

# Notes on Contributors

## Rüdiger Heinze

Rüdiger Heinze is Junior Professor in the English Seminar of the Technical University of Braunschweig. He is author of a monograph titled *Ethics of Literary Forms* and coeditor of a number of collections, among them *The Disappearance of Utopia?* (with Jochen Petzold) and, most recently, *Unnatural Narratives, Unnatural Narratology* (with Jan Alber). He has published articles in various journals, among them *Narrative*, the *European Journal of American Studies*, and the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, as well as in several collections. His current research interests are in narratology and popular culture; he is also working on a monograph about children of immigrants in the USA.

## Sebastian M. Herrmann

Sebastian M. Herrmann has been an assistant lecturer and doctoral student at American Studies Leipzig since 2007. His dissertation focuses on the cultural work of 'epistemic panic' about the US president expressed in fiction, nonfiction, and semi-fictional texts since the late 1960s. He is also the founding editor of *aspeers*, the first and currently only graduate journal for European American studies, a teaching and publication project on the MA level he has chaired for four consecutive years serving as head editor for the first four issues of the journal. After studying at Leipzig and Cornell University, Sebastian M. Herrmann graduated in 2006 with a degree in American studies and computer science from the University of Leipzig. He is a grantee of stipends from the Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst and the Fulbright Commission. While still a student, he co-organized a conference on ambivalences of Americanization in Central and Eastern Europe and has both contributed to and coedited the resulting volume *Ambivalent Americanizations: Popular and Consumer Culture in Central and Eastern Europe*.

---

## Carolin Alice Hofmann

Carolin Alice Hofmann earned her MA in American studies, comparative literature, and media studies at the University of Leipzig in 2009 with a thesis titled “Julia Kristeva’s Theory of Abjection and Postmodern Noir: The Crisis of the Body in David Lynch’s *Eraserhead*.” As an undergraduate, she did coursework at Carleton University, Ottawa. Currently a Fulbright fellow at the University at Albany, New York, she is pursuing PhD coursework in English literature that corresponds to her research interests in contemporary literature, trauma, narrative theory, ecocriticism, crisis, and biopolitics. Her doctoral project explores literary strategies to represent trauma in recent North American fiction. What specifically interests her here is how critical approaches, such as trauma studies, deconstruction, and post-postmodernism, conceive of the experience and where these models reach their limits and even counteract each other.

## Katja Kanzler

Katja Kanzler is Professor of North American Literature at the Technical University of Dresden. Among other things, she has published on genres of popular culture and their cultural work as well as on narrative constructions of space in different textual and cultural contexts. Her PhD dissertation investigates the dynamics of multicultural discourse in the multimedia franchise *Star Trek (Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations: The Multicultural Evolution of Star Trek*, published with Winter in 2004). Her Habilitationsschrift—which is being prepared for publication—explores the ways in which early- to mid-nineteenth-century American literature feminizes the working spaces of the kitchen and the factory. Katja Kanzler’s current project deals with legal fictions in a broad range of genres and media, asking how and to what discursive effects these texts cast the law as narrative.

## Detlef Kuhlbrodt

Detlef Kuhlbrodt is a journalist who has been writing for several newspapers and journals since the 1980s. Among other venues, he particularly frequently contributes to the German daily newspaper *die tageszeitung*, where he also keeps a regularly updated blog. In addition, some of his texts have been collected in *Morgens leicht, später laut: Singles*, published by Suhrkamp in 2007; a second book, *Wie ich einmal zwei Wochen nicht rauchte*, is scheduled for publication with Suhrkamp in 2012. In 2008, he was awarded the Ben Witter prize for his writings.

## Leopold Lippert

Leopold Lippert is a PhD candidate in American studies at the University of Vienna and is currently working as a research assistant at the Department of American Studies of the University of Graz. His PhD project, tentatively entitled “Performing America Abroad,” deals with the ‘Americanness’ of Austrian cultural and academic practice. He has published on American drama and queer film and situates his research at the intersection of queer theory, performance studies, and transnational American studies.

## Leonard Schmieding

Leonard Schmieding teaches history at the University of Leipzig. He received his Dr. phil. in 2011 with a dissertation on hip-hop culture in the German Democratic Republic between 1983 and 1990. Also trained as an Americanist, his research interests are (popular) cultural transfers between America and Europe, Cold War culture, and museum studies. He is now working on a project examining food and drink among German immigrants in California in the nineteenth century. In addition, he has devoted his time to projects bridging academia and public interest: He is the founder and director of the Hip-Hop Awareness Weeks Leipzig (2003-2009), curated the exhibition “The Early Days: Hip-Hop Culture in the GDR” (2007-2010), and he co-initiated the art and history contest “Spray-Painting Democracy!” in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution (2009).

## Frank Usbeck

Frank Usbeck studied American studies, modern and contemporary history, journalism, and American Indian studies at the University of Leipzig and the University of Arizona. He currently holds an administrative position at American Studies Leipzig, sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). He earned his PhD in 2010 with a study on the interrelation of the German euphoria for Native Americans with German nation formation and the construction of German national identity in the context of the utilization of Native imagery in the German print media during the Nazi era. His dissertation won the Rolf Kentner Dissertation Prize of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies in 2011. In addition to indigenous studies, Frank Usbeck’s research interests are (de)colonization and the cultural history of organized violence. He is currently working on a larger project concerning the cultural work of American soldier

---

weblogs (milblogs), which he reads through the lens of traditional warrior ceremonies and community building among Native American peoples.