

MICHAEL MCGILLEN

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Department of German Studies
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CURRENT POSITION

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

Senior Lecturer, Department of German Studies, 2017–

Lecturer, Department of German Studies, 2012–2017

Research Interests: 20th-century German literature, culture, and intellectual history; Religion in German modernism; Political theology; Theories of temporality and historiography; Aesthetics in philosophy and literature; Concepts of language, figurality, and metaphor.

Current Research Projects:

Shapes of Time: History and Eschatology in the Modernist Imagination.
Book manuscript in-progress.

Variations on a Lost Inheritance: Narrative Forms in Arendt, Blumenberg, and Kluge/Negt. Postdoctoral research project on the importance of narrative modes in postwar German thought.

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, 2006–2012

Ph.D. Germanic Languages and Literatures, June 2012.

Dissertation: “Eschatology and the Reinvention of History: Theological Interventions in German Modernism, 1920–1938.”

Advised by Professor Michael W. Jennings.

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2000–2004

B.A. Philosophy, *cum laude*.

PUBLICATIONS

“Husserl’s Image Worlds and the Language of Phenomenology.” *Phenomenology to the Letter*. Eds. Rochelle Tobias, Kristina Mendicino, and Philippe Haensler. De Gruyter, Textologie Series, 2019 (Under review).

“Historical Passages and Scenes of Transport in Uwe Johnson’s *Jahrestage*.” *The Germanic Review* 93.2 (2018): 130–154 (Peer-Reviewed).

“Erich Auerbach and the Seriality of the Figure.” *New German Critique*, no. 133 (2018): 111–154 (Peer-Reviewed).

“Zwischen Bildlichkeit und Auflösung des Bildes: Ästhetik des Religiösen in Hugo Balls expressionistischen Gedichten.” *Expressionismus* 3 (2016): 83–91.

- Review of *Ernst Toller and German Society: Intellectuals as Leaders and Critics, 1914–1939*, by Robert Ellis. *Monatshefte* 107.4 (2015): 698–700.
- “Lapsarian Repetitions: Iterations of the Fall in Kafka and Kierkegaard.” *Kafka und die Religion in der Moderne*. Eds. Manfred Engel and Ritchie Robertson. Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 2014. 93–115 (Peer-Reviewed).
- “Theology’s Weimar Moment: History before the Eschatological Limit.” *The Weimar Moment: Liberalism, Political Theology, and Law*. Eds. Leonard Kaplan and Rudy Koshar, Lanham: Lexington Books, 2012. 269–287.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Die kürzeste Linie ist nicht immer die gerade”: Deviations of History in Lessing’s *Die Erziehung des Menschengeschlechts*.” *Lessing’s Histories*. 134th Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Chicago, January 3–6, 2019.
- “Freie Variation aus dem kulturellen Archiv: Hans Blumenbergs Beschreibung des Menschen.” Leistungsbeschreibung: Literarische Strategien bei Hans Blumenberg. Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur, Mainz, June 14–16, 2018.
- “Husserl’s Image Worlds and the Language of Phenomenology.” Workshop on Phenomenology and Literature, Brown University, May 5–6, 2018.
- “Husserl’s Image-Worlds: Between Language and Things.” *Phenomenology to the Letter: Husserl and Literature*. German Studies Association’s 41st Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, October 5–8, 2017.
- “Orientation in Pictures: Multistable Spaces in Kafka and Beckett.” *Literary Space in Modernist Literature, 1890–1960*, American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Utrecht, the Netherlands, July 6–9, 2017.
- “Between Variation and Closure: The Ends of Myth in Kafka and Blumenberg.” *Myth and Modernity: Adaptations in German Literature since 1900*, 47th Annual Northeast Modern Languages Association Convention, Hartford, March 17–20, 2016.
- “Non-Synchronous Simultaneity as Narrative Principle in Alexander Kluge’s Poetics.” *Concepts of Simultaneity*, University of Erfurt, December 3–5, 2015.
- “Spatial Form and the Dialectics of Non-Presence in Karl Barth’s *Römerbrief*.” *Out of the Moment: Modalities of Non-Presence*, 130th Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Vancouver, January 8–11, 2015.
- “Foundations of the Secular in Hannah Arendt’s Political Philosophy.” *The Substance of the Secular*, German Studies Association’s 38th Annual Conference, Kansas City, Missouri, September 18–21, 2014.
- “Religious Experience as Narrative Rupture: Robert Musil’s ‘Other Condition’.” *Interpreting Experience — Experiencing Interpretation: Im/Possibilities of a Hermeneutics of Religious Experience*, University of Oxford, April 3–6, 2014.
- “Shipwreck of Language: Metaphor and the Limit of Knowledge in Blumenberg and Celan.” Work-in-Progress Seminar, Leslie Center for the Humanities, Dartmouth College, May 21, 2013.
- “The Poetics of Place: Hölderlin’s Scene of Writing.” *The World Elsewhere*, 20th Annual Interdisciplinary German Studies Conference, UC Berkeley, March 16–18, 2012.
- “Religion as Social Politics in Hermann Cohen.” *Rhetorics of Religion in Germany 1900–1940*, Princeton University, March 31–April 2, 2011.

“From Figura to Typology: Reading and Writing Theological Time in Eric Auerbach’s Philology.” *Endlich schreiben – endlich lesen. Reading and Writing Time in German Literature*, 6th Biennial International Graduate Student Conference in German Studies, Johns Hopkins University, December 3–4, 2010.

SELECTED GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Charlotte Elizabeth Procter Honorific Fellowship, Princeton University Graduate School, 2011–2012.

DAAD Research Grant for Dissertation Research at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, 2009–2010.

DAAD Scholarship to study Philosophy at the Universität Freiburg, 2005–2006.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

Advanced Seminar, “Franz Kafka and the Modern Self” (German 64), Fall 2015

Graduate Seminar, “Religion and Politics in a Post-Secular World” (Master of Arts in Liberal Studies 287), Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2017

Graduate Seminar, “Frankfurt School Cultural Theory” (Master of Arts in Liberal Studies 273), Spring 2017

First-Year Seminar, “Nietzsche and the Jews” (Jewish Studies 7), Winter 2015, scheduled Spring 2019

Lecture Course, “Beyond Good and Evil” (German 13), Spring 2013, Co-Taught with Gerd Gemünden

Intermediate German Language and Culture, “From God’s Subjects to Global Citizens” (German 10.02), Winter 2015

Intermediate German Language and Culture, “Contemporary Germany” (German 10.0), Summer 2014

Intermediate German Language and Culture, “Look! A Visual History of Germany” (German 10.06), Winter 2018

Intermediate Comparative Literature, “Flashes of Recognition in Modernist Literature” (COLT 10.16), Spring 2017, scheduled Fall 2018

Intermediate German (German 3), scheduled Spring 2019

Introductory German (German 2), Winter 2014 (2 sections), Winter 2016 (2 sections), scheduled Fall 2018

Introductory German (German 1), Fall 2012, Winter 2013, Fall 2014, Winter 2017, Fall 2017, Winter 2018

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Advanced German, Fall 2010

Beginner’s German II, Spring 2009

Beginner’s German I, Fall 2008

ADVISING

Comparative Literature Independent Study, “Constructions of Identity in Nietzsche, Kafka, and Kierkegaard,” Spring 2018
Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) Master’s Thesis, “The Modern Metropolis: Digital Culture and the Frankfurt School,” Fall 2017–Spring 2018
MALS Independent Study, “From German Idealism to Dialectical Materialism: The Methodology of the Frankfurt School,” Fall 2017
German Studies Independent Study, “Frankfurt School Cultural Theory,” Spring 2017
Comparative Literature Master’s Thesis, “Fragmented Knowledge: The Riddle of Unknowability in Kafka’s “In unserer Synagoge” and “Die Sorge des Hausvaters,” Fall 2015–Spring 2016
MALS Master’s Thesis, “Legitimacy and the Foundations of Government: Confidence, Trust, and Participation in Modern Democracy,” Fall 2014–Summer 2015
MALS Master’s Thesis, “Phantasmagoria and Flânerie: from the Street to the Screen,” Fall 2014–Summer 2015
MALS Independent Study, “Catholicism and Democracy’s Third Wave,” Summer 2014
MALS Independent Study, “Hume’s Epistemology,” Fall 2013
MALS Independent Study, “Theories of Desire from Hegel to Žižek,” Summer 2013
Group Leader for German Department Senior Thesis Writers’ Group, Princeton University, Fall 2010–Spring 2011.
Writing Center Fellow, Princeton Writing Program, Fall 2010–Spring 2011.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Near-native Proficiency in German
Reading Proficiency in Ancient Greek
Reading Proficiency in French