

Curriculum Vitae

Education

- 2003 Habilitation: "The Enigma of the Vernacular: The Vernacular Tradition in American Literature Exemplified by *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and *So Far From God*", Free University Berlin, Germany
- 1995 Dissertation: "Reconsidering Modernism: Cultural Hybridity and American Art in the Early 20th Century", Free University Berlin, Germany
- 1990 M. A. in History and English, University of Konstanz, Germany

Academic Career

- Since 2009 Director of the Summer Academy for Creative Writing Black Forest Writing Seminars
- Since 2005 Tenure, Senior Professor at the English Department, University of Freiburg
- 1997 - 2005 Assistant Professor, John F. Kennedy Institute, Free University Berlin
- 1995 Guest Lecturer; NEH Seminar Wheelock College, Boston, USA
- 1995 - 1994 Guest Lecturer; African-American Studies Department, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA
- 1994 - 1990 Assistant Prof; John F. Kennedy Institute, Free University Berlin

Awards

- 2005 "Distinguished Teaching Award for excellent teaching," Free University Berlin
- 2000 "Berlin and Boundaries: Sollen vs. Geschehen." *Boundary 2*, awarded by the Council of Editors of Learned Journals, USA
- Since 1995 Honorary Permanent Non-Resident Fellow Du Bois Institute, Harvard, USA

Research in the US

2013	Georgetown University, Washington DC Rice University, Houston
2010	UCLA und Harvard University, Cambridge
2006	USC, Los Angeles und UCSB, Santa Barbara
2005	Harvard University, Cambridge
2001 - 2002	University of California at Irvine
1994 - 1995	Harvard University, Cambridge
1992 - 1993	Harvard University, Cambridge
1987 - 1988	University of California at Berkeley

Conference Organizer

06/2013	“Screening Class – Precarious Visions and American Studies”, University of Freiburg
07/2012	“Too Big to Ignore: Narratives of Inequality”, University of Freiburg
07/2011	“Arm, nicht sexy: Repräsentationen von Armut in der amerikanischen Gegenwartskultur”, University of Freiburg/FRIAS
06/2010	“Trans-formations: Theorizing Class and Race in the 21st Century”, University of Freiburg/FRIAS
01/2008	“Make Poverty History”; University of Freiburg
07/2007	“Contemporary American Poetry”, Symposium, University of Hamburg
01/2005	“The Power of Perception: Aesthetics, Internationalism, and Visual Culture in Henry James”, co-organizer with Anette Jael Lehmann, Free University Berlin
04/2003	“Aesthetic Transgressions: Modernity, Liberalism, and the Function of Literature”, co-organizer: Thomas Claviez und Ulla Haselstein, John F. Kennedy Institute, Free University Berlin
06/1997	“Beyond Multiculturalism”, Amerikahaus, Berlin

Administrative Tasks

2014-2015	Executive Director of the English Department, University of Freiburg
2013 -	Examiners Committee DFG (German Research Foundation)
2010 - 2012	Equal Opportunity Commissioner of the Philological Faculty, University of Freiburg
2008 - 2009	Dean of the English Department, University of Freiburg
2002 - 2004	Examiners Committee, Free University Berlin
2000 - 1998	Member of the Board of the John F. Kennedy Institute, Free University Berlin
1996 - 2004	Examiners Committee, Free University Berlin

Grants/Scholarships

9/13 – 2/14	Research Fellowship at the United States Studies Center in Sydney
2011 - 2014	Grant from the German Research Fund for: "Representations of Poverty in Contemporary America"
2010 - 2011	Fellowship, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies
2005 - 2009	Trans-coop Program, Alexander v. Humboldt Foundation
2005	GRF Travel Grant, ASA, Washington D.C.
2003 - 2004	Scholarship: ProFil – Mentoring Grant
2001 - 2002	GRF-Research Scholarship, Univ. of California at Irvine
1994 - 1995	Ford Foundation Grant
1992 - 1993	DAAD Grant, Harvard University
1987 - 1988	DAAD postgraduate Grant, University of California at Berkeley

Reader for Journals & Grant Proposals

Since 2013	American Literary History
Since 2013	German Research Fund
Since 2010	African American Review
Since 2004	American Academy, Berlin
	Freiburger Zeitschrift für Geschlechterstudien

Supervised Ph.D. Theses

Samad Sharif	The Discourse on Non-Violence, 2006
Shane Frankiewicz	The Western: A Diachronic Analysis of the All-American Genre
Sarah Sands	African American Crime Fiction of the 20th Century
Huang Mingsha	The Arts of Subversion: On Alice Walker's Novels in the Light of Feminist Theories
Claudia Conrady	Closet Narratives

Publications

Books

Poverty, Inequality, and Precarity in Contemporary American Culture. New York: Palgrave MacMillan (forthcoming 2016).

The Vernacular Matters of American Literature. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2009.

Primitivist Modernism: Black Culture and the Origins of Transatlantic Modernism. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Cultural Studies Bibliography. John F. Kennedy Institute Working Papers. Berlin: Zentrale Universitätsdruckerei, 1996.

Editorships

Class Divisions and Serial Television. Co-edited with Wibke Schniedermann. New York: Palgrave MacMillan (forthcoming 2016).

Literary and Cultural Studies, Theory and the (New) Media. Co-edited with Monika Fludernik, Schriftenreihe Peter Lang.

Aesthetic Transgressions: Modernity, Liberalism, and the Function of Literature: Festschrift für Winfried Fluck zum 60. Geburtstag. Heidelberg: Winter, 2006, co-edited with Thomas Claviez and Ulla Haselstein.

Zora Neale Hurston. The Complete Stories. New York: Harper Collins, 1995, co-edited with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Articles

"American Exceptionalism in the Age of Inequality". *Towards a Post-Exceptionalist American Studies*. Ed. Winfried Fluck and Donald Pease. Tübingen: Günter Narr, 2014. 359-73.

"Working Poverty in the U.S.: Barbara Ehrenreich's Bestseller *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* and its Countercultural Legacy." *Formes et Savoirs. LISAA*. Special issue on poverty: Representations of Poverty. Ed. William Dow. Paris: Minard, 2013. 22-34.

"Poverty and Class Studies." *American Studies Today: New Research Agendas*. Ed. Winfried Fluck, Erik Redling, Sabine Sielke and Hubert Zapf. Heidelberg: Winter, 2013. 71-99.

"Liberty: A Transnational Icon." *Re-Framing the Transnational Turn in American Studies*. Ed. Winfried Fluck, Donald Pease and John Carlos Rowe. Hanover/New Hampshire: Dartmouth College Press, 2011. 193-218.

"Der Amerikanische Traum und die Lebensrealität der Amerikaner." *Freiburger Universitätsblätter* 139 (2011): 139-51.

"Facing Poverty: Towards a Theory of Articulation". *Regarding the Poverty of Others, or: Beyond the Culturalization of Class*. Ed. Michael Butter and Carsten Schinko. Spec. issue of *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 55.2 (2010): 95-122.

With Felicitas Hentschke. "Tabuisierte Sexualität im Que(e)rschnitt der Filmgeschichte Hollywoods." *Tabu*. Ed. Claudia Benthien, Ortrud Gutjahr. München: Wilhelm Fink, 2008. 219-45.

"Du Bois: Of the Coming of John." *The Oxford Companion to The Souls of Black Folk*. Ed. Shamooin Zamir. Oxford UP, 2008.

"Diaspora Aesthetics: Exploring the African Diaspora in the Works of Aaron Douglas, Jacob Lawrence and Jean Michel Basquiat." *Exiles, Diasporas, and Strangers*. Ed. Kobena Mercer. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007. 122-45.

"Aesthetics of Transgression: Awe, Alterity, and Apprehension in *The Scarlet Letter*." *Aesthetic Transgressions: Modernity, Liberalism, and the Function of Literature: Festschrift für Winfried Fluck zum 60. Geburtstag*. Ed. Thomas Claviez, Ulla Haselstein and Sieglinde Lemke. Heidelberg: Winter, 2006. 163-94.

"Vernacular Aesthetics." *Cultural Interactions: 50 Years of American Studies in Germany*. Ed. Berndt Ostendorf and Ulla Haselstein. Heidelberg: Winter, 2005. 139-59.

"Theories of American Culture in the Name of the Vernacular." *Theories of American Culture: Theories of American Studies*. Ed. Winfried Fluck and Thomas Claviez, *Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature* 19. Tübingen: Narr, 2003. 155-74.

- "Primitivist Modernism." *Primitivism and 20th Century Art: A Documentary History*. Ed. Jack Flam and Miriam Deutsch. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003. 240-55.
- "Response to Todd Gitlin and Susan Armitage." *Transnational America: The Fading of Borders in the Western Hemisphere*. Ed. Berndt Ostendorf. Heidelberg: Winter, 2002. 231-37.
- "Transatlantic Relations: The German Du Bois." *German? American? Literature? New Directions in German – American Studies*. Ed. Winfried Fluck and Werner Sollors. New York: Peter Lang, 2002. 207-16.
- "Trans-Culturalism." *Double-Crossings: Entrecruzamientos*. Ed. Carlos Von Son. San Diego: Ediciones Nuevo Espacio, 2001. 22-37.
- "Hybridity the Subtext of Modernism." *Crossover: Cultural Hybridity and Ethnicity, Gender, Ethics*. Ed. Therese Steffen. Tübingen: Stauffenburg, 2000. 49-60.
- "Berlin and Boundaries: Sollen vs. Geschehen." *Boundary 2* 27.3 (2000): 45-78.
- "Hamlin Garland." *Metzler Lexikon amerikanischer Autoren*. Ed. Bernd Engler and Kurt Müller. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2000.
- "Joel Chandler Harris." *Metzler Lexikon amerikanischer Autoren*. Ed. Bernd Engler and Kurt Müller. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2000.
- "James Weldon Johnson." *Metzler Lexikon amerikanischer Autoren*. Ed. Bernd Engler and Kurt Müller. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2000.
- "Nella Larsen." *Metzler Lexikon amerikanischer Autoren*. Ed. Bernd Engler and Kurt Müller. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2000.
- "Mapping the Harlem Renaissance." *Mapping African America: History, Narrative Formation and the Production of Knowledge*. Ed. Maria Diedrich, Carl Pedersen and Justine Tally. FORECAAST 1. Hamburg: LIT, 1999. 119-28.
- "A Forgotten Legacy." *Lifting as They Climb: The History of the National Association of Colored Women*. Ed. Elizabeth Lindsay Davis. Schomburg Library Series. New York: MacMillan, 1996. XV-XXXIII.
- "Blurring Generic Boundaries: Zora Neale Hurston: A Writer of Fiction and Anthropologist." *The Anthropological Turn in Literary Studies*. Ed. Jürgen Schläger. *Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature* 12. Tübingen: Narr, 1996. 163-78.
- "Josephine Baker." *Dictionary of American Negro Biography*. Ed. Rayford W. Logan and Michael R. Winston. New York: W.W. Norton, 1995. 233-4.
- "White on White Act 2." *Transition* 64 (1994): 110-12.
- "White on White: When the West Represents the Rest, Who Comes off Worse?" *Transition* 59 (1993): 145-54.

“Im Zeichen des FORDschritts”. *Amerikastudien* 38.38 (1993): 251-63.

“Schwarze (Über-)Lebenskunst”. *Perspectives on Multiculturalism in North America*. Es. Carol W. Pfaff. Materialien 33. Berlin: John F. Kennedy Press, 1992. 121-38.

Reviews

Rev. of *The Indignant Generation: A Narrative History of African American Writers and Critics, 1934-1960*, by Lawrence Jackson. *Amerikastudien/American Studies*, “African American Literary Studies: New Texts, New Approaches, New Challenges”, 55.4 (2010).

“How to Introduce American Studies?” Rev. *Einführung in die Amerikanistik / American Studies* by Udo Hebel. *Anglia* 128.2 (2010).

Rev. of *Gender–Voice–Vernacular: The Formation of Female Subjectivity in Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, and Alice Walker*. *ZAA XLIX*, 2.2 (2001): 197-8.

Newspaper Articles

“Prekärer Blick.” *Uniwissen* 2/2015

(<http://www.pr2.uni-freiburg.de/publikationen/uniwissen/uniwissen-2015-2/page1.html#/8>)

“Viel Streit um wenig Stoff. Talare: Ja oder Nein?” *Uni Leben* 5/2010.

(http://www.leben.uni-freiburg.de/magazin_5/unicampus/viel-streit-um-wenig-stoff,19.htm)

“Auf dem Weg in die Unterwelt: Einblicke in eine von Obdachlosen bewohnte Zeltstadt bei Los Angeles.” *Uni Leben* 2/2010.

(http://www.leben.uni-freiburg.de/magazin_2/unimenschen/auf-dem-weg-in-die-unterwelt,22.htm)

“Camp der Hoffnungslosen: Wohin das reiche Amerika seine Armen abschiebt: Zu Besuch in einer Tent City bei Los Angeles.” *Badische Zeitung*, Feb. 27, 2010.

(<http://www.badische-zeitung.de/camp-der-hoffnungslosen--27510546.html>)

Lectures

“The Great Inequality Debate. Wie Ungleichheit in der zeitgenössischen amerikanischen Literatur verhandelt wird”, Freiburg, Oct. 2015

“Inequality in America: A Discourse Analysis”, Freiburg, June 2015

“Poverty and Inequality in America”, US Studies Center, Sydney, February 2014

“The Financial Crisis of 08 and Narratives of Working Poverty”, Gießen, July 2013

“Desire – Bliss – Loss: Lust und Verlust im amerikanischen Imaginären”, Lausanne-Vallorbe, Switzerland, June 2013

- “Not so Invisible: Footprints of Globalization in the Rural South”, Erlangen, May 2013
- “Zora Neale Hurston's Anthropological Writings: Fiction and Creative Non-Fiction”, Bern, Switzerland, May 2013
- “Economies of Misfortune: Visual Impressions from the Deep South”, Carl-Schurz-Haus, Freiburg, April 2013
- “How America Discovered Working Poverty and Learned to Live with it”, Georgetown, Washington D.C., USA, March 2013
- “U.S. Poverty Studies: A European Perspective”, Rice University Houston, USA, March 2013
- “Literatur, Visuelle Kultur und Sozialgeschichte”, University of Freiburg, December 2012
- “Introduction to Obama, Suffrage, and Disenfranchisement”, Electoral Cultures Conference, Amerika-Haus München, November 2012
- “Narratives of Inequality from Grapes of Wrath to The Pursuit of Happiness”, International Conference *Too Big to Ignore: Narratives of Inequality*, University of Freiburg, July 2012
- “The Romantic Tradition Meets Realism in 19th Century American Fiction”, University of Salamanca, Spain, April 2012
- “Dream On: American Exceptionalism Reconsidered”, University of Salamanca, Spain, April 2012
- “Facebook: Superpower, Stasibook, Cash Cow: On Performative Individualism and the Surplus Value of Friends”, University of Freiburg, February 2012
- “Going to War. Trials and Tribulations in the Bush Era”, University of Freiburg, December 2011
- “Icon Trouble: The Continuous Refashioning of Miss Liberty”, Carl-Schurz-Haus Freiburg, November 2011
- “The Future of Class and Poverty Studies”, FU Berlin, November 2011
- “Empathie, Imagination, Ästhetik”, Semiotikkongress, University of Potsdam, October 2011
- “Down and Out in Ontario”, University of Freiburg, July 2011
- “Tom Stone, Photography, and the Art of the New Documentary”, FRIAS, University of Freiburg, July 2011
- “Racism Made in America”, University of Potsdam: *Wort, Macht, Stamm: Rassismus und Determinismus in der Philologie des 19. Jahrhunderts*, May 2011
- “Bestsellers on America's Working Poor: Documenting the Microcosm of Want”, FRIAS, University of Freiburg, December 2010

- “Vom Mythos des ‘American Dream’ und der Lebensrealität der Amerikaner”, University of Freiburg, November 2010
- “Amerika und Trauma im 21. Jahrhundert”, University of Hamburg, July 2010
- “Black ART-lantic”, University of Erfurt, July 2010
- “The Culture of the Dispossessed: America in the Age of Obama”, Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan, April 2010
- “Gang Tours, Obamaville, Skid Row: On the Paradox of Poverty Portraiture”, Harvard University, March 2010
- “Representing the Nation: Poetry and the Struggle over Signification”, Vienna University, October 2009
- “I Spy: It's Internationally Renowned, Female & All-American”, University of Hamburg, May 2009
- “Lady Liberty: A Transnational Icon *par excellence*”, FU Berlin, October 2008
- “Poverty and Transnational Perspectives in American Studies”, University of Freiburg, December 2008
- “‘Give me Your Tired, Your Poor, Your Huddled Masses, Yearning to Breathe Free’: Towards a Transnational Visual Poetics”, FU Berlin, October 2008
- “When Butler meets Barbie: Queering the All-American Icon of the Cheerleader”, University of Freiburg: *Vorlesungsreihe Geschlechterstudien*, May 2008
- “Von amerikanischen Träumen und amerikanischen Räumen”, Inaugural Lecture, University of Freiburg, February 2008
- “New Historicism Reconsidered”, University of Freiburg: *Vorlesungsreihe Literaturtheorie*, January 2008
- “How Lohengrin Made It Into The Souls of Black Folk”, International Conference: *African Americans in Berlin: The Story of an Intellectual Encounter*. J.F.K. Institute FU Berlin, November 2007
- “Diaspora Aesthetics”, International Conference: *Narratives About American Art*, J.F.K. Institute FU Berlin, May 2007
- “African-American Migration”, Carl-Schurz Haus Freiburg, January 2007
- “Some Don't Like it Hot: eine Que(e)rschnitt durch Hollywoods Filmgeschichte”, University of Hamburg, January 2007
- “The Cryptic Art of Jean-Michel Basquiat”, UCSB, Santa Barbara, October 2006
- “Pictures in a Floating World: Globalism in American Art”, USC, Los Angeles, October 2006

- “Diasporic (Post-) Modernism: Aaron Douglas’s and Jean-Michel Basquiat’s Grand Spectacles of the African Diaspora”, INIVA Institute London, July 2006
- “The German DuBois”, CAAR, Münster: *Cross-Overs Conference*, March 2006
- “Life, Diagnostics and Ways of Seeing in *The Portrait of a Lady*”, University of Hamburg, December 2005
- “A Poetics of Space”, Workshop der ASA, Washington, November 2005
- “Area Studies in the USA”, Konferenz des Wissenschaftskollegs zu Berlin: *Die Zukunft der Regionalforschung*, Berlin, July 2005
- “Europeans at the Gate: On Transnational American Studies”, University of Potsdam, July 2005
- “Alterity, Altruism, and Androgyny in *The Scarlet Letter*”, University of Freiburg, June 2005
- “Ethnic Neorealism: New Trends in American Literature,” University of Bielefeld, May 2005
- “The Sound of Post-Apartheid South African Fiction”, DGfA, Frankfurt, May 2005
- “CrossRoutes of Transatlantic Scholarship”, NYU, New York, April 2005
- “American Ethnicity: A Transnational vs. an Intra-national Paradigm”, International Conference about European perspectives on American Studies, FU Berlin, February 2005
- “Globalizing American Studies”, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, December 2004
- “From the ‘Talking Book’ to Representing the Unspeakable”, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, November 2004
- “The Black Atlantic – Theorie und Praxis schwarzer Identität”, Host. Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, September 2004
- “A New American Literature: Writing from the Margins”, University of Basel, August 2004
- “Aesthetics and Politics: A Response to Leo Marx”, J.F.K. Institute FU Berlin, April 2004
- “New Trends in American Studies”, Ludwig Maximilians University München, February 2004
- “What Does Germany Have to Do With *The Souls of Black Folk?*”, Bates College, Maine, October 2003
- “A Post-Nationalist Approach to American Literature”, Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, October 2003
- “Towards a Postcolonial Aesthetics”, University of Gießen, September 2003
- “Vernacular Aesthetics”, Tagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien, University of München, June 2003

- “Race’ und ‘Gender’ im Konflikt”, HU Berlin, May 2003
- “Comparative American Studies?”, University of California at Irvine, April 2003
- “A Multicultural Aesthetics Before the Age of Multiculturalism”, University of California at Riverside, March 2002
- “Deviant Divas”, University of California at Irvine, February 2002
- “Response to Todd Gitlin and Susan Armitage”, University of Munich: *Transatlantic America Conference*, July 2000
- “Du Bois in Berlin”, HU Berlin, June 2000
- “Reconsidering Modernism”, University of California at Irvine, April 2000
- “Du Bois and his Student Years Abroad”, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, September 1999
- “Multiculturalism and the Visual Arts”, J.F.K. Institute FU Berlin, July 1999
- “Du Bois in Berlin”, J.F.K. Institute FU Berlin, July 1999
- “Recycling Radicalism”, Uni Köln: *Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien*, June 1999
- “Josephine Baker: Mehr als Bewegung”, Moveo, Berlin, December 1998
- “The German Du Bois”, Harvard University: *Trans-Coop Conference*, September 1998
- “Hybridity: The Subtext of Modernism”, University of Basel: *Symposium on Hybridity, Ethnicity, Gender, and Ethics*, July 1998
- “Odd Sisters: Anti- and Postfeminism”, University of Warschau, Poland, May 1998
- “Celebrating the African Past, Performing the Black Vernacular”, Workshop, EAAS Conference, University of Lisbon, April 1998
- “Primitivist Modernism”, Columbia University, New York, March 1998
- “Jean Toomer”, Harvard Conference, Sorbonne, Paris, January 1998
- “‘Negro’ or Mapping the Harlem Renaissance”, CAAR Conference, Liverpool, April 1997
- “Mixed Media? Visual Media/Media Visions”, University of Cologne, July 1996
- “Josephine Baker: The Ambassador of Jazz”, Sorbonne, Paris, April 1996
- “From *Waiting to Exhale* to *Waiting for Godot*”, Salamanca: *Symposion zur Literatur der afrikanischen Diaspora*, March 1996
- “Blurring Generic Boundaries”, J.F.K. Institute FU Berlin, November 1995

“Zora Neale Hurston: A Writer of Fiction and Anthropologist”, Universität Konstanz: Konferenz zu Literatur und Anthropologie, October 1995

“The Harlem Renaissance”, NEH Seminar. Wheelock College, Boston, May 1994

“Picasso’s *Les Femmes d’Alger*”, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge. October 1994

“Performing Difference“, J.F.K. Institute FU Berlin, June 1994

“Die Ikonen der Moderne“, Ringvorlesung, J.F.K. Institute FU Berlin, June 1993

“Im Zeichen des FORDschritts“, University of Münster: *Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien*, October 1992

Interviews

“Poverty and Inequality in America“, United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney, Feb 5, 2014

<http://ussc.edu.au/news-room/Sieglinde-Lemke-on-poverty-and-inequality-in-America>

“Rising Income Inequality“, ABC Radio National, Sydney, Feb 1, 2014 [mp3 stream](#)

Schweizer Radio DRS - Armut in den USA [Audiomitschnitt \(2,8MB\)](#)

“Vom Mythos des 'American Dream' und der Lebensrealität der Amerikaner“, Nov. 27, 2010, Freiburg, [Audiomitschnitt \(41 MB\)](#)