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Born 1980; 2000-2004, studies in Comparative Literature at the University of Copenhagen (B.A); 2002-3, Cognitive Science at the University of California San Diego; 2004-present, PhD candidate in Comparative Literature at Harvard University; Master of Arts (A.M) at Harvard 2007; Visiting student at Humboldt University 2009/10.

Dissertation project

The Empire of Chance: Literature, Cartography and Philosophy in Napoleonic Europe

Around 1800 warfare undergoes a profound change: the limited wars of the 18th century give way to a large expansion of the space of military operations that effects a transformation of the epistemic conditions of warfare. As one military thinker writes, war has become 'l'empire du hazard.' The dissertation examines, first, warfare as a distinct epistemic regime and, second, the attempts to manage the new state of affairs with narrative and spatial media.

The first part lays out the emerging discourse on contingency in the works of literary authors, military thinkers and philosophers during and in the wake of the Napoleonic Wars. Central to this discourse is a meta-reflection on the ways in which its object can be represented, i.e. on the poetics of contingency.

The rise of new military strategies – the 'grandes opérations' – was dependent on a medium for spatial management: the topographical map. The second part examines the development of the cartographic administration of warfare. Scientific advances, politics, and state bureaucracy came together to produce an extended cartographic network across Europe. The explosion of military cartography during the wars would later transform the map into a discursive object, a literary motif whose spatial and epistemic order was criticized by and contrasted with narrative depictions of war.

The last part examines the theories of how subjects should be trained to cope with the uncertainties of warfare. In addition to the immersion in contingency in actual combat, the somewhat safer method was suggested of immersing individuals in texts. The strategic simulations generated on the surface of the map are here offered a counterpart in the simulations of contingency in the narrative medium.

Advisers

At Harvard University:

Prof. William Mills Todd III, Department of Comparative Literature and Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Prof. Oliver Simons, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

Prof. Tom Conley, Department of Comparative Literature and Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

At Humboldt University:

Prof. Dr. Joseph Vogl, Institut für deutsche Literatur

Academic Publications

Das Geständnis und seine Instanzen, [Co-editor], Wien: Verlag Turia + Kant, *forthcoming* 2010.

"Inquest and Close-up: Carl Th. Dreyer and the Apparatus of Justice 1431/1928" *forthcoming* 2010.

"Kleist's Endings – '(Die Fortsetzung folgt)'" in *Publications of the English Goethe Society*, Volume 78, Numbers 1-2, September 2009, 81-88.

"Spatial Distortion – Kafka's Aphoristic Travels and the Invention of a Literary Form" in *Imaginäre Topographien: Migration und Verortung*, ed. Müller-Richter and Uritescu-Lombard. Bielefeld, Transcript Verlag, 2007, 113-127.

"Den Sande Vej – Om Vejmotivet i Kafkas Zürauer-aforismer" (The True Way - On the Road-motif in Kafka's Zürauer-aphorisms). Published in *Manus* nr. 4, Copenhagen, 2004, 47-61.

"Ubrydelige Konstellationer – Transcendensfilosofiske konflikter i P. B. Shelley's forfatterskab" (Unbreakable Constellations – Philosophical Conflicts of Transcendence in the Works of P. B. Shelley). Published by *Dansk Selskab for Romantikstudier/Danish Society for Studies in Romanticism*, Århus, 2002, 1-41.

Teaching at Harvard 2006-09

Courses

The Novel after Theory, German A, On Theory, How and What Russia Learned to Read,

German 91r – Supervised Reading and Research, Modern European Intellectual History from Nietzsche to Poststructuralism, Russian Culture from the Revolution to Perestroika, Modern Scandinavian Masterpieces: Doubt, Decision and Narrative from Kierkegaard to Dogma '95.

Tutorials

Social Studies 99, Literature 98, Literature 99.

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