Environmentalism, Fantasy and Intersectionality
A Comparison Between the US and the EU
November 5-6, 2020 | Virtual | RSVP: go.unc.edu/scifi

featuring

Renée Alexander Craft (UNC)  Eliza Rose (UNC)
Sam Amago (UVA)            Susan Thananopavarn (Duke)
Paul Buchholz (Emory)       Evan Torner (U Cincinnati)
Michele Berger (UNC)        Gabriel Trop (UNC)
Deniz Göktürk (UC Berkeley) Sherryl Vint (UC Riverside)
Aidan Power (Exeter, UK)    Christina Weiler (UNC)
                          Courtney Woods (UNC)

This symposium is organized by Priscilla Layne, Associate Professor of German and Adjunct Associate Professor of African and Afro-American Studies at UNC-CH. The European Commission’s support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.
NOVEMBER 5TH, 2020

1:00-2:15pm

KEYNOTE WITH SHERRYL VINT

“Humanization and Belonging: Reproduction, Environment, Futurity”

2:30-3:45pm

PANEL 1: ETHICS AND LIVING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Moderator: Lukas Hoffmann, UNC Department of Germanic & Slavic Languages & Literatures

Deniz Göktürk (UC Berkeley), “The Secret Life of Trash”

4:00-5:00pm

PANEL 2: REBUILDING IN A POST-APOCALYPTIC ERA

Moderator: Nancy Carr, USF College of Education

Sam Amago (UVA), “Anthropocenic Endings in Alfonso Cuarón’s Children of Men”
NOVEMBER 6TH, 2020

PANEL 3: RACE, CLASS AND FUTURE INEQUALITIES
1:30-2:45pm

Moderator: Natasza Gawlick, UNC Department of Germanic & Slavic Languages & Literatures

Aidan Power (Exeter), “In Our Immense Sarcophagus We Lay: Charting the Anthropocene in EU Science Fiction Films”
Paul Bucholz (Emory), “Nomadism in the Environmental Dystopias of Sophie Klotz and Nicolas Born”
Evan Torner (Cincinnati), “Whiteness, Pessimism, and Futurity in German Science-Fiction Cinema”

PANEL 4: PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES TO SCIFI AND INTERSECTIONALITY
3:00-4:00pm

Moderator: Edana Kleinhans, UNC Department of Germanic & Slavic Languages & Literatures

Renée Alexander Craft (UNC), "Afrofuturism, Ethical World Traveling, and Holding a Space for Difference"
Michele Berger, Courtney Woods and Priscilla Layne (UNC), “A Transdisciplinary Approach to Teaching Scifi”
Susan Thananopavarn (Duke), “Teaching Alternative Futurisms”
SPEAKER BIOS

Samuel Amago teaches courses on modern and contemporary Spanish literary history, cinema, comics, and culture at the University of Virginia, where he is Professor of Spanish and Chair of the Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese.

Michele Tracy Berger, Ph.D, is associate professor in the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill and former Director of the Faculty Fellows Program at UNC-Chapel Hill’s Institute for the Arts and Humanities. Her research, teaching and practice all focus on intersectional approaches to studying areas of inequality, especially racial and gender health disparities.

Paul Buchholz is Associate Professor of German at Emory University. He is author of Private Anarchy: Impossible Community and the Outsider’s Monologue in German Experimental Fiction (Northwestern University Press, 2018).

Deniz Göktürk is Associate Professor of German at the University of California at Berkeley. Her research areas are cultural and media studies with a focus on moving images, multilingual literature, and theories of migration, social interaction and aesthetic intervention in a global horizon. She is author of the forthcoming Framing Migration: Seven Takes on Movement and Borders and co-editor of Germany in Transit: Nation and Migration, 1955-2005 and The German Cinema Book.

Priscilla Layne is Associate Professor of German at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received her PhD from the University of California at Berkeley in 2011. Her book, White Rebels in Black: German Appropriation of African American Culture, was published in April 2018 by the University of Michigan Press.

Aidan Power is a lecturer in Film Studies at the University of Exeter. He is the author of the monograph Contemporary European Science Fiction Cinemas(2018), co-editor of the collection Reality Unbound: New Departures in Science Fiction Cinema (2017) and co-founder of Alphaville: Journal of Film and Screen Media.
Eliza Rose teaches Central European Studies in the Department of Germanic & Slavic Languages and Literatures at UNC Chapel Hill. Her areas of research are literature, art and film from East and Central Europe with a regional focus on Poland and a thematic focus on science fiction. She investigates how visual culture expresses changing attitudes toward science, technology and industry in the Socialist Bloc. She considers how utopian thought outlived the Stalinist period and persists today. She is an author of science fiction, and her stories can be found in *Interzone*, *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, and *Galaxies SF*.


Evan Torner is Assistant Professor of German Studies at the University of Cincinnati, where he also serves as Undergraduate Director of German Studies and the Director of the UC Game Lab. He is co-founder and an Editor of the journal *Analog Game Studies*. His primary fields of expertise include East German genre cinema, critical race theory, science fiction, and role-playing games.

Gabriel Trop is Associate Professor of German at UNC-Chapel Hill. His research focuses on the relationship between poetic practices and aesthetic discourses, both broadly and conceived. His general scholarly activity within this broader framework is comparative. In both his teaching and research, he engages with texts from Ancient Greece, Roman Antiquity, the Middle Ages (mainly Middle High German), and German and French literature and philosophy from the eighteenth century to the twentieth century. He is particularly interested in literature and art as imaginative practices of selfhood, and is currently working on a project that investigates the relation between poetry and the philosophy of nature (Naturphilosophie) in German Idealism.
Christina Weiler is Teaching Assistant Professor and Language Program Director of German at UNC-CH. Her research focuses on German literature, culture, and philosophy of the long eighteenth century in a comparative and interdisciplinary framework. Particularly, she is interested in metaphor studies, philosophy of nature and the senses, and environmental studies. Currently, she is working on a book project on the Romantic roots of cognitive poetics, a comparative study of poetic metaphor in the works of Herder, Novalis, Coleridge and Shelley. This project, supported by a grant of the Purdue Research Foundation, investigates the mechanisms of creative conceptualizations as well as the epistemological and phenomenological potential of metaphors.

Courtney Woods is an assistant professor of environmental sciences and engineering at UNC Gillings School of Public Health. Courtney applies community-driven approaches to understand the impacts of industrial pollution and solid waste on communities of color. She is also a co-founder of a POC-led cooperative called Earthseed Land Collective.

Renée Alexander Craft is Associate Professor in the UNC Department of Communication. For the past seventeen years, Alexander Craft’s research and creative projects have centered on an Afro-Latin community located in the small coastal town of Portobelo, Panama who call themselves and their carnival performance tradition “Congo.” She has completed both a manuscript and digital humanities project, which reflect this focus. Broadly, her research and teaching examine the relationship among sociohistorical constructions of Blackness, Black cultural performance, and discourses of Black inclusion and exclusion within a hemispheric American framework.
Natasza Gawlick is a graduate of Simmons College, where she wrote her honors thesis on the way cinematic qualities facilitate an exploration of German victimhood in Günter Grass' *Im Krebsgang*. She is now a second year PhD student in the Carolina-Duke Graduate Program in German Studies. Her research focuses on 20th Century Roma and Sinti literature, and modernism and trauma studies with a particular focus on Papusza, Mariella Mehr and Rajko Djuric.

Nancy Carr is a graduate of Sweet Briar College and a doctoral candidate at the University of South Florida's College of Education. Currently, she is working on her doctorate, entitled *First-generation Doctoral Students’ Perceptions of the Doctoral Experience* in USF’s Curriculum & Instruction program with an emphasis on Adult Education. Her other research interests include adult learning theories and curriculum development. She is passionate about designing innovative learning solutions in order to encourage equal access to transformational learning within higher education.

Edana Kleinhans is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and a PhD Candidate in the Carolina-Duke Joint Graduate Program in German Studies. Her dissertation, *The Kingdom of Venus*, focuses on love and politics in four female courtly biographies of Habsburg noblewomen, including the Empress Maria Theresia, the Archduchesses Kunigunde and Margaretha of Austria, and Queen Johanna of Castile. Her research focuses on gender, diversity, manuscript studies, and literary and cultural studies in medieval and early modern German literature.

Lukas Hoffman is a graduate of the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he wrote an honors thesis on the structural affinities between Augustinian theology and Adorno. He joined the Carolina-Duke Program in 2016 and is currently writing a dissertation on poetics, politics, and religion within German Modernism, where he focuses specifically on the poetry of Else Lasker-Schüler, Georg Trakl, Rainer Maria Rilke, and Paul Celan. His other research interests include philosophical aesthetics, mystical theology, and critical theory.