

# Department of English Annual Report 2015

## 1 Events and activities of the Department

### 1.1 News, changes and major issues in 2015

The English department looks back on a successful year. Academic discussion and exchange was upheld in 2015 with lecture series, workshops, conferences and visits by scholars at the department (see sections 1.4 and 1.5), as well as with excursions (see section 1.7) and numerous conference presentations and publications by our staff members nationally and internationally. In 2015, our staff published 5 monographs, 9 edited collections, 1 special issue, and 1 work of poetry next to numerous essays in international peer-reviewed journals and essay collections (see sections 2.1 and 2.2).

Apart from individual research activities, our senior researchers directed a solid number of research projects:

- Ina Habermann: *British Literary and Cultural Discourses of Europe*
- Miriam Locher: *Language and Health Online*
- Philipp Schweighauser:
  - *Of Cultural, Poetic, and Medial Alterity: The Scholarship, Poetry, Photographs, and Films of Edward Sapir, Ruth Fulton Benedict, and Margaret Mead*
  - *Beckett's Media System: A Comparative Study in Multimediality.* (for more details see section 1.3).



Display of the 2015 publications at the book launch party

Several of us played important institutional roles in national and international research institutions: Miriam Locher joined the *Journal of Pragmatics* as Associate Editor and continued to serve as board member of the *Swiss Association of University Teachers of English* (SAUTE); Philipp Schweighauser continued to serve as President of the *Swiss Association for North American Studies* (SANAS) and Ridvan Askin as the Treasurer of SANAS.

Faculty and staff members also won several awards and grants, among them: Ridvan Askin, Daniela Keller, Melanie Küng, Balázs Rapcsák, Susanna Sargsyan and Michelle Witen (see section 2.4).

In 2015, a number of students again took the opportunity to study a term or two abroad or work as an intern in a British or US American school (see section 1.6). A new bilateral agreement with the City University of Hong Kong was signed in January 2015. In September 2015, the first Chinese student came to Basel and one of our students went to Hong Kong.

The new administrative structure within the *School of Linguistics and Literary Studies* was implemented in August 2015. Alex Van Lierde is now personal assistant to Prof. Ina Habermann and responsible for the book-keeping, course planning, webmastering and facility management of all four philological departments in Nadelberg 4-8. Sixta Quassdorf is personal assistant to Prof. Miriam Locher and Prof. Philipp Schweighauser and in addition exchange coordinator and student advisor for all the students studying German, English, Nordic and Slavic philology. Heike Behrens changed offices and is now located in the German seminar, but of course remains affiliated with us.

### 1.2 General Data

- Head of English: Prof. Dr. Miriam Locher
- On leave in 2015: Prof. Dr. Habermann ST 2015 (unpaid leave/maternity leave)  
Daniela Keller ST 2015 (University of Sussex)
- New colleagues: Rahel Ackermann Hui (student assistant), Daria Dayter (Ass. Locher), , PD Dr. Christiane Schlote (Literature), PD Dr. Julia Straub (Literature, ST 15), Dustin Breitenwischer (Literature, ST 15, staff exchange with University of Freiburg i. Br.)
- Parting colleagues: Daniel Allemann, Therese Steffen
- Visiting scholars: Juraj Lukac (University of Prešov, Slovakia, SCIEX scholarship Oct. 2014 – Sep. 2015)  
Bethan Benwell (University of Stirling, UK, 1 April – 31 May 2015)  
Bingjun Yang (Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China, Sep. 2015 – Aug. 2016)
- Registered students: 352 BA (101 new in AT 2015) / 81 MA / 19 PhD (in total 452 registered students)  
2 high school students in ST 2015
- Degrees in 2015: ST 2015: 59 BA / 16 MA / 1 PhD (Andreas Högler)  
AT 2015: BA<sup>1</sup> / 17 MA

### 1.3 SNF Projects at the Department of English

- SNF Project: *Language and Health Online*  
Director: Prof. Dr. Miriam Locher  
Team: Franziska Thurnherr and Marie-Thérèse Rudolf von Rohr  
Period: October 2012 – September 2015, Extension granted until 31 January 2016.

- SNF Project: *British Literary and Cultural Discourses of Europe*  
Director: Prof. Dr. Ina Habermann  
Team: Blanka Blagojevic, Melanie Küng and Susanna Sargsyan  
Period: March 2014 – February 2017

- SNF Project: *Of Cultural, Poetic, and Medial Alterity: The Scholarship, Poetry, Photographs, and Films of Edward Sapir, Ruth Fulton Benedict, and Margaret Mead*  
Director: Prof. Dr. Philipp Schweighauser  
Team: Dr. Silvy Chakkalakal and Astrid Elisabeth Reichel  
Period: August 2014 – July 2017

- SNF Project: *Beckett's Media System: A Comparative Study in Multimediality.*  
Director: Prof. Dr. Philipp Schweighauser  
Team: Balázs Rapcsák  
Period: November 2015 – October 2018



Ina Habermann

### 1.4 Conferences and workshops at the Department of English, Basel

- Workshop with Maurice Fitzpatrick (Cologne): *Translations Revisited*, 30 April 2015  
Organiser: Ina Habermann
- Conference and workshop: *Swiss South African Joint Research Programme (SSAJRP) 2009-2015*, 9-10 June 2015  
Co-organiser: Therese Steffen with Olivier Moreillon
- Workshop *Fictionality, Narrativity, Literariness: Speculative Approximations*, 11-12 June 2015  
Organisers: Ridvan Askin and A. Elisabeth Reichel

<sup>1</sup> The numbers of the BA graduates are not yet published.

Workshop with Patricia MacCormack (Anglia Ruskin University): *Queering Posthumanisms*, 1 December 2015

Organiser: Ridvan Askin and A. Elisabeth Reichel

Workshop with Adele Goldberg (Princeton), Marjolijn Verspoor (Groningen) and Elizabeth Wonnacott (London).

*Usage-based language learning: perspectives from L1 and L2 acquisition*, 21 October 2015

Organiser: Florent Pérek

Workshop with Prof. Elmar Schenkel (Leipzig): *Facing the East and the West*, 10-12 December 2015

Organisers: Ina Habermann, Blanka Blagojevic, Melanie Küng and Susanna Sargsyan (SNF project *British Literary and Cultural Discourses of Europe*)

### 1.5 Guest lectures at the Department of English, Basel

- 17 Mar Nadine Chariatte (Bern): From the Initial Interest in "Why do people often communicate in very 'strange' ways on Social Media?" to a Research Project on CMC
- 30 Mar Nick Havely (York): Dyce and Dante - The Fortunes of an Early Victorian Francesca
- 15 Apr Efraim Sicher (Beersheba, Israel): The Conversion of Jessica - Race, Gender and Religion in The Merchant of Venice
- 21 Apr Milan Ferencik (Prešov): Je ne suis pas Charlie. Metadiscourses of Impoliteness Following the "France's 9/11" in Selected Media
- 21 Apr Juraj Lukac (Presov): Sociosemiotic Aspects of Electronic Communication
- 5 May Will Kaufmann (Lancashire): Woody Guthrie - The Long Road to Peekskill
- 26 May Benjamin Noys (Chichester): Matter against Materialism? Bruno Latour and the Problem of Abstraction (NDiT Lecture)
- 22 Oct Adele Goldberg (Princeton): The Language and Psychology of Conventional Metaphors of Space and Taste (Ringvorlesung *Sprache und Raum*)
- 26 Oct Susanne Mühleisen (Bayreuth): Trinidadian Creole Typology.
- 10 Nov Klaus P. Schneider (Bonn): Variational Pragmatics
- 12 Nov Peter Auer (Freiburg): Space and Place: Aspekte und Möglichkeiten sprachgeografischer Forschung (Ringvorlesung *Sprache und Raum*)
- 17 Nov Edgar Landgraf (Bowling Green State University): Postmodern Realities: Don DeLillo's *White Noise* and Luhmann's Systems Theory
- 19 Nov Lars Konieczny (Freiburg): Embodied Language Comprehension (Ringvorlesung *Sprache und Raum*)
- 24 Nov Wendy Law-Yone (London): Reading and discussion of her latest works
- 26 Nov Maurice Fitzpatrick (Cologne): Seamus Heaney
- 26 Nov Andreas Jucker (Zürich) and Miriam Locher (Basel): Negotiation of Space in *Second Life* Newbie Interaction (Ringvorlesung *Sprache und Raum*)
- 30 Nov Patricia MacCormack (Anglia Ruskin University): Nonhuman Queerings (NDiT Lecture)



Nadine Chariatte at her lecture

### 1.6 Exchange programs

Partner universities in 2015:

John F. Kennedy Institute (FU Berlin)  
 University of Manchester  
 University of Orléans  
 University of Rennes  
 University of Eastern Piedmont, Vercelli  
 University of Vienna

University of Cardiff  
 University of Munich  
 University of Paris VII  
 University of Torino  
 Center for American Studies Warsaw  
 City University of Hong Kong.

On 2 December 2015, some 90 students attended the annual information meeting "Erasmus & Co". The departmental coordinator, Sixta Quassdorf, and the institutional coordinator, Andrea Delpho, from the Exchange Office informed about the various exchange programs offered by the University and other exchange agencies. The Press and Cultural Attaché of the US Embassy in Switzerland, Ms Stephanie Morimura, talked about the Fulbright program by the US Government and various further opportunities of spending time in the US. In addition, several former and current exchange students from Basel and abroad reported about their experiences and answered questions.

The following students of the Department of English in Basel went abroad as exchange students:

Anna-Katharina Block (ST 15, Virginia Tech, USA)	Sabine Hobi (ST 15, U of Missouri-St. Louis, USA via MAUI)
Katja Katic (ST 15, U of Central Oklahoma, USA)	Felix Kurer (ST 15, Stirling)
Noëmi Preissig (ST 15, Utrecht, via Hist. Dpt.)	Mara Schwab (ST 15, Edinburgh, via Hist. Dpt.)
Laura Gianesi (AT 15, Rennes)	Denise Kaufmann (AT 15, Stirling)
Kathrin Rietze (AT 15, Manchester)	Stephanie Riva (AT 15, Hong Kong)
Deborah Nussbaumer (AT 15/ST 16 Fresno State University, self-organised)	

In-coming student: Emilie Gillet from Orléans (AT 14/ST 15)  
 Liu Chui Ha from Hong Kong (AT 15)  
 Klaudia Teresa Laczynska from Warsaw (AT 15)  
 Natalia Montejano from Madrid (AT 15)  
 Clara Galván García from Madrid (AT 15/ST 16)

The following students went to the UK or the USA as assistant teachers:

Andrea Wüst (UK 14/15)  
 Fiona Vincent (USA 15/16)

### 1.7 Excursions and special events

2-4 June Field trip to London in the context of the seminar "London" in ST 2015: including visits to Deptford High Street, Elephant and Castle development, House of Commons, Whitechapel gallery, Sir John Soanes Museum, grave of Karl Marx, Highgate cemetery, Soho walk and National Theatre rooftop drinks (organiser: Peter Burleigh)

14 June Bloomsday had to be shifted from 16<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June this year, yet it was just as enthusiastically celebrated with sketches from the "Ithaca" and "Penelope" chapters of *Ulysses*, musical acts from 4 bands, and a culinary odyssey through *Ulysses* and the stories of *Dubliners* to also mark the *Dubliners* publication centenary on this occasion: The culinary odyssey focused on potato and lemon references this time. Once again, some 200+ people attended the event. (organiser: Michelle Witen)

25-30 Aug Excursion to Stratford upon Avon: The 11 students participated in several workshops and discussion rounds and enjoyed the performances of *Volpone*, *Othello*, *The Jew of Malta* and *The Merchant of Venice* of the RSC. (organiser: Daniela Keller)

25 Nov Book launch: In 2015 staff members and associates of the Department of English published 5 monographs, 9 edited collections, 1 special issue and 1 work of poetry. This was celebrated with the colleagues and students of the department and the faculty. (organisers: Miriam Locher, Sixta Quassdorf)



Participants of the London Field Trip

### 1.8 Further events and activities

8 Jan University-wide information day for prospective BA students (Maturandentag) (representatives: Catherine Diederich and Daniela Keller)



- 19 Mar University-wide information day for prospective MA students (MA-Infotag). (representatives: Catherine Diederich and Michelle Witen)
- 1 April Pub Crawl (organiser: FG)
- 4 May Staff excursion: Guided tour through the architectural highlights at Vitra, Weil am Rhein (Germany) (organiser: Sixta Quassdorf)
- 30 May End-of-term barbecue (organiser: FG)
- 14 Sep Welcome and information meeting for first-semester students (organiser: Michelle Witen)
- 18 Sep City Tour and Pub Crawl (organiser: FG)
- 30 Oct Halloween Party (organiser: FG)
- 25 Nov Christmas dinner (organiser: Sixta Quassdorf)
- 27 Nov Movie Night: Star Wars, Episode VI (organiser: FG)
- 2 Dec "Erasmus & Co." - Exchange fair with the guests Andrea Delpho, International Office, Stephanie Morimura, US Embassy in Berne, as well as former and current exchange students (organiser: Sixta Quassdorf)
- 4 Dec Screening of *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* for first semester students as part of the program for the course with 40 attendees (organiser: Michelle Witen)



Philipp Schweighauser, Franziska Gygax, visiting scholar Bethan Benwell (front row) and others at the staff excursion to Vitra on 4 May 2015

### 1.9 Fachgruppe (FG) – Students' Association

As every year, the FG organised several social events for the students like movie nights, barbecues, pub crawls and the like (see 1.8). The FG keeps a website and offers general support to the students. The FG also welcomed the new students at the introductory meeting with an apéro.

### 1.10 The Gay Beggars:

The theatre group of the Department of English produced *Take Five – 5 Short Plays* by David Ives which was performed on 10 dates in October. The preparations for the next production *Lords and Ladies* by Terry Pratchett, scheduled for 22 April – 7 May 2016, have already started. In other words, the show will go on!

## 2 Academic activities of individual staff members and affiliated staff

### 2.1 Lectures/Papers/Talks/Workshops given by staff members and Basel PhD students

- Askin, Ridvan. "Emerson's System." International Workshop *Literature and Philosophy*, University of St. Gallen, 16-17 October 2015.
- Askin, Ridvan. "'PLURALISM = MONISM': Deleuze and Guattari's 'Magic Formula' and the Disfiguration of Narrative." International Conference *Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari: Refrains of Freedom*, Panteion University Athens, 24-26 April 2015.
- Askin, Ridvan. "The Literary Object and the Object of Literature." International Workshop *Fictionality, Narrativity, Literariness: Speculative Approximations*, University of Basel, 11-12 June 2015.
- Behrens, Heike and Karin Madlener. "A usage-based approach to (instructed) second language acquisition." International Cognitive Linguistics Conference (ICLC 13), Northumbria University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 20-25 July 2015. Organisers and discussants of the theme session.
- Behrens, Heike, Karin Madlener and Katrin Skoruppa. "A usage-based perspective on (preschool) language diagnostics." *Thinking, Doing, Learning 2* (TDL2), University of Groningen, 3-6 June 2015.
- Behrens, Heike, Stefani Haberzettl, Natalia Kapica, Karin Madlener, Giulio Pagonis, Maïke Schug and Katrin Skoruppa. "Different routes to spatial language in multilingual preschoolers with German as L2." International Conference *Issues of Multilingualism in Early Childhood Education*. University of Rome III, Rome, 26-27 November 2015.
- Burckhardt, Ariane. "Inside/Out & Outside/In: Body and Space in Autopathographics." *Comics & Medicine* 2015 conference, Riverside (CA), July 2015.

- Burleigh, Peter R. "Detritus as Chance. Pluralism through Monism: We Are Basically Talking Post-Internet." International Conference *Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari: Refrains of Freedom*, Panteion University Athens, 25 April 2015. Panel convenor and paper presentation.
- Burleigh, Peter R. "Photogenic Intensions." Central St. Martins University of the Arts, London, 6 June 2015.
- Burleigh, Peter R. "The Queen's Target." *Practice 5*. KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, 30 June 2015. Panel convenor and paper presentation.
- Burleigh, Peter R. "Photogenic Intensions: Observations on Technical Images." Research Colloquium of the Dept. of English Basel, 31 March 2015.
- Dayter, Daria and Sofia Rüdiger. "Language in an Online Community of Pick-up Artists: Reconstructing Experience." Workshop *The Ethics of Online Research Methods*, BAAL Language and New Media SIG, Cardiff, 16-17 April 2015.
- Dayter, Daria. "Boundary Work Through Personal Narrative: Becoming a Ballet Student on Twitter." *Personal Narrative Online* Conference, University of Bayreuth, 27 June 2015.
- Dayter, Daria. "Corpus-Based Approach to the Study of Simultaneous Interpreting." Research Colloquium of the Dept. of English Basel, 6 October 2015.
- Diederich, Catherine. "Adapting Food Descriptions to Specialized and Public Contexts." 14th International Pragmatics Conference, Antwerp, 26-31 July 2015.
- Gygax, Franziska. "Narrating Illness: Literature and Medicine." Workshop *Was ist Medizin? Perspektiven aus den Humanities*, University of Zürich, 5 November 2015. Keynote speaker.
- Gygax, Franziska. "What's in a Portrait: Gertrude Stein and Portraying Lives." International Auto/Biography Association Europe (IABA) on *Dialogical Dimensions in Narrating Lives and Life Writing*, Funchal (Madeira), 27-29 May 2015.
- Hänggi, Christian. "17 Vignetten über die Befindlichkeit der politisch Rechten." Autonome Schule Zürich, 10 November 2015.
- Hänggi, Christian. "5-Uhr-These: Die Werbung globalisiert und kommerzialisiert unsere Weltbilder." Talk with Daniel Morgenthaler in the context of the exhibition *Weltbilder 6*, Helmhaus Zürich, 16 December 2015.
- Hänggi, Christian. "'A-and wait'll those kazoos come on!' – Pynchon's *Little Instrument of Resistance*." *thefidget* space, Philadelphia, 13 February 2015. With Peter Price, kazoo and electronics live mix.
- Hänggi, Christian. "Out-of-Home Advertising: Ethical Ramifications in Free Markets." Kennesaw State University, 2 March 2015.
- Hänggi, Christian. "Pynchon's Harmonica: From Hitler's Germany to Nixon's America and beyond. Way beyond." Marlene Tavern & Wine Bar, Queens, NY., 26 April 2015; and *thefidget* space, Philadelphia, 27 April 2015. With Tyler Burba, guitar, harmonica, vocals.
- Hänggi, Christian. "Pynchon's Saxophone." The Bookshop, Phoenix, 21 March 2015.
- Hänggi, Christian. "Stammtisch-Gespräch über Werbung (with Mathis Füssler)." Schweizerischer Werkbund, Zürich, 31 August 2015.
- Hänggi, Christian. "The Kazoo and the Saxophone: Pynchon's Lessons in Organology." Eyedrum, Atlanta, 27 February 2015. With Caleb Herron, kazoo, and Reese Burgan, saxophones.
- Hänggi, Christian. "Who Owns the Advertising Spaces?" Kennesaw State University, 4 March 2015.
- Hohl, Regula. "Surprized by Joy(ce)." Lecture within the series *A Survey of English Literature IV: Fin de siècle to the Present Day*. University of Basel, 22 October 2015.
- Keller, Daniela. "John le Carré's Poetics of Light." *Spying on Spies* Conference, Warwick Business School, London, 4 September 2015.
- Keller, Daniela. "Reading Germany through the Lens of Quantum Physics." English Graduate Seminar, University of Sussex, 22 May 2015.
- Küng, Melanie. "Addressing the Blind Spots of Memory: Novels about the German Occupation of the Channel Islands." EUCOR PhD Conference 2015, Université Haute-Alsace, Mulhouse, 10 April 2015.
- Langlotz, Andreas. "'L'accident langagier': Comment se remettre d'une aphasie? – Le cas du Prof. Jürg Schwyter." University of Lausanne, 28 April 2015.

- Langlotz, Andreas. "Woher kommt die englische Sprache?" University for Children, University of Basel, 21 and 23 April 2015.
- Locher, Miriam A. "Interpersonal Pragmatics – Relational Work – (Im)Politeness." *Language, Literature & Culture in a Changing Transatlantic World III*, Prešov University, 10-12 September 2015. Keynote speaker.
- Locher, Miriam A. "Questions in and about interpersonal pragmatics." The 9<sup>th</sup> International Im/Politeness Conference, Athens, 3 July 2015.
- Locher, Miriam A. "Typing Yourself Healthy. Online Health Communication from an Interpersonal Pragmatics Perspective." Micro-Analysis of Online Data Conference: *Online Communication, Discourse and Context* (MOOD-Z), Zürich, 16 July 2015. Keynote speaker.
- Lorente, Beatriz P. and Kasper Juffermans. "Language and the Black Box of Migration." The Sociolinguistics of Globalization conference at the University of Hong Kong, 3-6 June 2015. Panel organisers.
- Lorente, Beatriz P. and Sebastian Muth. "A Web of Care: Linguistic Resources and the Management of Labor in the Swiss Healthcare Industry." Panel *Communicating Bodies: New Juxtapositions of Medical and Linguistic Anthropology*. MAGic conference, University of Sussex, 9-11 September 2015.
- Lorente, Beatriz P. and Stefanie Meier. "Making Legitimate Speakers: Preparing Philippine Nurses for Work in Germany and Switzerland." Panel *Language and the Black Box of Migration*. The Sociolinguistics of Globalization conference, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, 3-6 June 2015.
- Marti, Markus. "Bearbeitungen von Titus Andronicus." Lecture series on Shakespeare, Schauspielhaus Münster, 23 November 2015.
- Messerli, Thomas. "Clashing Intentions and Incongruities across Layers of Action: Humour within the Participation Structure of Telecinematic Discourse." 27th Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies, Holy Names University, Oakland (CA), 29 June – 3 July 2015.
- Messerli, Thomas. "'Good day! I said good day!': Sitcom Catchphrases as Repeated Incongruities." *Language, Literature & Culture in a Changing Transatlantic World III*, Prešov University, 10-12 September 2015.
- Messerli, Thomas. "Multimodal Repetition in Telecinematic Humour." Panel *How to do Things with Films – The Pragmatics of Telecinematic Discourse*, 14th International Pragmatics Conference, University of Antwerp, 26-31 July 2015.
- Moreillon, Olivier and Danyla Demir. "In Favour of a 'Distant Reading' of SA Literature." Round Table Discussion *Current Trends and Future Perspectives in South African Literature*. 41st Annual Conference of the African Literature Association: *African Futures and Beyond: Visions in Transition*, University of Bayreuth, 3-6 June 2015.
- Pérek, Florent, Dagmar Divjak and Lily FitzGibbon. "Do Pattern Detection Abilities Facilitate Processing? Evidence from Naturalistic Self-paced Reading." ICLC 13, Newcastle, 20-25 July 2015.
- Pérek, Florent. "Distributional Semantic Plots: A Data-driven Approach to Recent Change in Syntactic Productivity." SWELL 2015, Geneva, 20 March 2015.
- Pérek, Florent. "Plotting our Way Through the Data: The Way-Construction Revisited." AFLiCo 6, Grenoble, 27-29 May 2015.
- Reichel, A. Elisabeth. "Literarisierte Musik und musikalisierte Literatur: Die integrative Funktion von Musik in Richard Powers' Roman *The Time of Our Singing*." Artes Liberales, University of Mannheim, 19 February 2015.
- Reichel, A. Elisabeth. "Sonic Others in Early Soundscape Studies and the Poetry of Edward Sapir: A Salvage Operation." *Soundscapes and Sonic Cultures in America*. 42nd Austrian Association for American Studies Conference, University of Graz, 6-8 November 2015.
- Reichel, A. Elisabeth. "*The Time of Our Singing* by Richard Powers: The Politics of Music and the Musicalization of the Novel." Université de Fribourg, 3 November 2015.
- Reichel, A. Elisabeth. "Words against Words: Cultural and Medial Alterity in the Writing of Margaret Mead." 10th Annual EUCOR English Trinational PhD Conference, Université de Haute-Alsace, Mulhouse, 10 April 2015.



Thomas Messerli with visiting scholar Juraj Lukac in Prešov

- Rudolf von Rohr, Marie-Thérèse, Franziska Thurnherr and Miriam A. Locher. "'Beau, me and Hubby quit Cold Turkey too': The Functions of 'Narratives' in Two Written Online Health Contexts." Personal Narrative Online Conference, University of Bayreuth, 27 June 2015.
- Sargsyan, Susanna. "British Travel Writing about the Mediterranean in the Light of the British Euroscepticism." 18th Annual International Congress of the Mediterranean Studies Association, Greece, 27-30 May 2015.
- Schweighauser, Philipp and Ilja Karenovics. "'A perfectly normal trilingual childhood': Vladimir Nabokov als scharfzüngiger Wandler zwischen Sprachen und Kulturen." Lecture series *Die "Postpferde" der Kultur: Übersetzen zwischen Adaptation und Kreation*, University of Basel, 11 November 2015.
- Schweighauser, Philipp et al. "Other Multiculturalisms - World." *American Multiculturalism in Context*, Université Haut-Alsace, Mulhouse, and Jazz School Basel, 26-28 March 2015. Panel organisers.
- Schweighauser, Philipp et al. "Utopisches Denken jenseits der Repräsentation." Annual Meeting of the Gesellschaft für Medienwissenschaft: *Utopien-Wege aus der Gegenwart*, University of Bayreuth, 30 September - 3 October 2015. Panel organisers.
- Schweighauser, Philipp. "Fredric Jameson: Die Grenzen utopischen Denkens ohne Blaupause." Annual Meeting of the Gesellschaft für Medienwissenschaft: *Utopien-Wege aus der Gegenwart*, University of Bayreuth, 30 September - 3 October 2015.
- Schweighauser, Philipp. and A. Elisabeth Reichel. "Of Cultural, Poetic, and Medial Alterity: The Scholarship, Poetry, Photographs, and Films of Edward Sapir, Ruth Fulton Benedict, and Margaret Mead." Research Colloquium of the Dept. of English Basel, 10 March 2015.
- Schweighauser, Philipp. Discussion with Nicholson Baker of his novels *The Anthologist* and *Travelling Sprinkler*. Literaturhaus Basel, 23 September 2011.
- Steffen, Therese and Lindy Stiebel. "Letters to my Native Soil: Lewis Nkosi writes home (2001-2009)." Book launch at SSAJRP Conference, Basel, 9-10 June 2015.
- Steffen, Therese. "Forms and Functions of 'Passing' in Southasian/Indian, African-American, and South African Texts and Contexts." Farewell lecture, Basel 27 May 2015.
- Steffen, Therese. Introduction and moderation at a reading by Kenneth Bonert. Literaturhaus Basel, 21 May 2015.
- Thurnherr, Franziska and Miriam A. Locher. "'How Can People be So Angry with Me When I'm so Harmless?' or How Language Impacts Identity Construction in Email Counselling." I-MEAN 4 conference, University of Warwick, 9-11 April 2015.
- Thurnherr, Franziska, Marie-Thérèse Rudolf von Rohr and Miriam A. Locher. "Linguistic Expert Creation in Online Health Practices." ADDA conference, University of Valencia, 18-20 November 2015.
- Witen, Michelle. "Time Makes the Tune." Zurich James Joyce +Foundation Annual Workshop *Timeagen*, Zurich, 2-8 August 2015.
- Witen, Michelle. "Yeats' Insurrectionary Wonderland." Modernist Studies Association: *Modernism and Wonderland*, Boston, 19-22 November 2015.



Franziska Thurnherr and Miriam Locher  
at MOOD-Z in Zürich

## 2.2 Publications by staff members in 2015

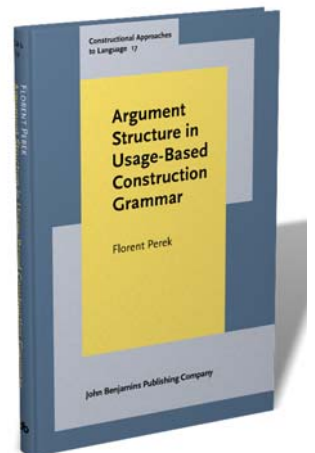
- Askin, Ridvan and Philipp Schweighauser, eds. *Literature, Ethics, Morality: American Studies Perspectives*. Tübingen: Gunter Narr, 2015.
- Askin, Ridvan. "Prolegomenon to a Differential Theory of Narrative." *SubStance* 44.3 (2015): 155-170.
- Behrens, Heike. "The Acquisition of Grammatical Categories." *The Cambridge Handbook of Child Language*. Eds Edith L. Bavin and Letitia R. Naigles. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015. 250-270.
- Behrens, Heike. "Sprachbewusstsein und Sprachgebrauch: Perspektiven der empirischen Linguistik." *Sprachbewusstsein und Sprachgebrauch: Implikationen für die Sprachtheorie*. Eds Regula Schmidlin, Heike Behrens and Hans Bickel. Berlin, Boston: de Gruyter, 2015. 1-16.



- Bolander, Brook and Miriam A. Locher. "'Peter Is a Dumb Nut': Status Updates and Reactions to them as 'Acts of Positioning' in Facebook." *Pragmatics* 25.1 (2015): 99-122.
- Dayter, Daria. "Rev. of Sindoni, Maria Grazia. *Spoken and Written Discourse in Online Interactions: A Multimodal Approach*." *Discourse Studies* 3 (2015): 1-18.
- Dayter, Daria. "Small Stories and Extended Narratives on Twitter." *Discourse, Context & Media* 10 (2015): 19-26.
- Demir, Danyela, Olivier Moreillon and Alan Muller. "In Search for a 'Rockstar': Remembering Kabelo Sello Duiker 10 Years on." *Current Writing* 27.1 (2015): 26-37.
- Diederich, Catherine. *Sensory Adjectives in the Discourse of Food: A Frame-Semantic Approach to Language and Perception*. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2015.
- Grob, Thomas and Sabina Horber, eds. *Moskau-Metropole zwischen Kultur und Macht*. Wien: Böhlau, 2015.
- Gygax, Franziska and Miriam A. Locher, eds. *Narrative Matters in Medical Contexts across Disciplines*. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2015. Studies in Narrative.
- Gygax, Franziska and Miriam A. Locher. "Introduction to Narrative Matters in Medical Contexts across Disciplines." *Narrative Matters in Medical Contexts across Disciplines*. Eds Franziska Gygax and Miriam A. Locher. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2015. 1-14. Studies in Narrative.
- Gygax, Franziska. "Edith Sitwell: Stein and Sitwell in Echo." *Gertrude Stein in Europe: Reconfigurations Across Media, Disciplines, and Traditions*. Eds Sarah Posman and Laura Luise Schultz. London: Bloomsbury, 2015. 71-84.
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- Rellstab, Daniel H. and Christiane Schlote, eds. *Representations of War, Migration, and Refugeehood. Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. New York and Abingdon: Routledge, 2015.
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### 2.3 *Dissertations and habilitations at the Department of English*

- Askin, Ridvan. Transcendental Poetics and the Futures of American Romanticism. (habil.)
- Blagojevic, Blanka. Europe East and West: Negotiations of a Blurry Borderline.
- Burckhardt, Ariane. Dis-ordered Minds in Contemporary American Graphic Memoirs.
- Burleigh, Peter. Photographic Topographies: Deleuzian Readings of Photography.
- Caci, Ursula. Locating Gender in Space: Emily Dickinson's Conception of Gender.
- Dayter, Daria. Corpus-Based Approach to the Study of Simultaneous Interpreting. (habil.)
- De Sousa, Savitri. Diasporic Topographies: Notions of Dislocation and Relocation of Family in Postcolonial Anglo-Indian Literature and Cinema.
- Diederich, Catherine. A Usage-Based Approach to the Use of Discourse Markers by Native and Non-Native Speakers of English. (habil.)
- Hägler, Andreas. Aesthetic Experience and Contemporary American Literature. (completed in November 2015)
- Hänggi, Christian. Thomas Pynchon's Sonic Fictions.
- Hohl Trillini, Regula. Casual Shakespeare: Verbal Traces 1550-1840. (habil.)
- Keller, Daniela. Literary Depictions of Germany in Contemporary British Fiction.
- Küng, Melanie. Stranded Dialogue: Identity, Memory and the English Channel.
- Lüthi, Daniel. Mapping the Sense of Humour - Literary Geography and Terry Pratchett's *Discworld* Novels.
- Meier, Stefanie. Beyond Borders - Language and Migration of Philippine Nurses to Germany and Switzerland.
- Messerli, Thomas. Repetition in Telecinematic Humour.
- Moffatt, Victoria. A Comparative Study of Representations of the Other in Selected Works of Joseph Conrad.
- Moreillon, Olivier. In Between Spaces: Black/Coloured Residential Areas and Townships – Their Depiction and Function in Recent South African Literature.
- Quaßdorf, Sixta. "A little more than kin" – Quotations as a Linguistic Phenomenon: A Study Based on Quotations from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. (submitted in October 2015)
- Rapcsák, Balázs. Beckett's Media System: A Comparative Study in Multimediality.
- Reichel, A. Elisabeth. Sonic and Visual Others in the Poetry of Edward Sapir, Ruth Fulton Benedict and Margaret Mead.
- Rudolf von Rohr, Marie-Thérèse. Persuasion in Smoking Cessation Online.
- Sargsyan, Susanna. South – Between the Pillars of Hercules and the Hellespont.
- Thurnherr, Franziska. Relational Work in Email Counseling.
- Witen, Michelle. The Cultural Material and Material Culture of Serialized Fiction from 1850-1870. (habil.)



Phd students A. Elisabeth Reichel and Balázs Rapcsák

### 2.4 *Prizes and Awards*

Askin, Ridvan:

- Amerbach Prize, for PhD thesis "Narrative and Becoming: Differential Narratology", University of Basel, 27 November 2015.
- EARS Prize 2015, Honorable mention for PhD thesis "Narrative and Becoming: Differential Narratology", 4 December 2015.

Keller, Daniela:

- Admitted visiting scholar, School of English, University of Sussex (Jan – July 2015)

Küng, Melanie:

- Admitted visiting scholar within the *Visiting Scholar Scheme* of the School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow (Jan – May 2016).

Rapcsák, Balázs

- SNF PhD Research Grant

Sargsyan, Susanna

- Admitted visiting PhD student at the Faculty of History at the University of Cambridge, UK (Michaelmas term 2015)
- Admitted visiting PhD student at the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR) at the University of Oxford, UK (for Hilary term 2016)

Witen, Michelle

- Admitted visiting fellow, Exeter College, University of Oxford (for Jan-June 2016)

## 2.5 Further individual activities of staff members

Prof. Dr. Heike Behrens:

- Editor, *Journal of Child Language*, 2010-2015
- Member of the executive committee of the *International Association for the Study of Child Language* (IASCL), 2011-2015
- Member of the *Schweizer Wissenschafts- und Technologierat* (SWTR), 2008-2015
- Member of the academic advisory board of the *Hermann Paul Centre for Linguistics* (HPCL). University of Freiburg i. Br. (since 1 November 2009)
- External academic member of the *Interdisciplinary Centre for Lexicography, Valency and Collocation Research*, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg (since 1 July 2010).
- Reviewer for several international, peer-reviewed journals

Prof. Dr. Ina Habermann:

- Director of the Centre of Competence *Cultural Topographies*
- Vice-Director of the School of Linguistics and Literary Studies, University of Basel (since August 2015)
- Member of the search committee *Political Science: Focus Asia*
- Member of the research committee, University of Basel
- Representative at the committee *Young Academics*
- Member of the editorial board of the *Journal for the Study of British Cultures* (since 2013)
- Member of the *Stiftungsrat Telebasel*

Prof. Dr. Miriam Locher

- Associate editor of *The Journal of Pragmatics* (2015-2018)
- Secretary, webmaster and responsible for the database of the *Swiss Association of University Teachers of English* (SAUTE)
- Responsible for the SAUTE publication *English Studies at Swiss Universities* (ESSU)
- Webmaster and responsible for the mailing list of *Swiss Works in English Language and Linguistics* (SWELL)
- Member of the editorial board of *The Pragmatics & Beyond New Series* (Benjamins)
- Member of the advisory editorial board of *Linguistics Online*
- Reviewer for several international, peer-reviewed journals
- Delegate of SAUTE at SAGW
- SCIEX exchange visits Basel-Presov
- Mentoring program: Nadine Chariatte (University of Bern)

Prof. Dr. Philipp Schweighauser

- President of the *Swiss Association for North-American Studies* (SANAS)
- External expert of the *Swiss National Science Foundation*
- Member of the steering committee MOOCs, University of Basel
- Member of the curricula committee of the Faculty of Humanities, Basel
- Member of the library commission at the University of Basel
- External member of the search committee for an Assistant Professor in American Studies (Digital Media and Society), St. Gallen
- Reviewer for *SPELL* (Swiss Papers in English Language and Literature)
- Senior member of the *Graduiertenschule für Geisteswissenschaften* Göttingen



Philipp Schweighauser and Miriam Locher  
at the staff outing to Vitra



- Close cooperation with the International Office Basel, especially with respect to
  - EUCOR
  - Global Perspectives Program
  - Cooperation with the Virginia Tech
  - Cooperation with the City University of Hong Kong
- Expert at matura exams
- Co-organiser of:
  - Joint International Workshop of the Swiss Philosophical Society and SANAS: *Literature & Philosophy*. University of St. Gallen, 16-17 October, 2015.

Prof. Dr. Franziska Gyga

- Advisory board of *European Journal of Life Writing*
- Faculty member of the *Graduiertenkolleg Geschlechterverhältnisse-Normalisierung und Transformation*, University of Basel
- Expert at Matura exams

Prof. em. Werner Brönnimann



Werner Brönnimann listening to Andrew Shields' poems at the book launch party

- General editor of *Englisch-deutsche Studienausgabe der Dramen Shakespeares*
- Board member of the *German Shakespeare Association*
- Auditor of SANAS
- Jury member *Lehnert Award German Shakespeare Association*
- Organiser of a Stratford excursion with 15 members of the *German Shakespeare Association* (same time slot as Basel student group)

Prof. em. Balz Engler

- Advisory board member of *Atlantis*
- External expert for the *Swiss National Science Foundation*

Prof. em. Dr. Therese Steffen

- Member of the Swiss South African Joint Research Programme (SSAJRP) and strong involvement in the SSAJRP Project *City in Flux* of the Centre for African Studies, Basel (2011 until 2015)
- Co-organiser of the conference: *Swiss South African Joint Research Programme (SSAJRP) 2009-2015*, Basel, 9 – 10 June 2015

PD Dr. Andreas Langlotz

- Review editor *Yearbook of Phraseology*

Askin, Ridvan

- Treasurer of SANAS
- Delegate of SANAS at SAGW
- Organiser and co-organiser of
  - *New Developments in Theory*. Lecture Series (with Christian Hänggi and A. Elisabeth Reichel). Lectures by Benjamin Noys (Chichester) and Patricia MacCormack (Anglia Ruskin University, s. section 1.5)
  - *Fictionality, Narrativity, Literariness: Speculative Approximations*. International Workshop (with A. Elisabeth Reichel), University of Basel, 11-12 June 2015

Burleigh, Peter

- Organiser of London field trip in June 2015

Diederich, Catherine:

- Member of the *Assistant Association of the University of Basel* (avuba) working group (AAG = Arbeitsgruppe Anstellungsbedingungen) since March 2014
- Deputy representative of the assistants and doctoral students in the examination board and PhD committee of the Humanities, University of Basel, Switzerland (since May 2015)
- Representation of the English Seminar at the information days for prospective BA and MA students
- Participant at HPSL roundtable discussion "'Ein eigener Arbeitsplatz an der Uni muss sein' - On different ways of doing and financing a PhD." Freiburg, 15 July 2015. cf. [http://www.hpsl-linguistics.org/assets/files/HPSL-Newsletter\\_5\\_de\\_en.pdf](http://www.hpsl-linguistics.org/assets/files/HPSL-Newsletter_5_de_en.pdf))
- Expert at Matura exams



Catherine Diederich taking a group selfie at the staff outing to Vitra

Hänggi, Christian Hänggi

- Thomas Pynchon Postdoctoral Research Fellow. European Graduate School, Saas-Fee.
- Exam expert at the Hochschule Luzern (HSLU), January 2015
- Organiser and co-organiser of two events for the "New Developments in Theory" lecture series:
  - Benjamin Noys, 26.05.2015 (lecture)
  - Patricia MacCormack, 30.11./1.12.2015 (lecture and workshop)
- Research and lecture tour through the USA, February–April 2015

Keller, Daniela

- Organiser of Stratford excursion
- Representation of the English Seminar at the information day for prospective MA students (with M. Witen)

Küng, Melanie

- Expert at Matura exams

Lüthi, Daniel

- Reviewer for *Readings Journal* (<http://www.readingsjournal.net>)
- Member of the students' association (FG), Dept. of English Basel

Marti, Markus

- Board member of the *European Shakespeare Research Association* (ESRA)
- Co-organiser of Stratford-Excursion (with Daniela Keller)
- Presenter at the Uni-Nacht 2015: Reading of Shakespeare's Sonettes in *Walliserdeutsch*

Messerli, Thomas

- Expert at Matura exams

Reichel, A. Elisabeth

- (Co-)organiser of the following workshops/lectures
  - Patricia MacCormack (Cambridge): "Art, Nature, Ethics: Nonhuman Queerings" (lecture) and *Queering Posthumanism* (workshop), University of Basel, 30 November-1 December 2015 (with R. Askin)
  - *Fictionality, Narrativity, Literariness: Speculative Approximations*. International Workshop (with Ridvan Askin), University of Basel, 11-12 June 2015
- Additional assistantship (25%) at the Department of English, University of Bern

Quassdorf, Sixta

- Member of the committee for further education, University of Basel
- Co-editor of the SAUTE publication *English Studies at Swiss Universities* (ESSU)

Witen, Michelle

- Initiator and organiser of the *Bloomsday Party* on 16 June 2015 ( 200+ participants)
- Organiser: Welcome Evening for First Semester Students
- Representation of the English Seminar at the information day for prospective MA students (with D. Keller)



Staff outing to Vitra in May 2015 with Ina Habermann, Heike Behrens, Bethan Benwell, A. Elisabeth Reichel, Sabina Horber, Aline Bieri, Catherine Diederich, Daniel Allemann, Johanna Schüpbach, Juraj Lukac, Franziska Gygax, Philipp Schweighauser, Miriam Locher, Sixta Quassdorf, Daria Dayter, Melanie Küng, Susanna Sargsyan, Florent Pérek, Julia Straub, Balázs Rapcsák and Thomas Messerli (left to right)