

“Narratives of Modernity: From Lessing to Luhmann”

June 15-July 24, 2009

This seminar will explore the narrative construction of modernity from the Enlightenment to the recent present. Discussions will be located at a discursive juncture where methodological reflections on an expanded narratology intersect with theories and philosophies of history. Analytical issues that come to the fore at this juncture have ramifications throughout the Humanities and Social Sciences. Narrative is a highly plastic form that establishes patterns of continuity and discontinuity while holding options open and tolerating ambiguities. Its power as an instrument for the rendering of socio-cultural worlds resides in its flexibility: its temporal openness, its plurality of perspectives, and its transformability. The capacity of narrative to provide frameworks of self-understanding is especially salient in the case of large-scale collective processes that, although unavailable to perceptual inspection, nevertheless must be observed if society is to achieve an account of itself. Since the last third of the eighteenth century, the concept of history has formed such an instrument of self-interpretation and one of the most contested areas within this interpretation has been the construal of modernity. This is the zone of inquiry the 2009 Interdisciplinary Summer Seminar in German Studies will endeavor to chart. Discussions will be centered on exemplary texts from the eighteenth century to the present as well as on participants' research.

Director: David E. Wellbery, LeRoy T. and Margaret Deffenbaugh Carlson University Professor (Germanic Studies, Comparative Literature, Committee on Social Thought), University of Chicago.

Program: The seminar will be administered by the Department of Germanic Studies and will combine seminar meetings, discussions, and guest lectures. Seminar meetings will be conducted in English and all readings will be available in English translation. **The seminar will be held at the University of Chicago.**

Tuition: Participants are eligible for a DAAD travel/housing stipend. A non-refundable \$50 administrative fee is required of all participants.

Eligibility: Participation is open to faculty members in the Humanities and Social Sciences at colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada. Applicants who have received their Ph.D.'s within the past two years but do not yet hold faculty appointments are encouraged to apply. Graduate students and Ph.D. candidates are not eligible. Participants are expected to have an active interest in German intellectual and cultural history and must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. or Canada.

Application Deadline: March 1, 2009.

For application information please visit www.daad.org/?p=48512/

Please send completed applications to David Wellbery (address below)

For questions please contact:

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Or

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