

Storytelling from the Combat Zone

Military Blogs as Contemporary War Narratives

9-10 November, 2012, TU Dresden

About the Workshop

Since their emergence during the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, milblogs have left a major impact on cultural practices of representing and deliberating events and experiences of war. Their technological specifications allow for immediate and public narration of war experience, and they invite a public audience response on a personal level. This workshop aims at discussing the cultural work of milblogs in revolutionizing the narration and public discussion of war, with a particular focus on American blogs and the context of American traditions of war narrative. It will scrutinize the dynamics by which the soldiers and their audience generate a sense of community and negotiate the conduct, the meaning, and the personal consequences of war. Furthermore, this workshop is interested in analyzing how the technological features and textual conventions of milblogs extend or restrict writing about war, and how milblogs are influenced by and influence traditional genres of American war narrative, such as letters or memoirs.

Organizers

Prof. Dr. Katja Kanzler

Professor for North American Literatures, TU Dresden

E-Mail: katja.kanzler@mailbox.tu-dresden.de

Dr. Frank Usbeck

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Institute for English and American Studies, TU Dresden

E-Mail: frank.usbeck@mailbox.tu-dresden.de

Workshop Program

All sessions will take place at "von Gerber Bau", GER/54, Bergstrasse 53, near Fritz-Foerster Platz.

Friday, 9 November

- 4:30 P.M. (CT.) Workshop Opening
 KATJA KANZLER, FRANK USBECK (TU Dresden)
- 5:00-6:30 P.M. SVETLANA MAKEYEVA (TU Dortmund)
 "Female Military Bloggers: The Narratives of Military Life"
 FRANK USBECK (TU Dresden)
 "(Native American) Ceremonial Storytelling: A Cultural Perspective on Civil
 Reintegration in Milblogging from Afghanistan"
- 7:30 P.M. Workshop Dinner

Saturday, 10 November

- 10:00 A.M. - 12 P.M. BRIAN SCHNEIDER (Universität Konstanz)
 "Live from the Front: Milblogging and Patterns in the Modern War
 Narrative"
 SIMONE SCHWÄR (Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz)
 "Storyfying War: Writing Lives and Combat in Contemporary America"
- 12:00 - 01:00 P.M. Lunch Break
- 01:00 - 02:00 P.M. Final Discussion
 Skype Session with JOHANNA ROERING (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen)
- 02:00 P.M. End of Workshop