pessimism: The Reception of Schopenhauer in Transcendentalism and Pragmatism", *Nineteenth-Century Prose* 36/2 (Fall 2009): 166-184

„Melville's *Clarel*: Irreconcilable Contradictions, or, A Pilgrimage to Piranesi's *Carceri*", in: *Orientalism in American Poetry*, eds. Sabine Sielke und Christian Klöckner, Lang, 2009

"Turn-of-the-Century Self-Doubt: From Pessimism to the 'Will to Believe'," in: *Negotiations of America's National Identity*, Vol. II, edd. Roland Hagenbüchle, Josef Raab, Tübingen: Stauffenburg Verlag, 2000, 158-183

2. Warburg School / Afterlife of Antiquity

Translations

Edgar Wind, *Heidnische Mysterien in der Renaissance*, Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1981 (Pagan Mysteries in the Renaissance, London, 1968)

Raymond Klibansky, Erwin Panofsky, Fritz Saxl, *Saturn and Melancholy. Studien zur Geschichte der Naturphilosophie und Medizin, der Religion und der Kunst*, Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1990 (Saturn and Melancholy, London, 1964)

Articles

"Medusa als Muse: Spielerische Anverwandlungen des Schreckens in der amerikanischen Literatur des 20. Jahrhunderts," In: *Dialoge zwischen Amerika und Europa: Transatlantische Perspektiven in Philosophie, Literatur, Kunst und Musik*, eds. Astrid Böger, Georg Schiller, Nicole Schröder, Tübingen und Basel: A. Francke Verlag: 2007, 181-199

"Circe's Realm and the Virgin of Chartres: Henry Adams's Visions of the Power of Sex," in: *Sexualities in American Culture*, ed. Alfred Hornung, Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag, 2004, 33-49

Artikel USA, I. Kolonialzeit bis zur Neuen Republik (1607-1820); II. 19. Jh. (1820-1900); III. 20. Jh. (1900-1945): in: *Der neue Pauly: Enzyklopädie der Antike; Rezeptions- und Wissenschaftsgeschichte*. (Hrsg.) Hubert Cancik/Helmut Schneider/Manfred Landfester, Band 15/3 Sco-Z. Nachträge. Stuttgart/Weimar: Verlag J.B. Metzler, 2003, 833-875

"Kunst und Kritik. Edgar Wind und das Symposium 'Art and Morals'," in: *Edgar Wind. Kunsthistoriker und Philosoph*, edd. Horst Bredekamp, et. al., Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1999, 117-133

"Gods and Heroes Revised: Mythological Concepts of Masculinity in Contemporary Women's Poetry," in: *Engendering Manhood*, edd. Ulf Reichardt, Sabine Sielke, *Amerikastudien* 43 (1998): 599-617

"White Masks: Greek Mythology in Contemporary Black Poetry," in: *Crossing Borders: Inner- and Intercultural Exchanges in a Multicultural Society*, ed. Heinz Ickstadt, Frankfurt etc: Lang, 1997, 65-82

II. Relational / Figurational Approach to American Studies

1. Methodological Reflexions

Book

Civilizing and Decivilizing Processes: Figurational Approaches to American Culture. Eds. Christa Buschendorf, Astrid Franke, Johannes Voelz. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011

Articles

With Astrid Franke, "The Implied Sociology and Politics of Literary Texts: Using the Tools of Relational Sociology in American Studies," in *American Studies Today: New Research Agendas*, eds. Winfried Fluck, Erik Redling, Sabine Sielke, Hubert Zapf, Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2014, 75-104

Review Symposium, ed., Loïc Wacquant, *Punishing the Poor: The Neoliberal Government of Social Insecurity* (2009), *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 57.2 (2012): 303-328

"Narrated Power Relations: Jesse Hill Ford's Novel *The Liberation of Lord Byron Jones*," in: *Civilizing and Decivilizing Processes: Figurational Approaches to American Culture*, eds, Christa Buschendorf, Astrid Franke, and Johannes Voelz, Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011, 227-262

With Astrid Franke and Johannes Völz: "Introduction" to *Civilizing and Decivilizing Processes: Figurational Approaches to American Culture*. Eds. Christa Buschendorf, Astrid Franke, Johannes Voelz. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011, 1-16

Introduction to "Casting America's Outcasts: A Dialogue between Russell Banks and Loïc Wacquant", *Amerikastudien* 53 (2008): 209-212

2. Applications: African American Studies

Book

With Cornel West: *Black Prophetic Fire*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2014

Articles

"Properly speaking there are in the world no such men as self-made men': Frederick Douglass's Exceptional Position in the Field of Slavery," in *Intellectual Authority and Literary Culture in the US, 1790-1900*, ed. Günter Leypoldt. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2013, 159-184

"The Shaping of We-Group Identities in the African American Community: A Perspective of Figurational Sociology on the Cultural Imaginary," in *The Imaginary and Its Worlds: American Studies after the Transnational Turn*, ed. Laura Bieger, Ramón Saldivar, Johannes Voelz. Hanover, NH: Dartmouth College Press / University Press of New England, 2013, 84-106

"A Figure of Our Times.' An Interview with Cornel West on W. E. B. Du Bois," *Du Bois Review* 10.1 (2013): 261-278

'We need Martin more than ever.': Interview with Cornel West on Martin Luther King, Jr., *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 56.3 (2011): 449-467

III. Other

Books

Mit Kinderaugen: Zur Perspektivtechnik bei William Faulkner, Carson McCullers und Flannery O'Connor, Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 1988

East-West American Studies Conference October 1998, Frankfurt: ZENAF Conference Proceedings 1/2000

New European Approaches to American Studies? Proceedings of the East-West American Studies Conference at the Center for North American Studies, May 2001, Frankfurt: ZENAF Conference Proceedings 2/2002

Cultural Exchanges between Central / Eastern Europe and America. Proceedings of the East-West American Studies Conference at the Center for North American Studies, June 2002, Frankfurt: ZENAF Conference Proceedings 3/2003

Communism, Capitalism and the Politics of Culture. Proceedings of the East-West American Studies Conference at the Center for North American Studies, June 2003, Frankfurt: ZENAF Conference Proceedings 4/2004

Artists and Intellectuals and the Challenges of Political Commitment: Proceedings of the East-West American Studies Conference at the Center for North American Studies, June 2004, Frankfurt: ZENAF Conference Proceedings 5/2005

Articles

"Ekphrasis und die Abkehr vom Mimesis-Prinzip: Bildgedichte Frank O'Haras auf Werke des Abstrakten Expressionismus," in *Behext von Bildern? Ursachen, Funktionen und Perspektiven der textuellen Faszination durch Bilder*, ed. Heinz Drügh and Maria Moog-Grünwald, Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2001, 249-270

Presentations (selection)

"Sustaining Inequality through Symbolic Violence" (Keynote Intl. Workshop "Ungerechte Ordnungen – the Structure and Dynamics of Inequality", University of Tübingen, November 7-9, 2013

"Bourdieu's Concept of Symbolic Violence as a Tool of Literary Interpretation", Bayreuth Institute for American Studies, University of Bayreuth, July 11, 2013

„Reading Matters: Symbolic Struggles Over Literary Taste of Black Intellectuals“ (International Conference „Acquired Taste: Reading and the Uses of Literature in the Age of Academic Literary Studies“, University of Heidelberg, June, 20 – 23, 2013

"Symbolic Violence and the Tragicomic Sensibility of African American Humor: Ralph Ellison's 'Cadillac Flambé,'" Dartmouth College, May 2012

"Sustaining Hope in the Face of Despair: American Reactions to the Crisis of Pessimism" (Annual Conference of the American Comparative Literature Association, Brown University, Providence RI, March 29 – April 1, 2012

Together with Astrid Franke: "New Approaches to American Studies: Relational Sociology," *American Studies Today: Recent Developments and New Perspectives*, John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, Free University, Berlin, November 2011

"Against the Odds: Frederick Douglass' Struggle for Symbolic Capital", Conference *Modernization and Intellectual Authority in US Literary Culture, 1750-1900*, July 2-5, 2009, Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg

"The shaping of we-group ideals: a sociological perspective on the imaginary", Conference *Imagining Culture: Norms and Forms of Public Discourse in America*, June 26- 28, 2009, John F. Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikastudien, Berlin

"Race Relations as Established-Outsider Relations", Universität Augsburg, February 2009

"The Highpriest of Pessimism': Zur Rezeption Schopenhauers in der amerikanischen Philosophie um 1900", Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, December 2008

"Race Relations as Established-Outsider Figurations: The Case of Jesse Hill Ford's *The Liberation of Lord Byron Jones*", John-F.-Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikastudien, Freie Universität Berlin, November 2008

"The Maycomb Model: A Figurational Approach to American Fiction", Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, October 2008

"Civilizing Process and Power: Race Relations as Established-Outsider Figurations: The Case of Jesse Hill Ford's *The Liberation of Lord Byron Jones*", ASA - American Studies Association, Albuquerque, N.M. (U.S.A.), October 2008

"Figurational Sociology: The Critical Potential of a European Approach to American Studies", University of California at Santa Barbara, Ca. (U.S.A.), March 2008

"Edward P. Jones' The Known World and the Tradition of the African American Historical Novel", Dietz-Memorial Lecture, Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, December 2004

"Experiment and Experience: Emily Dickinson as a Pragmatist Poet," Symposium Düsseldorf, May 2004

"That Precarious Gait': Emily Dickinson's Poetics of Experiment," Emily Dickinson International Society, Trondheim (Norwegen), August 2001

Research Projects in Progress

- Figurational approach to American Studies
- Representations of Symbolic Power in African American Literature (working title; book project)
- Reception of Antiquity in American Literature and Culture (in the tradition of the cultural studies approach of the Warburg School; book project)

Conferences Organized

- Series of five East-West American Studies Conferences, Frankfurt am Main, 1998-2004 (sponsored by Volkswagen-Stiftung)
- "Transatlantic Negotiations" - Convention of the German Association for American Studies, Frankfurt am Main, May 2005
- "Civilizing and De-Civilizing Processes in America: A Figurational Approach to American Studies", Frankfurt am Main, November 2007

International Workshops

- Co-Chair with Mario Klarer (Innsbruck): Workshop "Private Spectacles: Reflections of Gender Identities in Tableaux Vivants and Parlor Theatricals", EAAS - European Association for American Studies, Lisbon (Portugal), April 1998
- Co-Chair with Astrid Franke (Tübingen), Panel Discussion "European Approaches to American Studies", ASA - American Studies Association, Houston, Tx. (U.S.A.), November 2002
- Co-Chair with Joanna Durczak (Lublin): Workshop "Poetic/Artistic Groups, Schools, Movements: Between belonging and Non-Conformism", EAAS - European Association for American Studies, Nicosia (Cyprus), 2006

Courses Taught

Lecture Courses: American Literature and Culture 1900-1950; American Literature and Culture 1950 to the present

Undergraduate Courses on various American poets and writers of the 19th and 20th centuries

Graduate Courses: African American literature and culture; American art (Dada; Surrealism; Pop Art; New York City of Art; Documentary Photography), text and image (ekphrasis, political iconography); classical tradition In American literature and culture, classical myths In American literature; cultural theory: Norbert Elias, Pierre Bourdieu, application of figurational / relational sociology to American literature

MA-Theses / Wiss. Hausarbeiten Lehramt based on concepts of figurational / relational sociology

"The Presence of the Past: Bourdieu's *Habitus* in Toni Morrison's *Love*" (Stefanie Müller, 2006)

"Das künstlerische Feld des New Yorker Surrealismus" (Anna Dominika Pietras, 2006)

"Fields of Power: a Sociological Approach to Quakerism and Politics in the US" (Nicole Hirschfelder, 2007)

"Social Space and Symbolic Power in Toni Morrison's *Paradise*" (Nicola Holleber, 2008)

"The Sexual Revolution in the Popular Songs of the Sixties - Documents of Informalization?" (Baris Tekin, 2008)

"Von der Minstrel Show zum Modernen Kino: Afroamerikanische Stereotypen im zeitgenössischen Film" (Luvena Kopp, 2009)

"Toni Morrisons Roman *The Bluest Eye*: Eine Interpretation auf der Basis von Bourdieus Machttheorie"

(Sandra Scheuermann, 2009)

"Macht durch Sprache? Die 'rhetorische Präsidentschaft' Ronald Reagans" (Christoph Schmid, 2009)
"Forms, Functions and Change of the Trickster Figure: Louise Erdrich's *Tracks* and *The Plague of Doves*" (Jenny Neubauer, 2010)

"The Jewish Outsider in Philip Roth's *American Pastoral*: Settling at the Frontier" (Marie-Christin Sawires-Masseli, 2010)

"The Power of White Culture - Symbolic Domination in Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*" (Judith Wentzel, 2010)
"A Dialectic Contradiction Often Overlooked': Richard Wright and Fredric Wertham's Social Psychiatry" (Stephan Kuhl, 2011)

"Civilizing and De-Civilizing Processes in Bret Harte's Frontier Fiction" (Carolin Naumann, 2013)
"Representations of Symbolic Violence in Colson Whitehead's *John Henry Days* and *Sag Harbor*" (Marlon Lieber, 2013)

"The Prophecy of Liberation – Resistance to the Black Church in the Tradition of Black Intellectuals: Richard Wright and James Baldwin" (Johannes Kohrs, 2013)

PhD Theses based on concepts of figurational / relational sociology

Luvena Kopp: "Symbolic Violence in the Films of Spike Lee" (AT)

Stephan Kuhl: "Richard Wright and Fredric Wertham's Social Psychiatry" (AT)

Marlon Lieber: "'You're not going to tell me how it turns out?' Colson Whitehead's Novels and the Ends of Race" (AT)

Nicole Lindenberg: "Masking the 'ideal white male'—Passing and Split Habitus in Ellison's *Three Days Before the Shooting...*" (AT)

Stefanie Müller: "Bringing the Past Back to Life - Bourdieu's Habitus in the Work of Toni Morrison" (submitted 2011)

Marie-Christin Sawires-Masseli: "A Quest for Identity Against Stereotypes and Outsidership - Arab-American Literature after 9/11" (submitted 2014)

Wibke Schniederermann: "Versuche der Auflehnung gegen androzentrische Strukturen in den Erzähltexten Henry James" (AT)