

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
Habilitation 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 -)
- 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

Books

- *Mit Kinderaugen: Zur Perspektivtechnik bei William Faulkner, Carson McCullers und Flannery O'Connor.* Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 1988
- *'The High Priest of Pessimism'. Zur Rezeption Schopenhauers in den USA,* Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2008

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)

Editions

- 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
- 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
- *Transatlantic Negotiations*, eds. Christa Buschendorf und Astrid Franke, Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2007
- *Civilizing and Decivilizing Processes: Figurational Approaches to American Culture*. Eds. Christa Buschendorf, Astrid Franke, Johannes Voelz. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011

Articles (selection)

- "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.
- "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.
- "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.
- "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*, edd. Heinz Drügh, Maria Moog-Grünewald, Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2001, 249-270.
- 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, 833-875.
- "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.
- "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.
- Introduction to "Casting America's Outcasts: A Dialogue between Russell Banks and Loïc Wacquant", *Amerikastudien* 53 (2008): 209-212.
- "Melville's *Clarel*: Irreconcilable Contradictions, or, A Pilgrimage to Piranesi's *Carceri*", in: *Orient and Orientalism in US-American Poetry and Poetics*, eds. Sabine Sielke und Christian Klöckner, Berlin und Frankfurt am Main: Verlagsgruppe Peter Lang, 2009, 81-101.
- "The Challenge of German Pessimism: The Reception of Schopenhauer in Transcendentalism and Pragmatism", *Nineteenth-Century Prose* 36/2 (Fall 2009): 166-184.
- "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.

Presentations (selection)

- "Symbolic Violence and the Tragicomic Sensibility of African American Humor: Ralph Ellison's 'Cadillac Flambé,'" Dartmouth College, May 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 American Literature (working title; bookproject)
- Reception of Antiquity in American Literature and Culture (in the tradition of the cultural studies approach of the Warburg School; bookproject)

Conferences Organized

- Series of five East-West American Studies Conferences, Frankfurt am Main, 1998-2004 (see proceedings under "editions")
- "Transatlantic Negotiations" – Convention of the German Association for American Studies, Frankfurt am Main, May 2005 (*Transatlantic Negotiations*, eds. Christa Buschendorf und Astrid Franke, Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2007)
- "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?" (Bariş 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)

PhD Theses (based on concepts of figurational / relational sociology)

- Luvena Kopp: "Symbolic Violence in the Films of Spike Lee" (AT)
- Nicole Lindenberg: "'A Raft of Hope' - From *Invisible Man* to *Three Days Before the Shooting...*" (AT)
- Stefanie Müller: "Bringing the Past back to Life - Bourdieu's Habitus in the Work of Toni Morrison" (abgeschlossen 2011)
- Marie-Christin Sawires-Masseli: "A Quest for Identity Against Stereotypes and Outsidership - Arab-American Literature after 9/11" (AT)
- Wibke Schniederemann: "Versuche der Auflehnung gegen androzentrische Strukturen in den Erzähltexten Henry James" (AT)