

Dr. habil. Clemens Spahr

Department of English and Linguistics
Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz • Jakob-Welder-Weg 20 • 55128 Mainz

Curriculum Vitae

Academic Appointments

- Since 1/2017 Wiss. Mitarbeiter, Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, Mainz University
- DFG-Funded Research Project: "Pedagogical Writing and Social Practice in the Age of American Romanticism"
- Juli-Sept. 2015 Visiting Professor, York University, Toronto, Canada ('DAAD-Kurzzeitdozentur')
- Oct.2014-Mar. 2015 Visiting Professor (Vertretungsprofessur) English Department/
American Studies, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg
- Sept. 2012 Positive Evaluation as Junior Professor
- Aug.-Sept. 2012 Visiting Scholar, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 10/2009-3/2016 Junior Professor, Department of English/American Studies, Mainz University
- 10/2005-9/2009 Instructor, Department of English/American Studies, Mainz University

Education

- June 2014 Venia Legendi in American Studies
- June 2009 Ph.D. in English/American Studies (Dissertation: "Aesthetics and Utopia in American Transcendentalism")
- Sept.-Oct. 2007 Visiting Student Research Collaborator, Princeton University
- March-April 2006 Visiting Student Research Collaborator, Princeton University
- Aug. 2005 M.A. in American Studies and German Literature, Tübingen University
- 2004/2005 State Exam German and English, Tübingen University
- 1999-2005 Studies in English, German, and Philosophy at Tübingen University and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Grants and Stipends

2017	DFG Sachbeihilfe (Eigene Stelle, SP 1366/5-1)
2015	DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Short Term Professorial Visiting Program: York University, Toronto, Canada DFG (German Research Foundation) Funding: Conference 'After Postmodernism? Contemporary American Culture and the Problem of Periodization' Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz and Socum: Funding of conference 'After Postmodernism? Contemporary American Culture and the Problem of Periodization'
2014	DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Travel Grant: American Literature Association Annual Convention
2013	Socum: Funding of Symposium 'Our Poetry, Our Bodies'
2012	John Velde Visiting Scholar Award at the Rare Books and Manuscript Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2012	Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz: Starting Grant for 'Romantic Education' (Research Project)
2012	DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Travel Grant: MLA Convention
2011	DFG (German Research Foundation) Funding: Conference 'Conceptions of Collectivity in Contemporary American Literature' Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz and Socum: Funding of conference 'Conceptions of Collectivity in Contemporary American Literature'
2011	Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz: Grant for publication of <i>Radical Beauty</i>
2007	DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Ph.D. Research Scholarship: Princeton University
2006	DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Ph.D. Research Scholarship: Princeton University
2001/2002	DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Scholarship (North American Studies Program): University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Publications

1. Monographs, Edited Books, Special Issues

A Poetics of Global Solidarity: Modern American Poetry and Social Movements. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

<http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/a-poetics-of-global-solidarity-clemens-spahr/?sf1=barcode&st1=9781137568304>

A History of American Poetry: Contexts, Developments, Readings. Ed. Oliver Scheiding, René Dietrich, Clemens Spahr. Trier: WVT, 2015.

Conceptions of Collectivity in Contemporary American Literature. Special Issue of *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 57.2 (2013). Ed. Clemens Spahr and Philipp Löffler.

Radical Beauty: Transcendentalism and the Aesthetic Critique of Modernity. Paderborn: Schöningh 2011.

Kulturtheorien im Dialog. Ed. Oliver Scheiding, Frank Obenland, Clemens Spahr. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 2011.

2. Articles

"American Literary History and the Problem of Periodization." *Reading the Canon*. Ed. Philipp Löffler. Heidelberg: Winter 2016. 21-44.

"The Colonial Period." *Handbook of Transatlantic North American Studies* Ed. Julia Straub. Berlin & New York: de Gruyter, 2016. 21-39.

"Lawrence Ferlinghetti and the Global Poetics of Italian American Poetry." *Recovery and Transgression: Memory in American Poetry*. Ed. Kornelia Freitag. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015. 173-86.

"Stephen King's *Joyland* and the Contemporary Nostalgia for History." *The Contemporary Novel and the Poetics of Genre*. Ed. Tim Lanzendörfer. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2015. 145-60.

"The City and the Country in Modern American Poetry: Robert Frost's 'Out, Out—' and Carl Sandburg's 'Chicago'." *A History of American Poetry: Contexts – Developments – Readings*. Ed. Clemens Spahr, René Dietrich, Oliver Scheiding. Trier: WVT, 157-70.

"Post-9/11 Literature and the Question of Ethics." Review Essay of Georgiana Banita, *Plotting Justice: Narrative Ethics and Literary Culture after 9/11*. *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* (2013) 46.3: 496-500.

"Erzählwelten: Die gesellschaftliche Konstruktion von Fiktionalität in Mark Millars *Kick-Ass* und M. Night Shyamalans *Unbreakable*." *Medien, Erzählen, Gesellschaft*. Ed. Karl N. Renner, Dagmar von Hoff, Matthias Krings. Berlin: De Gruyter 2013, 139-162.

"Don DeLillo, Ian McEwan, and the Literary Imagination after 9/11." *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 45.2 (Summer 2012): 221-237.

Introduction (with Philipp Löffler). *Conceptions of Collectivity in Contemporary American Literature*. Special Issue of *Amerikastudien/ American Studies* 57.2 (2012): 161-176.

“Die relative Autonomie der Kultur: Text und Kontext aus Sicht neomarxistischer Kulturtheorie.” *Kulturtheorien im Dialog*. Ed. Oliver Scheiding, Frank Obenland, Clemens Spahr. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 2011, 39-60.

“Der aphoristische Stil des amerikanischen Transzendentalismus.” Ed. Volker Kapp, Dorothea Scholl. *Literatur zwischen Ethik und Ästhetik. Die Tradition der europäischen Moralistik*. Berlin: Duncker und Humblot, 2011, 457-468.

“Fashioned Saints: Anne Bradstreet’s Literary Genealogy.” *American Cultural Icons: Configurations, Re-Figurations*. Ed. Günter Leypoldt, Bernd Engler. Würzburg: Königshausen und Neumann, 2010, 31-56.

“Sherman Alexie and the Limits of Storytelling.” *Native American Studies across Time and Space: Essays on the Indigenous Americas*. Ed. Oliver Scheiding. Heidelberg: Winter, 2010, 145-164.

“Transcendentalist Class Struggle: Orestes Brownson’s Early Writings.” *Nineteenth-Century Prose* 36.2 (2009): 31-76.

“Puritanism in the New World.” *A Companion to American Cultural History: From the Colonial Period to the End of the 19th Century*. Ed. Bernd Engler, Oliver Scheiding. Trier: WVT, 2009, 55-85.

“A Babel City with a Hundred Gates: Concepts of Space in Melvin Tolson’s *Harlem Gallery*.” *Territorial Terrors: Contested Spaces in Colonial and Postcolonial Writing*. Ed. Gerhard Stilz. Würzburg: Königshausen und Neumann, 2007, 239-260.

“Holding up the ‘Poetry Front’: Anne Waldman’s Politics of the Aesthetic.” *Ideas of Order in Contemporary American Poetry*. Ed. Diana von Finck, Oliver Scheiding. Würzburg: Königshausen und Neumann, 2007, 131-158.

3. Reviews

“Kornelia Freitag; Brian Reed, ed. *Modern American Poetry: Points of Access*.” *Anglia* 132 (2014): 852–856.

“Nathalie Mispagel: New York in der Europäischen Dichtung des 20. Jahrhunderts” und “Martina Pfeiler: Poetry Goes Intermedia“. *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 58.2 (2013): 312-15.

“Ralph Waldo Emerson: Bicentenary Appraisals.” *Literaturwissenschaftliches Jahrbuch* 49 (2008): 385-389.

“Jörg Richter: Nationalität als literarisches Verfahren: Der amerikanische Roman (1790-1830).” *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 53.4 (2008): 582-584.

“Jan Stievermann: Der Sündenfall der Nachahmung: Zum Problem der Mittelbarkeit im Werk Ralph Waldo Emersons.” *Emerson Society Papers* 18.2 (Fall 2007): 13.

“Paul Poplawski, ed. Encyclopedia of Literary Modernism.” *ZAA: Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik* 54.4 (2006): 418-420.

4. Shorter Articles

“Amos Bronson Alcott, *Concord Days*.” *Kindlers Neues Literatur Lexikon*. Ed. Heinz Ludwig Arnold. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2009.

“Puritanism in the New World.” *Key Concepts in American Culture and History: From the Colonial Period to the End of the 19th Century*. Ed. Bernd Engler, Oliver Scheiding. Trier: WVT, 2005, 63-66.

“Providential Readings of American History.” *Key Concepts in American Culture and History: From the Colonial Period to the End of the 19th Century*. Ed. Bernd Engler, Oliver Scheiding. Trier: WVT, 2005, 103-106.

Paper Presentations

Panel Chair and Co-Organizer: “American Modernism Between Technology and Ecology.” 64th Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies, June 2017.

Panel Chair and Organizer: “American Romanticism and the Institutions of Education.” 28th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association, Boston, May 2017.

“Niagara Falls and Mount Saddleback: Transcendentalism as Social Criticism.” Eberhard-Karls Universität Tübingen, Dezember 2015.

“Literary Journalism, Naturalism, and the Marketplace.” Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Dezember 2015.

“Reinventing the Genre: Documentary Poetics and the Boundaries of Poetry.” Conference “Poem Unlimited: New Perspectives on Poetry and Genre.” University of Augsburg, October 2015.

“Post-9/11 Literature and Culture.” Fremdsprachentag, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, October 2015.

Panel Chair: “Professional Reading.” Contemporary Literature and the Culture of the School. Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg, June 2015.

“Farcical Knowledge: Don DeLillo’s *White Noise* and the Critique of Institutional Knowledge.” 62nd Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies, Bonn, May 2015.

“Political Aspects of Contemporary American and German Literature.” Teacher’s Educational Program, Gustav Stresemann Institute, Bad Bevensen, April 2015.

“The Poetics of Neoliberalism.” University of Illinois, Chicago, March 2015.

“Contemporary American Poetry and Song Lyrics.” Fremdsprachentag, Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz, October 2014.

Panel Chair and Co-Organizer: “American Romanticism and the Politicization of Nature.” 61st Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies, Würzburg, June 2014.

“Stephen Crane’s Literary Journalism and the Limits of Liberalism in the Progressive Era.” 25th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association, Washington DC, May 2014.

“Visualizing Poverty: Class and Resistance in *Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt*.” 60th Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies, May 2013.

“Political Criticism.” Ringvorlesung “Cultural Theory.” Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, December 2012.

“The Global Poetics of Twentieth-Century Italian American Poetry.” Conference “Memory, the United States, and Transnational Poetics.” Ruhr-University Bochum, June 2012.

“Negative Dialectics: The Transcendentalists, Adorno, and Utopian Philosophy.” Special Session: “The American Transcendentalists as Continental Philosophers.” 127th MLA Convention, Seattle, January 2012.

“‘Cosmopolis of Mankind’: The Revolutionary Cosmopolitanism of Modernist Proletarian Poetry.” American Literature Association, 22nd Annual Conference, Boston, May 2011.

“Wessen Amerika? Der zeitgenössische amerikanische Roman und die Kritik an der Gesellschaft.” Seminar “Menschlicher Makel im Idyll: Politische Aspekte amerikanischer Gegenwartsliteratur.” Pfalzakademie, February 2011.

“Erzählwelten: Mark Millars *Kick-Ass* und M. Night Shyamalans *Unbreakable*.” Lecture Series: Transmediales Erzählen im Zeichen der Medienkonvergenz. Mainz University, January 2011.

Panel Chair: “Identity Formation and Ethnicization.” German-Speaking People in the Greater Mid-Atlantic Region: Cross-Cultural Contacts and Conflicts, 1700-1800. Mainz University, October 2009.

“Der Aphorismus im amerikanischen Transzendentalismus.” Jahrestagung der Görres-Gesellschaft, September 2009.

“The Intellectual and the Masses: Orestes Brownson’s Radical Transcendentalism.” Konferenz “Modernization and Intellectual Authority in US Literary Culture, 1750-1900.” Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg, July 2009.

“American Studies and Marxism in the Post-War Period.” Symposium “Speed, Mass Mobility, and McCarthyist Stasis: Negotiations of Karl Marx in Post-War American Culture.” Trier University, June 2009.

“Post-9/11 Literature.” Teachers Academy “Contemporary American Literature.” Atlantische Akademie, May 2008.

“‘We’d dream together until the sun came up’: Sherman Alexie’s *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fist Fight in Heaven* as Literary Intervention.” Conference “Native American Studies across Time and Space.” Mainz University, July 2005.

Conferences

“After Postmodernism? Contemporary American Culture and the Problem of Periodization.” Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, 17-19 September 2015.

Symposium “Our Poems, Our Bodies.” Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, 30-31 October 2013.

Conceptions of Collectivity in Contemporary American Literature. Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, 6-8 July 2011.

www.amerikanistik.uni-mainz.de/collectivity

Directed Ph.D. Theses

Muthanna Mohammed Sultan Al-Janabi, “The Negativity of Language: Modernist American Poetry and the Absurd” (completed; DAAD-fellowship).

Franziska Schmid, “Learning and Education in the Age of American Romanticism” (completed; fellow of the Stipendistiftung Rheinland-Pfalz; Emerson-Fellowship, Harvard Widener Library)

Affiliations

DGfA (German Association for American Studies)

MLA (Modern Language Association)

ASA (American Studies Association)

Teaching

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

WS 2014/15

(Lecture)	Modern and Contemporary American Poetry
(Graduate Seminar)	American Literary Journalism and the Marketplace
(Graduate Seminar)	Literary Transcendentalism
(Proseminar)	Harlem Renaissance

York University, Toronto/Ontario, Kanada

Summer Term 2015

Seminar	The Short Story (6 SWS)
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Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

SS 2016

(Kolloquium)	Exam Preparation (for M.Ed. candidates)
(Übung)	Culture Studies II

WS 2015/16

(Graduate Seminar)	Reading Political Song Lyrics: From the IWW to Tom Morello
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(Graduate Seminar)	William Faulkner: Modernism and the South
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(Graduate Seminar)	Jonathan Edwards, Benjamin Franklin, and the Enlightenment
SS 2015 (Lecture) (Graduate Seminar) (Kolloquium)	The American Novel in Context Comics and Ideology Exam Preparation (for M.Ed. candidates)
SS 2014 Sabbatical	
WS 2013/14 (Lecture) (Research Seminar) (Graduate Seminar)	American Literature (I): From the Beginnings to 1865 Romanticism and the Literature of Education Remapping Early American Literature
SS 2013 (Graduate Seminar) (Graduate Seminar) (Graduate Seminar)	Theorizing Early American Studies The Literary Culture of the Harlem Renaissance American Literary Journalism
WS 2012/13 (Graduate Seminar) (Graduate Seminar) (Advanced BA Seminar)	Literary and Cultural Theory Early American Literature The Political American Novel
Summer 2012 (Lecture) (Graduate Seminar)	American Poetry, 1900 to the Present Culture, Empire, and 20th-Century American Lit.
Winter 2011/12 (Graduate Seminar) (Advanced BA Seminar)	Theories of American Studies Modern American Poetry and Poetics
Summer 2011 (Graduate Seminar) (Advanced BA Seminar)	Conceptions of Community in Contemp. American Lit. Introduction to Colonial American Writing
Winter 2010/11 (Graduate Seminar) (Graduate Seminar)	American Romanticism Literary Theory
Summer 2010 (Graduate Seminar) (Proseminar II)	Transatlantic Modernism Early American Writing
Winter 2009/10 (Proseminar I)	The American Novel

(Undergrad. course)	Introduction to Literary Studies
Summer 2009 (Proseminar I) (Undergrad. course)	American Poetry Introduction to Literary Studies
Winter 2008/09 (Proseminar) (Undergrad. course)	Post-9/11 Literature Introduction to Literary Studies
Summer 2008 (Proseminar) (Adv. undergrad. course)	African-American Modernism Culture Studies II: The United States, 1900-2008
Winter 2007/08 (Colloquium) (Adv. undergrad. course)	Exam Preparation for Candidates Culture Studies I: Early American Culture
Summer 2007 (Proseminar)	Herman Melville
Winter 2006/07 (Proseminar) (Graduate Seminar)	The Postmodern American Novel American Transcendentalism (with Prof. O. Scheiding)
Summer 2006 (Undergrad. course)	Culture Studies I: Early American Culture
Winter 2005/06 (Undergrad. course)	Introduction to Literary Studies