

**The Graduate Students of the Department of Germanic Literatures at Rutgers
University present:**

Heimat: Utopia or Reality?

Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Search for *Heimat* and National Identity

- Keynote Address: Prof. Johannes von Moltke, University of Michigan
“Placing Heimat: Some Methodological Considerations”
- Special Presentation: Prof. Andrés Mario Zervigón, Rutgers University
- Commentators: Professor Martha Helfer
Professor Fatima Naqvi
Professor Eric Jarosinski
Professor Sven Reichardt

Friday, March 3, 2006
15:00 – 18:00
Teleconference Room
Alexander Library
College Avenue, New
Brunswick

Saturday, March 4, 2006
9:00 -16:00
Busch Campus Student
Center
Rooms 120,122
Busch Campus, Piscataway

Schedule

Friday, March 3, 2006 – Teleconference Room, Alexander Library

15:00 – 15:30 Welcome Reception and Registration

15:30 – 15:45 Welcome address : Rebecca Steele, conference coordinator

Opening remarks: Prof. Martha Helfer, Department Chair, German RU

15:45 – 16:30 Keynote Address: Prof. Johannes von Moltke, University of Michigan

“Placing Heimat: Some Methodological Considerations”

16:30 – 16:40 Coffee Break

16:40 – 18:00 Panel 1: Cinematic Concepts of *Heimat*

Commentator: Prof. Eric Jarosinski, Department of German, RU

Heimat in National Socialist Foreign Policy --Conjuring a German-Japanese Axis Through Film - *Katharina Loew, University of Chicago*

A Palimpsest of Identities, Past and Present: *Echo der Berge (1954)* and the Search for Post-War Austrian Heimat - *Shane D. Peterson, Brigham Young University*

Finding Home in a Liminal Space: Exile and Return in Andreas Dresden's *Halbe Treppe* - *Kathy Sclafani, Rutgers University*

18:30 Conference Dinner at Frog and the Peach, New Brunswick (Invitation only)

Saturday, March 4, 2006 – Busch Student Center, Room 122

9:00 – 9:30 Breakfast on location (Rm 120)

9:30 – 9:40 Welcome remarks: Julia Feldhaus, conference coordinator

9:40 – 10:50 Panel 2: 18th and 19th Century Concepts of *Heima*.

Commentator: Prof. Martha Helfer, Department of German, RU

Arminius, Thusnelda und die Erfindung der Heimat Johanna Franul von Weißenthurns
Drama *Herrmann* - Jens Kugele, Georgetown University

Conceptions of Heimat and Political Aims in Wilhelm Tell, Die Hermannsschlacht, and Der Rabbi von Bacherach - *Rebecca Weidner, Georgetown University*

The Role of German Jewry in the Construction of a German National Identity in Achim von Arnim's *Isabella von Ägypten* – *Rebecca Steele, Rutgers University*

10:50 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:20 Panel 3: Politically and Socially Motivated Concepts of *Heimat*

Commentator: Prof. Sven Reichardt, Center for Comp. European Studies, RU

Die europäische Heimat im Habsburger Reich: Stefan Zweig, James Joyce und Italo Svevo
- *Salvatore Pappalardo, Rutgers University*

The Imagination of a Reunified Nation in Post-Wende German Texts - *Imke Brust, Penn State*

From Anti-German to Proletarian: Images of Germans and the Building of People's Poland,

1945-7 – *Peter Polak Springer, Rutgers University*

12:20 – 13:30 Lunch on location

13:30 – 14:30 Visual Representations of *Heimat*:

Photographing the Authentically Ugly *Heimat*: Erna Lendvai-Dircksen's "Face of the German Race" - *Prof. Andrés Mario Zervigón, RU Dept. of Art History*

14:30 – 14:40 Coffee Break

14:40- 15:40 Panel 4: Internally Motivated Concepts of *Heimat*

Commentator: Prof. Fatima Naqvi, Department of German, RU

Deconstruction *Heimat*: Memory and Space in Ingeborg Bachmann's *Das Dreißigste Jahr* - *Christina Wall, University of Maryland*

Heimat in Differenz – eine Untersuchung zu Urs Widmers *Im Kongo* - *Peter Dahlhaus, University of Washington*

15:40 Closing Remarks and Reception

Call for Papers

The graduate students of the Department of German at Rutgers University invite abstracts for their 6th Annual Graduate Student Conference to be held at Rutgers University on Friday, March 3, 2006.

***Heimat*: Utopia or Reality?**

Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Search for *Heimat* and National Identity

How important is a national identity in a post-modern world of globalization and the reality of the European Union? Recent debates in Germany concerning the idea of a “*Neue Normalität*” as postulated by the first generation of politicians in office born after WWII are a reminder that national identity and *Heimat* continue to be issues prevalent to the German conscious. After much re-education, Holocaust remembrances and WWII memorials, Germans today are encouraged by the idea of “*Neue Normalität*” to once again feel proud of their national identity after a long era of shame and confrontation with their horrible past.

Within this discussion, Friedrich Merz coined the term “Leitkultur” as a search of German culture and *Heimat*, while trying to integrate or even assimilate the masses of foreigners into the understanding of the German’s new *Heimat*. This struggle for *Heimat* and a national identity extends beyond the boundaries of modern-day Germany and includes German-speaking countries such as Austria and Switzerland – lands in which German is spoken, but the people do not identify themselves as German. Furthermore, this issue is not a post-war, post-modern phenomenon as signified by the very word *Deutsch*, which originally was the word for a people (Volk) in medieval Germany or by the work of many authors in a pre-Bismarck period, such as the Grimm Brothers, writing in support of a national identity.

We are looking for papers, which look at the questions of *Heimat* and national identity in a German, Austrian and Swiss context, the search for this ideal, and whether *Heimat* is a utopian vision or a reality. What is *Heimat*? Is it a common feeling, an abstracta, a political construct? Is it possible to find a new *Heimat* outside of one’s home country? How is *Heimat* represented in literature, fine art and movies? How is *Heimat* viewed by historians, political scientists, psychologists and sociologists?

Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- Definition of the term *Heimat*
- *Heimat* in the literature of Germany, Austria and Switzerland
- Accounts of *Heimat* by German-language authors in exile
- Accounts of *Heimat* by foreigners in German speaking countries
- National identity
- *Heimat* in the fine arts, photography and film
- Nostalgia/Memory

Coordinators:

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Julia Feldhaus - jfeldhaus@gmx.de