

# RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

The Department of Germanic, Russian and East European Languages and Literatures Presents:

## Henry Sussman

Charlotte M. Craig Distinguished Visiting Professor  
Spring 2015

### “Caught in the Effluvial Draft: Kafka and the Fluid Sources of the Folktale”



Monday, April 27, 2015  
4:30-6:15 pm  
Alexander Library  
Teleconference Lecture  
Hall

As part of a forthcoming critical anthology, Professor Sussman's lecture will explore the wider cultural flow and drift of the Danube in the European Imaginary. The ultimate destination is Friedrich de la Motte Fouquet's "Undine," prototype for Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Mermaid," and the legions of adaptations rendered of it. Along the way, the talk will pause at Kafka's breakthrough work of fiction, "The Judgment" ("Das Urteil"), written during a single ecstatic all-nighter in 1912. This modernist fable also hints at the treacherous undercurrents surrounding what Lev Metchnikoff termed "the great historical rivers."

*Henry Sussman is the Spring 2015 Charlotte M. Craig Distinguished Visiting Professor and a Visiting Professor of German at Yale University, where he has taught since 2002. He is also Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature at the University of Buffalo where he served as departmental chair and Interim and Associate Dean of Arts & Letters. He received his PhD in Comparative Literature from The Johns Hopkins University in 1975. He has published 60-some articles on nineteenth and twentieth-century German, English, and French literatures, literature and philosophy, and psychoanalytical theory, as well as eleven books of literary criticism. A few of his most recent books published include: Playful Intelligence: Digitizing Tradition (2014), Around the Book: Systems and Literacy (2011), Idylls of the Wanderer: Outside in Literature and Theory (2007), and The Task of the Critic: Poetics, Philosophy, and Religion (2005). In 2013, he became the founding editor of Feedback and contributes weblog posts on literature, film, and media.*



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