

## ALAN ITKIN, PH.D.

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### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Adjunct Lecturer, World Language and Literatures, Southern Methodist University, Jan. 2020-Present

Senior Lecturer in German, Vanderbilt University, Aug. 2016-Dec. 2018

Visiting Assistant Professor in Literary Cultures, John W. Draper Interdisciplinary Master's Program in Humanities and Social Thought, New York University, Sept. 2015-Aug. 2016

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Modern Languages and Literatures, Fordham University, Sept.-Dec. 2015

Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow in Literary Cultures, John W. Draper Interdisciplinary Master's Program in Humanities and Social Thought, New York University, Sept. 2012-Aug. 2015

### ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Provost for Graduate Education and Chief of Staff, Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, Southern Methodist University, Feb. 2026-present

Senior Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Chief of Staff, Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, Southern Methodist University, April 2022-Feb. 2026

Assistant Dean, Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, SMU, Aug. 2020-April 2022

Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, SMU, Jan. 2019-Aug. 2020

Assistant Dean for Graduate Education and Research and Director, Master of Liberal Arts and Science Program, College of Arts and Science, Vanderbilt University, Aug. 2017-Dec. 2018

Special Assistant to the Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research, College of Arts and Science, Vanderbilt University, Aug. 2016-2017

### PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Executive Committee Member, Conference of Southern Graduate Schools, July 2024-present

### EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ph.D. Comparative Literature, April 2011.

New York University, M.A. John W. Draper Program in Humanities and Social Thought, 2004.

University of California Berkeley, B.A. with Distinction, 2000. Major: Mathematics

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOK

*Franz Kafka's Worlds* (manuscript in progress)

*Underworlds of Memory: W. G. Sebald's Epic Journeys through the Past*, Chicago: Northwestern University Press, 2017. Reviewed in *The German Quarterly*: <https://doi.org/10.1111/gequ.12052>

### EDITED VOLUME

Jean Améry, On the Hundredth Anniversary of His Birth, Special Section of *The Germanic Review* 89.2 (Spring 2014)

### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

"Of Mirrors and Medusa: Reflections on Literary Representation after the Holocaust," *Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies* 61.3 (Fall 2025): 198-215

"Kafka's Worlds," *The German Quarterly* 94.4 (Fall 2021): 493-508

"Bring Up the Bodies: The Classical Concept of Poetic Vividness and Its Reevaluation in Holocaust Literature," *PMLA* 133.1 (January 2018): 107-23

"Re-Staging 'Degenerate Art': The Politics of Memory in the Berlin Sculpture Find Exhibit," *The German Quarterly* 87.4 (Fall 2014): 395-415

"The Untimely Jean Améry," Introduction to the Special Section, "Jean Améry, on the Hundredth Anniversary of His Birth," *The Germanic Review* 89.2 (Spring 2014): 195-201

"Against the Natural Consciousness of Time: Trauma and Ethics in Améry's *Beyond Guilt and Atonement*," *The Germanic Review* 89.2 (Spring 2014): 249-68

"Orpheus, Perseus, Ahasuerus: Reflection and Representation in Siegfried Kracauer's *Underworlds of History*," *The Germanic Review* 87.2 (Spring 2012): 175-202

### BOOK CHAPTERS AND REVIEWS

Review of *Vergegenwärtigung der Vergangenheit. Geschichtsbilder in W.G. Sebalds Prosa*, Jon Gestermann (Aisthesis, 2020), *Monatshefte*

Review of *Ghostwriting: W. G. Sebald's Poetics of History*, Richard T. Gray (Bloomsbury, 2017), *Monatshefte*

Review of *Revision in Permanenz. Studien zu Jean Amérys politischem Ethos nach Auschwitz*, eds. Sylvia Weiler and Michael Hofmann (Frankfurt a. M.: Peter Lang, 2016), *Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies*

Review of *Exil und Literatur. Neue Perspektiven*, eds. Doerte Bischoff and Susan Komfort-Hein (Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter, 2013), *Gegenwartsliteratur*

“‘Eine Art Eingang zur Unterwelt’: *Katabasis* in Sebald’s *Austerlitz*,” *The Undiscover’d Country: W. G. Sebald and the Poetics of Travel*, ed. Markus Zisselsberger (Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2010): 161-188

#### **ARTICLE REVIEWER**

Article manuscripts reviewed for:

*MLN (Modern Language Notes)*  
*German Quarterly*  
*New German Critique*  
*Modernism/Modernity*

#### **ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Grant-in-Aid for Book Publication Subvention, Center for the Humanities, NYU, Dec. 2015

DAAD Faculty Summer Seminar, “The Futures of Interdisciplinary German Studies,” Dir. Leslie A. Adelson, Institute for German Cultural Studies, Cornell University, June-July 2012

Mary Fair Croushore Graduate Student Fellowship, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, Fall 2010-Spring 2011

Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship, Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan, Winter-Summer 2010

Comparative Literature Study-Abroad Fellowship to study at the Freie Universität in Berlin, Germany, Department of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan, Winter 2008

Cottrell Prize for the Best Graduate Essay, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan, Fall 2007

#### **INVITED TALKS**

“Re-examining ‘World Literature’: Globalization and Literary Writing in Marx and Engels (and Kafka),” Godbey Lecture, Southern Methodist University, March 21, 2023

“Laocoon’s Scream: The Reexamination of the Classical Concept of Pity in Holocaust Literature,” University of Missouri, Department of German and Russian Studies, Nov. 6, 2017

Author Meets Critic Forum, Tennessee Philosophical Association Meeting, Vanderbilt University, Oct. 28, 2017

#### **SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Category Error: The Complicated Intellectual Relationship Between Hannah Arendt and Walter Benjamin,” German Studies Associate Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, Sept. 2024

“Vividness in the Works of Franz Kafka.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Virtual, Jan. 2021

“‘Faced with This Pure Knowledge I Burst into Flames’: The Figure of the Medusa and the Limits of Perpetrator Testimony in Jonathan Littell’s *The Kindly Ones*.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Utrecht, Netherlands, July 2017

“Wounded Masculinity: Nazis in Contemporary Literature and Film,” German Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, Sept.-Oct. 2016

“Bring Up the Bodies: Post-Holocaust Poetics,” German Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., Oct. 2015

“The Signature of the Future: W. G. Sebald and the Scene of Writing,” German Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, Oct. 2013. Panel Organizer: “The Futures of Interdisciplinary German Studies (Faculty Summer Seminar Panel Sponsored by DAAD)”

“Against the Natural Consciousness of Time: Trauma and Ethics in Améry’s *Jenseits von Schuld und Sühne*,” Panel “Remembering Jean Améry,” NYU Deutsches Haus, New York, NY, Dec. 2012

“‘Have Gone to Ithaca’: Sebald’s Epics without Homecoming,” German Studies Association Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI, Sept. 2012. Panel Organizer: “Sebald as World Literature”

## TEACHING

### Southern Methodist University

UHP 4100, *Franz Kafka’s Worlds*, Spring 2022, 2023, 2026

World Language 3316, *Continental Philosophy from Marx to Derrida*, Spring 2020, 2021, Fall 2024

### Vanderbilt University

German 1111, *First-Year Writing Seminar: Pioneers of Literary Modernism*, Fall 2016, 2017

German 5111, *German for Graduate Reading*, Spring 2017

### New York University

Draper MA 1301: *Introduction to Literary Cultures I*, Fall 2012-2015

Draper MA 1302: *Introduction to Literary Cultures II*, Spring 2013-2016

Draper MA 2900: *Preparation for Graduate School: Summer Writing Workshop*, Summer 2015

Draper MA 3001: *Topics in Literary Cultures: The Spaces of Memory*, Fall 2012

Draper MA 3001: *Topics in Literary Cultures: Reflection and Representation*, Fall 2013

Draper MA 3001: *Topics in Literary Cultures: German-Jewish Literature*, Fall 2014

Draper MA 3001: *Topics in Literary Cultures: Poetics after the Holocaust*, Spring 2016

German/Comparative Literature 249: *Introduction to Theory*, Spring 2014

### Fordham University

German 1502: *Intermediate German II*, Fall 2015

### University of Michigan

Comparative Literature 122: *Representing National Tragedy*, Spring 2009

German 100: *Intensive Elementary Course*, Spring 2012

German 101: *Elementary Course*, Fall 2008

German 102: *Elementary Course (cont.)*, Winter 2009  
Great Books 191: *Great Books*, Fall 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011  
Great Books 192: *Great Books (cont.)*, Winter 2006, 2007  
Great Books 201: *What is Tragedy?*, Summer 2008

**THESES ADVISED**

Caroline McNamara, *Everywhere/Everywhen: The Theory of Relativity and Modern Narrative Structures*,  
Fall 2013

Katrina Kass, *The Visual Vocabulary of Love in Victorian Novels*, Spring 2014

**DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

Organizer, Departmental Brown Bag Series, German, Russian and East European Studies,  
Vanderbilt University, Oct. 2016-Apr. 2017; Sept. 2018-present

Organizer, Talk Series, *Interdisciplinarity in Today's Academy*, NYU, Sept.-Dec. 2014

Faculty Convener, Ph.D. Dissertation Writing Workshops, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, NYU,  
January 2013, March 2013, August 2013, January 2014, August 2014

Ph.D. Application Workshop, Draper MA Program, NYU, Oct. 2012, March 2013, Oct. 2015

Master's Thesis Writing Workshop, Draper MA Program, NYU, Oct. 2013