

Speakers' Bios

Burcu Alkan (Burcu.alkan@anglistik.uni-giessen.de) received her PhD from the University of Manchester in 2009. She worked on a TUBITAK funded, EU/COST supported project on the “Women Writers of Turkey” between 2010 and 2012. She co-edited the Dictionary of Literary Biography 373: Turkish Novelists Since 1960 (2013) and Dictionary of Literary Biography 379: Turkish Novelists Since 1960, Second Series (2016). Her earlier research includes studies on the concept of the intellectual and modernity & literature. Recently, she has been working in the field of medical humanities, on the relationship between psychiatry and literature, focusing on psychoanalysis, self-destruction, suicide, and mental health.

Marie Jude Bendiola (judeebendiola@gmail.com) is a Filipino who finished her Master's degree in North American Studies, at Philipps-Universität Marburg in Germany in January 2017. Back in April 2009, she got her BA Journalism degree from the University of the Philippines Diliman. She also worked as a journalist in the News and Current Affairs Department of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation. Then, she shared her expertise as a public relations executive in the Interactive and Digital Media Lab in the National University of Singapore. Currently, she is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English and American Studies at Philipps-Universität Marburg. Her research interests include media and cultural studies, specifically social media and American popular culture.

Bernardo Caycedo (c.b.caycedocasallas@uva.nl) is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Amsterdam. His ongoing research explores new forms of political engagement related to the Internet (in particular, whistleblowing, hacktivism, and radical open access initiatives). This study is part of the project Transformations of Civil Disobedience: Democratization, Globalization, Digitalization. Bernardo is currently a visiting researcher at the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG) in Berlin. He is a member of the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA), the Dutch Research School of Philosophy (OZSW) and the Amsterdam Center for Globalization Studies (ACGS). Bernardo obtained his MA in Philosophy from Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia and his BA in Philosophy from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia. Prior to pursuing his Ph.D., Bernardo taught in various Colombian high schools.

Birte Christ (birte.christ@anglistik.uni-giessen.de) teaches American Literature and Cultural Studies at the English Department of JLU. Her teaching and research interests include law and literature, transmedial narratology, women's studies, middlebrow literature and culture, and approaches to teaching American literature and culture. Birte is the author of *Modern Domestic Fiction: Popular Feminism, Mass-Market Magazines, and Middle-Class Culture, 1905-1925* (Winter 2012). Birte is currently finishing her second book (Habilitation) on representations of capital punishment and their racial politics from the 1840s to the 1990s.

Tom Clucas (tom.clucas@gcsc.uni-giessen.de) completed his PhD in English Literature at Oxford University and is now a Postdoctoral Researcher at JLU Giessen, where he is studying the relationship between character and economy in nineteenth-century novels.

Gerlov van Engelenhoven (Gerlov.van-engelenhoven@gcsc.uni-giessen.de, GCSC, Giessen) is writing his PhD dissertation on the Dutch-Moluccan minority, with a focus on matters of voice and silence. Via close readings of media and cultural representations of the Dutch Moluccan migration history, the dissertation is aimed at figuring out to what extent Moluccans *have* voices, whether these voices are created by themselves, or rather *granted them* by others; whether these voices are heard, and if they are not, whether this is because of miscommunications or rather active forms of ignoring

or even *silencing* these voices. Special emphasis is directed towards the potential of a resistant subjectivity that is developed by *actively refusing to have a voice* within a normative context that would otherwise streamline such voices within either a logic of protest/revolt, or a logic of (a will to) integration.

Jutta Hergenhan (jutta.hergenhan@zmi.uni-giessen.de) is secretary general and board member of the Zentrum für Medien und Interaktivität. She is scientific member of the research network Antidemocratic Attitudes, and has published widely on gender, populism and language in European political discourse.

Penelope Kemekenidou (kem.penelope@gmail.com) is a Ph.D. student in American cultural history at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, Germany. Her research focus lies on the importance of empathy for activism, while she is primarily interested in activism, digital activism and the activist potential of virtual reality. She is currently working as an online-campaigner at JBN (Jugendorganisation Bund Naturschutz in Bayern) and is deputy chairman at Gender Equality Media e.V., a charitable organization against sexism in German media. The campaign StopBildSexism is supported by UN Women or Deutscher Frauenrat.

Sarah Kendzior (skendzior@gmail.com) is a journalist and anthropologist. She has a PhD from Washington University and is currently a columnist at the Canadian newspaper The Globe and Mail and the Dutch media outlet De Correspondent. Kendzior is based in St. Louis, Missouri.

Frans-Willem Korsten (f.w.a.korsten@hum.leidenuniv.nl) holds the chair by endowment 'Literature and Society' at the Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication and works at the department of Film and Literary Studies at the University of Leiden. He published on a republican baroque, theatricality and dramatization, and works on the interstice now between art, literature and law with a focus on the limits of legal systems.

Stephanie Lotzow (Stephanie.lotzow@germanistik.uni-giessen.de) studied "Anglophone Literary, Cultural and Media Studies" as well as "German Linguistics" at the JLU Gießen and graduated in October 2015. In 2016, she worked for the Dudenverlag as one of the authors of "Dudenband 9: Das Wörterbuch der sprachlichen Zweifelsfälle". In October of the same year, she started working as a research assistant at the DFG-project "Syntaktische Grundstrukturen des Neuhochdeutschen" at the German Institute at JLU Gießen and is currently working on her PhD thesis with the title "Elliptical Junction of Prepositional Modifiers in the Syntactic Structure of the New High German". Besides grammatical analysis, she is strongly interested in representations of gender in the media and feminist activism in all of its facets.

Greta Olson (greta.olson@anglistik.uni-giessen.de) is Professor of English and American Literary and Cultural Studies at the University of Giessen and was Fellow at the Käte Hamburger Center for Advanced Study in the Humanities "Law as Culture" in Bonn (2014, 2016). She is a general editor of the *European Journal of English Studies* (EJES), and the co-founder of the European Network for Law and Literature.

Tina Olteanu (tina.olteanu@sowi.uni-giessen.de) is visiting professor at the Justus-Liebig-Universität in Gießen. Her research interests involve various aspect of the study of democracy (participation, gender, party politics, Eastern European transformation). She was Austrian Marshall Plan fellow 2015/2016 at the Center for Transatlantic Relations at the Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC. Tina earned her Ph.D. at the University of Vienna, Austria.

Ewelina Pepiak (ewelina.pepiak@gmail.com) MA in Cultural Studies from the University of Silesia, Poland and in American Studies (University of Toulouse, France). Researcher in visual stereotyping practices in transnational (Mexico-US) and postcolonial settings, with a recent focus on contemporary French and Francophone cinema. Author of publications on Cultural Studies research in the contemporary visual culture (mainly in Polish). Currently a PhD candidate within International PhD Programme at JLU, Germany.

Sara Polak (s.a.polak@hum.leidenuniv.nl) is assistant professor in American Studies at Leiden University and NWO-Rubicon fellow at the GCSC in Giessen, working with Greta Olson. Her project "From Dormant to Disruptive Memory: Ebola in the American Imagination" has brought her to study the societal and political impact of social media story-telling and online vitriol. Alongside her research she writes about American history, politics and culture for a group of Dutch regional newspapers.

Ramón Reichert (ramon.reichert@univie.ac.at) is the head of the post-graduate master's course "Data Studies" at the Danube University Krems. Currently he is an European Project Researcher at the University of Lancaster and a Lecturer in Contextual Studies at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, St. Gallen and at the Université de Fribourg. He has published widely on digital media, e.g. "Big Data: New Media Dynamics and Digital Media Culture in Transition" (2016)

Ann-Marie Riesner (ann.m.riesner@gcsc.uni-giessen.de) is a PhD student at the GCSC and a research assistant at the ZMI. She is co-organizer of the Online Vitriol conference and a wide range of other academic event. Her PhD project is titled 'Das Netzwerk als Wissenssystem? Wechselwirkungen zwischen narrativen Strategien im Gegenwartsroman und der Wissenspräsentation im Leitmedium Internet'.

Sonja Schillings (sonja.schillings@gcsc.uni-giessen.de) is a postdoctoral researcher in American Studies at the GCSC/Justus-Liebig-University Giessen. Current research interests include American literature after 1945, discourses on human dignity and interpersonal relations, and the narrative construction of legitimate violence. She wrote her dissertation at FU Berlin, John-F. Kennedy-Institute for North American Studies and published *Enemies of all Humankind: Fictions of Legitimate Violence* (University Press of New England, 2017).

Rahel Schmitz (rahel.schmitz@gcsc.uni-giessen.de) is a doctoral student at the Justus-Liebig-University in Giessen. As a fellow of the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture as well as the International PhD Programme "Literary and Cultural Studies," she is currently working on the dissertation project "Forms and Functions of the Representation of the Supernatural Media Virus in Contemporary Gothic and Horror Fiction." Her main fields of interest include contemporary Gothic and horror fiction across all media and cultures.

Wibke Schniedermann (Wibke.schniedermann@gcsc.uni-giessen.de) is a postdoctoral researcher and coordinator of the Teaching Centre at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC). She received her PhD from Frankfurt University in 2015 for a thesis on symbolic violence in the novels of Henry James. In her current research, she investigates self-narration strategies of the homeless and unhoused.

Andreas Schwarzkopf (a.schwarzkopf@fr.de) has been working as a journalist for *Frankfurter Rundschau* since 1991. In 2001 he became a news-editor. He specialized in foreign affairs and security policy (and reported from Brussels, USA, Afghanistan, Georgia, Bulgaria, Romania). He organizes and moderates panel discussions or is part of panels.

Elizabeth Tandy Shermer (eshermer@luc.edu) is an assistant professor of history at Loyola University Chicago. She has published extensively in academic journals and books as well as mainstream news outlets on the history of American politics, economy, and society. Her early work tackled the history of the American Right but she is currently finishing a book on the history of the student loan industry, tentatively titled: Indentured Students.

Daniel Trottier (trottier@eshcc.eur.nl) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Media and Communication at Erasmus University Rotterdam. He is leading a five-year research project on citizen-led surveillance practices on digital media. Daniel is the author *Social Media as Surveillance* (2012, Ashgate), *Identity Problems in the Facebook Era* (2013, Routledge), and co-editor of *Social Media, Politics and the State* (2014, Routledge).

Seda Gökçe Turan (sedagokce.turan@vsh.bau.edu.tr) received her B.S. degree from METU, department of Early Childhood Education in 2005. Then she received master degree Gazi University department of Child Development in 2012 and PhD degree in 2016 from Marmara University department of Informatics. As her professional career she is studying about child abuse, online abuse, cyber-bullying, justification of cyber-harassment and digital media literacy. Since 2011 she is working as lecturer at Bahçeşehir University, Department of Child Development.

Monica Williams (monicawilliamsonline@gmail.com) is a print and online journalist who works for the Korea JoongAng Daily in Seoul, South Korea. Prior to moving to Seoul, she worked for The Wall Street Journal, The Boston Globe, and The Detroit News in the United States. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Temple University in Philadelphia and was a National Association of Black Journalists scholar. Her research interests include fake news, social media's impact on journalism, women and minorities in the media, and journalism entrepreneurship.