

**Charles Phelps Taft Research Center
at the University of Cincinnati
Conference Proposal Application**

Each section (I-IV) should be placed at the start of a new page. All required materials must be included in a single document, uploaded to the electronic submissions system, no later than 5PM on the published day of the deadline.

I. General Information

- a. Name: **Todd Herzog, Tanja Nusser & Richard Schade**
b. Department: **German Studies**
c. Position: **Associate Professor & Head**
d. Conference Title: ***Berliner Republik:*
Reflections of / on German Unification**

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of German unification, a diverse group of international scholars will revisit the formation of and examine the history of the Berlin Republic and the impact it has had on Germany, Europe, and beyond in its first quarter century.

- e. Beginning and Ending Dates: **October 4 – 6, 2015**
f. Conference Chair/Director: **Todd Herzog**
g. Location of Events (dates and times):
**Max Kade German Cultural Center, 736 Old Chemistry Building,
October 4: 7-9 PM / October 5: 9AM-6 PM / October 6: 9AM-6 PM**
h. Taft Disciplines Impacted: **German Studies, History, Judaic Studies, Political Science, Sociology**

II. Budget

Item	Costs	Total Costs
Honoraria		
Keynote Speaker	\$1,500	
Author Reading	\$1,500	\$3,000.00
Travel Expenses		
International Airfare for Keynote Speaker	\$1,700	
International Airfare for Author	\$1,700	\$3,400.00
Lodging Expenses		
Keynote Speaker; 3 nights @ Kingsgate Marriot, \$150 per night	\$450	
Author; 3 nights @ Kingsgate Marriot, \$150 per night	\$450	\$900.00
Dinner Expenses (Organizers, Keynotes, Presenters, Respondents, Administrators)		
2 Dinner: \$50 per person; max. 20	\$50	\$2,000.00
Catering for 40 Participants		
Catering per day	600	\$1,200.00
Estimated Advertising		
Posters/brochures/web	\$300	\$ 300.00
Total costs		\$10,800.00

Other Funding Sources:

Department of German Studies:	\$ 1,000.00
German Government	\$ 1,000.00
DAAD	\$ 1,500.00
Max Kade Foundation:	\$ 500.00
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Total:	\$ 4,000.00

Requested from Taft:

Honoraria for keynote speaker/author	\$ 3,000.00
Airfares for keynote speaker/author	\$ 3,400.00
Lodging for keynote speaker	\$ 450.00
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Total:	\$ 6,850.00

III. Narrative Description of Conference

In November 2014, the University of Cincinnati was the site of events focused on the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. A well-conceived library exhibit, a photography exhibit of images of the Wall taken in November 1989 by Richard Schade, lectures and academic competitions embedded in the department's curriculum marked the months. The UC-based events were in support of a larger celebration and commemoration of the fall of the Berlin Wall that included the World Affairs Council, the European-American Chamber of Commerce, the Munich Sister-City Association, the Office of the Mayor and colleagues from all of the area universities and colleges. These events culminated in an event at the Underground Railroad Museum Freedom Center that featured William Howard Taft IV (erstwhile Ambassador to NATO), Richard Schade (McMicken Professor of German Studies at UC), Herbert Quelle (Consul General of Germany), Martin Wilhelmy (Honorary Consul of Germany for the region) and David Mann (Vice Mayor of Cincinnati) and was attended by over 500 members of the Cincinnati community. This highly successful public event was one of hundreds organized around the globe in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the dramatic events of November 9, 1989. Less celebrated and less commemorated are the events of the following year that culminated in the unification of the two German states on October 3, 1990. And yet that difficult process of unification, while less sensational than what took place on that night in November 1989, had an arguably greater impact on the future history of Germany, Europe, and the world. We therefore seek to commemorate the unification of Germany on the 25th anniversary of its occurrence by assembling a diverse international group of scholars to examine the cultural, political, and historical impact of what has been termed the "Berlin Republic" in its first quarter century.

This will be the third time that UC faculty have undertaken a scholarly examination on an anniversary of German unification—although both previous events looked back on 1989 and not 1990. Following on a 1999 conference, Todd Herzog published with Sander Gilman *A New Germany in a New Europe* (Routledge 2001). Following on a Taft-sponsored 2009 conference, Katharina Gerstenberger and Jana Braziel published *After the Berlin Wall. Germany and Beyond* (Palgrave 2011). With this impressive track record behind us, we seek funding to continue our series of retrospective looks at the development of the Berlin Republic with a third conference and publication that will take stock from a 25-year perspective.

Working in conjunction with other Taft departments highly relevant to the topic (most directly, History, Judaic Studies, Political Science, and Sociology), the proposed conference seeks to build on this departmental legacy of collaboration with colleagues here and abroad, to build on the recent record of successful community outreach, and to continue the tradition of scholarly analysis of the Berlin Republic. Given that this is the last important round anniversary until the

50th in 2039-40, the timing of this conference is crucial and it will be left to a future generation of scholars takes up the reins 25 years from now.

One measure of the importance of the 25th anniversary of German Unification is the fact that the German Embassy has initiated a public diplomacy program in the United States with a focus on the topic. We will work closely with the embassy as well as with community organizations as we plan and promote this conference. The German Information Center, a component of the Foreign Office in Berlin, has signaled that this commemoration will be at the center of their plans in 2015. This year's exemplar of the popular desk calendar distributed across the US bears the motto "Unity in Peace and Freedom" and a page for each of the 52 weeks documents the motto. The proposed conference

Berliner Republik:

Reflections on / of German Unification

responds to the impetus from the Embassy, builds on the above-cited departmental legacy in the application of a multi-disciplinary examination of cultural and socio-political phenomena attending the new realities of German unification nearly a generation after unification.

What is the *Berliner Republik*? The Nobel Prize winning author Günter Grass answered the question in 1990 with an agenda countering to the Unification euphoria – a united Germany had, after all, brought on two World Wars and the Holocaust! Did Grass get it wrong? Where is Germany in 2015 ? – a reliable and stable partner in the European Union, yet a diversified country of immigrants unable to provide them adequate housing and currently a nation seeking to come to grips with the anti-Islamic "Pegida" movement centered in the formerly Communist East? While Germany alone prospers in the EU, it also must come to terms with the ghosts of its past and challenges of the present. We therefore seek not only to celebrate the Berlin Republic (as commemorations of 1989 invariably have), but also to question its impact (positive and negative) on Germany, Europe and beyond.

We propose a 3-day interdisciplinary conference at the University of Cincinnati in October 2015. Running from Sunday, October 4 to Tuesday October 6, fifteen scholars from Europe and the United States will address these issues. The aim is to discuss and compare the cultural, social, and institutional manifestations of German Unification by exploring a range of issues from the standpoint of various methodologies and academic disciplines so as to define how German society manages the radical transformation of the nation within the European, indeed global, context.

In the course of the conference, different discourses and narratives will be explored: sociologists focusing on first-person narratives, historians concentrating on the meaning of shifts in life-style, literary scholars interpreting the representation of the *Berliner Republik*, architectural historians parsing the cityscape of Berlin. Presenters will include an invited keynote scholar of international distinction and those selected by the departments committee from the many responses to the call-for-papers. The presentations – offered in a workshop format – will be augmented by an author reading from his work and a film screening. The conference will result in an edited volume featuring the strongest revised presentations.

After a successful call for papers and invitations to noted scholars and artists, we have compiled a program that reflects a diverse contribution to the discourse on German unification. We have grouped the contributions into four main areas of investigation: (1) Literary Culture, (2) Architecture and Cities, (3) Institutional Culture, and (4) Popular Culture. The result is a diverse, yet coherent approach to the Berlin Republic on its 25th anniversary.

LITERARY CULTURE

Thomas Brussig (Berlin) will read from his literary works in progress

Walter Erhart (Bielefeld University): “Academic Ghosts: the Afterlife of East German Intellectuals in Academic Novels after 1989”

Dieter Fratzke (Lessing Museum): “The Reconfiguration of East German Museum Culture since Unification”

Michael Lützel (Washington University): “The Literary Triad: *Germanistik*, Criticism, Creative Writing since Unification”

Richard Schade (Cincinnati): “Performing Revolt in 1990: Grass’s *The Plebian’s Rehearse an Uprising*”

ARCHITECTURE / CITIES

Carol Anne Costabile-Heming (North Texas): “The Monument to Unification: Architectural Citations in the Berlin Republic”

Detlef Jessen-Klingenberg (Berlin): “Architectural Discourses in Berlin Since Unification”

Christine Leuenberger (Cornell): "Mapping Divided Cities: Walled Berlin and Jerusalem"

INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE

Pamela Hess (Frankfurt): "German Unification ? A Generational Perspective"

Tanja Nusser (Cincinnati): "Unification and Diversity: the PEGIDA Movement"

Hartmut von Sass (Zürich): "Reunification and the Secularization of the East German Church"

Robert Snyder / Timothy White (Xavier): "German Unification and Shifts in Foreign Policy"

Quinna Shen (Miami University): "Preface to Unification: Tiananmen Square and Berlin in 1989"

POPULAR CULTURE

Joakin Glaser (Malmö, Sweden): "German Unification and East German *Fussball* Fans"

Jeff Packer (Utah Valley): "Berlin and the BVG in Music and Music Videos"

IV. Conference Details

a. Location of Events (dates and times):

The entire program takes place in the Max Kade German Cultural Center, 736 Old Chemistry, from October 4 to October 6, 2015

Sunday, October 4:

Arrival CVG / Van to Lodging

7 PM: Opening Reception

Monday, October 5:

9 – 12 Session I (4 speakers)

12 - 1:30 Catered Lunch

1:30 – 4:30 Session II (4 speakers)

5:00 Depart by van for viewing of the Berlin Wall segment @ National Underground Railroad Museum Center Freedom Center, followed by dinner downtown.

Tuesday, October 6:

9 – 12 Session III (4 speakers)

12 – 1:30 Catered Lunch

1:30 – 4:30 Session IV (3 speakers) with coffee break
Followed by evening meal in Clifton

b. Conference Participants in Alphabetical order (Name, Role, CVs):

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Thomas Brussig (Berlin) is an acclaimed German author, who was concisely typified in a *Business Week* article, justifying an invitation to him that he has accepted: "When you think

Berlin Wall, you think guard towers, land mines, Richard Burton dodging searchlights in *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold*--unpromising terrain for a comic novel. But East Berliner Thomas Brussig disagrees. "East Germany makes a good story," the 34-year-old novelist says. "There were so many absurd situations." Brussig's original take has made him one of Germany's hottest authors. His 1994 novel set around the fall of the Berlin Wall, published in English as *Heroes Like Us*, was a best-seller; a film is scheduled for local release in November. Brussig also wrote the screenplay for the just-released film *The Short End of Sunshine Alley*, a comedy about puberty in the Wall's shadow, and turned it into a novel as well. *Der Spiegel*, the German newsmagazine, recently put him on the cover with up-and-coming poets and novelists. Through Brussig's eyes, the Berlin Wall is more ridiculous than threatening. When a border guard's stray bullet strikes a youth in the chest, a Rolling Stones album stuffed in his coat saves him. Far from relieved, the teenager is enraged that his rare prize from the West has been ruined. "I don't write about the Wall as something fearful, rather as something that was degraded to an everyday object," Brussig says. He is part of a new generation of German authors whose writing is less burdened by the past than postwar authors such as Gunter Grass, who won this year's Nobel Prize for Literature. "My books are not about how East Germany was, but about how it's remembered," he says. The author, who still lives in eastern Berlin, submitted his first novel to a publisher the day the Wall came down. If it weren't for that event, Germans might not be enjoying Brussig's works today." Accessed 27 January 2015

Walter Erhart (Bielefeld) is the author of at least four books, editor of some 10, and has a dazzling list of some 200 articles and chapters, all of the mentioned focused on German literary culture from the 18th century to the present. He is the lead editor of the multi-volume historical-critical edition of a contemporary author and critic, as well as the managing editor of a leading cross-disciplinary journal. His comprehensive purview of contemporary intellectual culture in Germany is second to none. Beyond that, he has frequently been the recipient of grants for research and teaching at American universities (Washington University, University of Kansas) and has most recently collaborated with the University of Cincinnati in the establishment of a student exchange program on both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Carol Anne Costabile-Heming (University of North Texas) is a prize-winning teacher and nationally recognized administrator with a record of leadership in the profession, i.e.. she is the past President of the American Association of Teachers of German. From her some 50 articles and several books on various topics, her work on the architectural memory sites in Berlin and literary narratives describing Berlin in transition from a divided city to a unified urban space stands out, with 11 articles since 2000. Berlin, the capital of the Berlin Republic, is a never-ending work in progress and her proposed paper on the recently erected monument to Germany's unification addresses the core focus of the conference.

Dieter Fratzke (Kamenz) was the director of the Lessing Museum in Saxony near Dresden from 1976 to 2010. As such he managed the affairs of a cultural institution focusing on the achievements and legacy of the 18th-century German playwright and literary theorist Gotthold

E. Lessing, the German Voltaire / Alexander Pope. This was no small task, given the fact that for half of his career he had to contend with the policies and realities of East German, top-down communist directives – Lessing as a proto-Marxist, if you will. Then, in 1989/90, he had to adjust to the expectations and demands of the unified and democratic Germany, effectively reinventing the institution -- early on, it was the Party, later the 'capitalist' donors. Fratzke has published extensively on 18th-century German literary culture as well as serving as the long-time editor of a leading yearbook in Germany, before and after German Unification.

Joakim Glaser (Malmö) is writing his dissertation on identity formation among football fans in eastern Germany over the last 50 years and it is due to be finished this year. Given the significance of soccer in Germany and the world (World Cup hosted in Germany 2006, World Cup Champions 2014), it is an undeniable fact that the mass enthusiasm for the sport is an indicator of national identity – the waving of the German black-red-gold flag being but one indicator of this phenomenon. But, Glaser asks in his proposal, was it ever so and do East German fans troop to the colors as much as West Germans. These and other questions are a sure reflection of patterns of social and political thinking.

Pamela Hess (Frankfurt), a social scientist within a research unit focusing on the impact of Unification on individuals and families across several generations, parents from divided Germany with children born and maturing within a unified German societal context. The generally accepted notion that Germans of whatever generation still have a metaphorical "wall" in their head, is critiqued and seen to be simplistic and replaced by more highly differentiated psychological paradigm. She arrives at these perspectives by a statistically significant interview process, one validating her overall theoretical model. A recent PhD, Hess has 6 articles / studies forthcoming, not including the paper for Cincinnati.

Detlef Jessen-Klingenberg (Braunschweig) holds the degree of Doctor of Engineering / Architecture and is a writer and consultant in his field in collaboration with both artists and practicing architects. His purview centers on Berlin, for example, in his published work on the history of Olympic venues for the 1936 games and ranging to street-art in the city. His paper for the conference examines the post Unification building boom in Berlin, when the only constant was / is more than a decade of inconstancy, thereby offering a radical critique grounded in cultural theories of postmodernism and 'reflexive modernity.' As a pendant to Costablie-Heming's presentation, each scholar will perforce correct one another's analysis.

Christine Leuenberger's (Cornell) research specializes in Science & Technology Studies, qualitative methods, sociology of medicine, classical and contemporary sociological theory, sociology of knowledge, interactional sociology, sociology of culture, gender studies, transformation studies of Eastern Europe, Middle Eastern Studies, Peace Studies, and the sociology and history of the human and behavioral sciences. Her current research projects focus on the social impact of the West Bank Barrier and on the history and sociology of the human sciences in the Middle East.

Michael Lützeler (Washington University) is the author of *Hermann Broch. A Biography*, a book that appeared in German, English, Spanish, and Japanese, and received the DAAD Prize of the German Studies Association. He is the editor of the Collected Works of Hermann Broch. He wrote three books on the idea of Europe in German and European literature, as well as seven other books on topics of 19th and 20th century German literature and edited many volumes in his areas of research. He is the editor in chief of the yearbook, *Gegenwartsliteratur* (2002 ff), and serves on the editorial boards of several scholarly journals. His most recent book publication is: *Transatlantische Germanistik*. He is the director of the Max Kade Center for Contemporary German Literature at Washington University's German Department. He received Washington University's Distinguished Faculty Mentor Award twice.

Tanja Nusser (University of Cincinnati) is DAAD Visiting Associate Professor at the University of Cincinnati. Her research focuses on German literature, culture and media since the 19. Century, gender studies, the history of sciences, disability studies, postcolonial and animal studies. Her most recent book publications are: Monographs: *Von und zu anderen Ufern. Ulrike Ottingers filmische Reiseerzählungen* (2002); »wie sonst das Zeugen Mode war«. *Reproduktionstechnologien in Literatur und Film* (2011). Co-Edited Books: *Catastrophe and Catharsis. Narratives of Disaster and Redemption in German Culture and Beyond* (forthcoming 2015); *Krankheit und Geschlecht: Diskursive Affären zwischen Literatur und Medizin* (2002); *Rasterfahrungen. Darstellungstechniken – Normierungsverfahren – Wahrnehmungskonstitution* (2003); *Askese. Geschlecht und Geschichte der Selbstdisziplinierung* (2005); *Engineering Life. Narrationen vom Menschen in Biomedizin, Kultur und Literatur* (2008).

Jeffrey Packer (Utah Valley University), received his PhD in German Studies at UC, He focuses his research and publications on 20th-century German literature. His interest in Berlin and German unification is related to his having spearheaded, in 2009, a series of events at his university in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. He champions such hands-on outreach to American students and founded and leads an experiential learning program in Berlin on an annual basis. His paper reflects his originality of mind, a refreshing and relevant consideration of popular culture in Berlin.

Richard Schade (University of Cincinnati) was awarded a Taft Research Fellowship in AY 2006-07, so that he might further explore the writings of the Nobel Prize-winning author Günter Grass. His research since then has resulted in the publication of 11 juried articles in leading professional journals (*Monatshefte, German Studies Review*) as well as 3 book chapters by invitation. His current scholarship focuses on Grass's political agenda in his autobiographical writings, to include an examination and critique of his globally controversial prose poem on Israel's nuclear policies, the so-called 'Israel Poem. — From 1996-2012, he was the Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic in the OKI region. In 2014, he was co-director of the committee tasked with organizing the gala event in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall at the National Underground Railroad Museum Freedom Center, downtown Cincinnati on November 9.

Qinna Shen (Miami University) is first and foremost a young and well-published scholar on German film. As such her expertise is relevant to the Center for Media Studies at UC. She has

chosen, however, to present a comparative study on the events in 1989 in China, Tiananmen Square, and the events in Germany and Berlin leading up to the fall of the Berlin Wall. What makes her proposal so very intriguing, is that she was among those in Beijing in 1989, a witness to and participant in the Chinese student demonstrations. As she argues, it was the tragic suppression in China that tied the hands of East German and Soviet authorities later in the year all over Germany. Such an authentic voice will significantly enrich the Cincinnati conference, a singular opportunity not to be missed.

Hartmut von Sass (Zurich) holds a doctorate of theology with research grants that took him to Claremont University, the Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, and Oxford's Centre for Theology at Trinity College -- a distinguished record of achievement for the young scholar. His publication record at this stage of his career is second to none -- several monographs, 27 articles, not to mention three tightly packed pages listing professional papers presented at conferences. All of this will be brought to bear on an analysis of the status of the East German church post Unification. This topic is particularly important because the non-violent demonstrations which brought about the fall of the Communist regime emanated from East Germany's churches. Not incidentally, the current chancellor, Angela Merkel, and the president of Germany, Joachim Gauch, each emerged from the East's ecclesiastical background to become political leaders in the Berlin Republic.

- c. Evaluation Committee: We have asked Jana Braziel (Africana Studies), Sigrun Haude (History), Gila Naveh (Judaic Studies), and Joel Wolfe (Political Science) to serve on the evaluation committee.