

PD Dr. Birgit Spengler

Education

- 2013 Habilitation, Goethe University, Frankfurt a.M
- 2006 Dr. phil., Doctoral Dissertation: "Vision, Gender and Power in Nineteenth-Century American Women's Writing, 1860-1900," Goethe University (summa cum laude)
- 2001 First State Examination: English and German (Teaching Degree), Goethe University
- 2000 Magister Artium: American Studies, English Literature, German Literature (studies at Goethe University and the University of Edinburgh)

Employment

- Fall 2015/16-present Interim Professor of American Studies, Goethe University
- Fall 2001/02-Summer 2015 Assistant / Associate Professor of American Studies, Goethe University (Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin)
- Summer 20 13 – Summer 2014 Interim Professor of American Studies, Georg-August-University Göttingen

Major Research Interests

19th- and 20th-Century American Literature and Culture
19th-Century American Women Writers
Visual Culture
Gender Studies
Intertextuality
Ethics and Aesthetics, Community in American Fiction and Poetry
Ethnicity
American West(s)

Current Research Projects

Women Photographers in the 19th- and early 20th-Century American West: Constructions of Space and Place

Bare Life, States of Exception, and Precarious Being and/in Contemporary American Culture

Scholarships and Awards

James H. Bradley Fellowship, Montana Historical Society (summer 2015)

Research Grant by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for the project "Literary Spinoffs: Rewriting the Canon, Revisiting the Nineteenth Century" (April 2011- Sept. 2012)

Cornelia Goethe Prize 2007 for the doctoral dissertation *Vision, Gender, and Power in Nineteenth-Century American Women's Writing, 1860-1900*. The Cornelia Goethe Prize is awarded annually for an excellent research project in the area of women and gender studies.

Travel stipends by DAAD and *Freunde und Förderer der Goethe Universität*

University Offices and Administration

Board of Directors, Institute for English and American Studies Goethe-University (student member, 1996-2000; faculty member 2002-2011)

Deputy Women's Representative, Institute for English and American Studies (2003-2005)

Board of Directors, Faculty of Modern Languages (2005-2007)

Member of Hiring Committees in American Studies, Teaching English as a Foreign Language, German Literature

Memberships

German Association for American Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien, DGfA)

German Association of University Professors and Lecturers (Deutscher Hochschulverband, DHV)

Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW) (advisory board)

American Studies Association (ASA)

Associated Member of the Cornelia Goethe Centre for Women and Gender Studies, Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main (CGC)

Center for North American Studies, Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main (Zenaf)

Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society

Nathaniel Hawthorne Society

Publications

Books:

Literary Spinoffs: Rewriting the Classics – Re-Imagining the Community. Frankfurt a. M.: Campus, 2015. North American Studies Series

Vision, Gender, and Power in Nineteenth-Century American Women's Writing, 1860-1900. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2008.

Rev. in *Legacy* 27.2 (2010): 292-294.

Edited Volumes:

Appropriating Visions. Special Issue of *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 54.1 (2009).

Articles:

"A Tale Told Thrice: Hawthorne, Doctorow, and the Intertextual Imagination." *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review* 41.2 (2015): 48-82.

"Art as Engagement: Violence, Trauma, and the Role of the Reader in Edwidge Danticat's *The Dew Breaker*." Special Issue: *The Body. Contemporary Women's Writing* 8.2 (2014): 189-205. (first online publication: Nov. 1, 2013).

<http://cww.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/vpt020?ijkey=DVwqgpk92lsZw8Y&keytype=ref>

"American Jane Eyres: Transatlantic Dialogues in Nineteenth-Century Women's Writing." *Transatlantic Women: Essays on 19th-Century American Women Writers in Great Britain, Ireland, and Europe*. Hg. Beth L. Lueck, Lucinda Damon-Bach und Brigitte Bailey. University of New Hampshire Press. 417-453. Forthcoming July 2012.

"Geiselnahme, Schwarzfahren oder einfach nur Trampen? *Literary Spinoffs*, Originalität und geistiges Eigentum." *Plagiate*. Beiträge zur Rechts-, Gesellschafts- und Kulturkritik. Bd. 10. Hg. Malte Gruber et al. Berlin: trafo Wissenschaftsverlag, 2011. 139-156.

"Introduction." Themenheft *Appropriating Vision(s)*. *Amerikastudien* 54.1 (2009): 5-11.

"Visual Negotiations and Medical Discourses in Nineteenth-Century American Women's Writing." Themenheft *Appropriating Vision(s)*. *Amerikastudien* 54.1 (2009): 35-58.

"Gendered Vision(s) in the Short Fiction of Harriet Prescott Spofford." *Legacy* 21.1 (2004): 68-73.

"Michael Cunningham Rewriting Virginia Woolf: Pragmatist vs. Modernist Aesthetics."
Woolf Studies Annual 10 (2004): 53-81.

Articles in preparation:

"Elizabeth Stoddard's *The Morgesons*." *The Nineteenth-Century American Novel*. Hg. Christine Gerhardt. De Gruyter Series Handbooks of English and American Studies: Text and Theory (Hgg. der Reihe Martin Middeke, Gabriele Rippl, Hubert Zapf).

"States of Exception: Liminality and Community in Arab American Women's Poetry After 9/11." *American Women Writers and Liminality*. Hgg. Miranda Green-Barteet und Kristin J. Jacobson.

"Women Photographers in Montana at the Turn of the Century." *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*.

Conference Papers and Invited Talks (selection):

- 11/2015 "States of Exception: Liminality and Community in Arab American Women's Poetry After 9/11," *Society for the Study of American Women Writers*, Philadelphia, November 2015.
- 03/2015 "Literary Spinoffs: Strategies and Agendas of an Emerging Genre," *International Society for the Study of Narrative*, Chicago, March 2015.
- 11/2014 "American Victorianism, Pseudoscience, and Exhibition Culture," Zürich University/UZH, November 2014.
- 10/2012 "Rewriting *Moby-Dick*: Imagining the Community through Melville and Naslund," *Society for the Study of American Women Writers*, Denver, October 2012.
- 06/2010 "Literary Spinoffs: Rewriting the Canon, Revisiting the Nineteenth Century," Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg, June 2010.
- 10/2009 "Rewriting the Genre: Detection in Nineteenth-Century Women's Writing," *Society for the Study of American Women Writers*, Philadelphia, October 2009.
- 10/2009 "Dis-membering and Re-membering: Violence and Storytelling in Edwidge Danticat's *The Dew Breaker*," *Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association*, Snowbird, Utah, October 2009.
- 07/2009 "Medical Gazes, Gender, and the Nation in Nineteenth-Century Women's Writing", *Visual Cultures – Transatlantic Perspectives*, 11th Academy Conference, Bavarian America Academy, Munich, July 2009.
- 07/2008 "American Jane Eyres: Transatlantic Dialogues in Nineteenth-Century

Women's Writing," *Transatlantic Women: 19th-Century American Women Writers in Great Britain, Ireland, and Europe*, Oxford, July 2008.

- 06/2008 "If Looks Could Kill: The Politics of Vision in Nineteenth-Century American Literature," Lecture Series *Gender-Science-Literature*, Goethe-University, June 2008.
- 05/2006 "Female Scopic Desire at the Interstices of Race and Class: Elizabeth Stoddard, Louisa May Alcott and L. E. Lee," *American Literature Association*, San Francisco, May 2006.
- 09/2003 "Gendered Vision(s) in the Short Fiction of Harriet Prescott Spofford," *Society for the Study of American Women Writers*, Fort Worth, Texas, September 2003.
- 06/2003 "Intertextual Interrogations: Michael Cunningham's Dialogue with Woolf," *Conversation in Woolf's Works*, Montpellier, June 2003.

Teaching

Goethe University, Frankfurt a. M. and Georg-August-University Göttingen (Summer term 2013 to Summer term 2014)

Lecture Courses

"Amerikanische Literatur und Kultur II" (vom frühen 20. Jahrhundert zur Gegenwart), Fall 2015/16 (Frankfurt)

"A Cultural History of American Literature II: From the Early Republic to the Late Nineteenth Century," Summer 2014 (Göttingen)

"A Cultural History of American Literature I: From Exploration and Settlement to the Early Republic," Fall 2013/14 (Göttingen)

"Postmodernism, New Ethnic Literatures, Recent Developments: U.S. Literature from the Second World War to the Age of Hegemony," Summer 2013 (Göttingen)

Introductory Courses

"Introduction to American Literature and Literary Theory" (Frankfurt)

"Introduction to American Culture and American Cultural Studies" (Frankfurt)

"Introduction to the Study of American Literature and Culture" (Göttingen)

Undergraduate Level Seminars

- "American Women Poets," Summer 2016 (Frankfurt)
- "Women and the Civil War," Fall 2015/16 (Frankfurt)
- "Nineteenth-Century Visual Cultures," Summer 2014 (Göttingen)
- "Imagining the Other: The 'Orient' in American Literature and Culture," Fall 2013/14 (Göttingen)
- "Recent Ethnic Fiction," Summer 2013 (Göttingen)
- "Sleuthing America: American Detective Fiction from Poe to Auster," Summer 2013 (Göttingen)
- "Re-Reading *Huckleberry Finn*," Fall 2012/13 (Frankfurt)
- "American Short Stories," Summer 2008 (Frankfurt)
- "Imag(in)ed Landscapes and People: Visual Representation and Nineteenth-Century Narrative," Fall 2005/06 (Frankfurt)
- "Transcultural Interrogations: Intertextual Relations Across the Atlantic," Fall 2004/05, Team-Teaching with Christine Vogt-William (Frankfurt)

Graduate Level Seminars

- "*Moby-Dick* and the American Cultural Imagination," Fall 2015/16 (Frankfurt)
- "American Wests," Summer 2015 (Frankfurt)
- "Bare Lives, States of Exception, and Precarious Being: Negotiating Community in Contemporary American Fiction and Beyond," Fall 2014/15 (Frankfurt)
- "Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers," Summer 2014 (Göttingen)
- "Photographic Discourses in/and Nineteenth-Century America," Summer 2013 (Göttingen)
- "The Return of the Repressed? The Nineteenth Century in Contemporary American Literature," Fall 2010/11 (Frankfurt)
- "Trauma and Violence in Contemporary American Literature," Summer 2010 (Frankfurt)
- "Arab Americans Before and After 9/11," Fall 2009/10 (Frankfurt)
- "American Photography, 1839-1920," Summer 2009 (Frankfurt)
- "Intertextuality in Contemporary Fiction," Summer 2008 (Frankfurt)
- "American Detective Fiction," Fall 2007/08 (Frankfurt)

"Edith Wharton," Fall 2006/07 (Frankfurt)

"Contemporary Fiction," Summer 2006, Team-Teaching with Prof. Dr. Susanne Opfermann
(Frankfurt)

updated March 2016