

List of Contributors

Stefan Brandt teaches American Literature and Culture at the University of Siegen. He received his education at the Freie Universität Berlin, University of London, Cornell University, Ithaca, and UC Berkeley. He spent several years as a visiting scholar and teacher at universities in the USA and Germany (UC Irvine, UCLA, USC, TU Chemnitz) and worked as a Guest Professor at the John F. Kennedy-Institute in Berlin from 2004 to 2005. He has written two monographs, *Reading as a Man: Constructions of Masculinity in the American Fin de Siècle* (1997) and *The Culture of Corporeality: Aesthetic Experience and the Embodiment of America, 1945-1960* (forthcoming), and edited an anthology on Douglas Sirk's *Imitation of Life*. He has also published widely in the fields of literary and film theory, gender studies, and American cultural history.

Luminita Dragulescu specializes in American Literature of the 20th Century with a focus on both fictional and non-fictional narratives. Her research interests include issues of collective and individual memory, traumatic memory in particular, in texts produced by whites and African Americans and which revolve around racial, economic, and political tensions.

Christian Lassen is a research assistant at the University of Tübingen, Germany. His research interests include queer and gender theory, with a main focus on contemporary literature. He has completed an MA thesis on Alan Hollinghurst and is currently working on a PhD, exploring the functions of camp in representations of homosexual, frequently AIDS-related, loss and mourning.

Dr. Hedwig Wagner is a post-doctoral fellow at the Graduate College "Cultural Hermeneutics: Reflections of Difference and Transdifference" at the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen. She completed her doctoral thesis on the representation of prostitutes in films in 2005 at the Bauhaus-University Weimar. In her post-doctoral research project, which deals with medial aspects of European identity construction, she examines the representation of the border in European film.

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