

## CURRICULUM VITA

**Deborah D. Janson**  
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**World Languages**  
**West Virginia University**  
**P. O. Box 6298**  
**Morgantown, WV 26506**  
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### EDUCATION

- 1992 Ph.D., Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of California, Los Angeles; Dissertation title, "The Reevaluation of Romanticism in the German Democratic Republic of the 1970s" (UMI 9301954); Advisors, Professors Ehrhard Bahr, Kathleen Komar (Chair), and Robert Maniquis
- 1985 Ph.D. Candidacy, UCLA: includes Minor in History on "The Marxist Political and Cultural Tradition from 1869 to the Present"; Minor Advisor, Professor Peter Loewenberg
- 1981 M.A., German, University of California, Los Angeles
- 1977 B.A., with High Honor, Michigan State University
- 1974-76 Wayne State University Junior Year Abroad Program, University of Munich

### GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

- 2013 Summer Development Funds, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, Robert J. Elkins Foreign Language Development Fund
- 2010 Nominee, Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia Professor of the Year Award
- 2008-09 WVU Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award
- 2008-09 Eberly College Outstanding Teachers Award
- 2005 West Virginia Humanities Council Research Fellowship
- 2005 International Faculty Development Grant, Travel Grant and ECAS Supplement
- 2004 Faculty Development Grant and ECAS Supplement
- 2003 International Faculty Development Grant
- 2003 Judy Mossburg Fund for Faculty, Staff and Student Development
- 2001 WVU Linked First-Year Courses as Learning Communities Grant
- 1997 Senate Research Grant
- 1996 Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Summer Grant for Course Development
- 1994 Faculty International Grant, Office of International Programs
- 1994 Faculty Development Grant, WVU Foundation
- 1988-89 American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Fellowship
- 1987 Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, German Democratic Republic
- 1986 Graduate Division Research Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles
- 1986 Chancellor's Marshal Award, University of California, Los Angeles
- 1984 Germanic Languages and Literatures Departmental Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

1998– Associate Professor of German, Department of Foreign Languages, West Virginia University

1992-98 Assistant Professor of German, Department of Foreign Languages, West Virginia University

### Courses taught at WVU:

§ Elementary German (GERI/101) at WVU and in Lüneburg  
§ Advanced Conversation I (GER103/301)  
§ Advanced Conversation II (GER104/302)  
§ Advanced Composition I (GER109/303)  
§ Advanced Composition II (GER110/304)  
§ German Literature in Translation – German Fairy Tales (FLIT298)  
§ German Literature in Translation – Romanticism (FLIT14)  
§ German Literature in Translation – Survey (FLIT 182)  
§ German Literature in Translation — Survey (FLIT 181W)  
§ German Literature Since World War II (FLIT 293)  
§ The History of German Film (GER 246)  
§ Survey of German Literature I (GER111/331/431)  
§ Survey of German Literature II (GER332/432)  
§ German Civilization (GER341/440)  
§ Contemporary German Culture (GER441)  
§ Independent Study (GER495)  
§ Capstone Experience (GER496)  
§ Enlightenment through Romanticism (GER 245/545)  
§ German Bourgeois Tragedy (GER 493)  
§ Post-War German Literature (GER 493)  
§ The German (GDR) Novel (GER 650)  
§ German Literature since the *Wende* (GER 649)  
§ German 697: Thesis Writing Credit  
§ Language 490: GTA Supervision (German 101 - 204)  
§ Supervision of Summer Study Abroad courses (inc. GER101-204, 293–  
Grammar, 293–Culture, 301, 303, 493–Grammar, 493–Culture)  
§ Comparing Cultures (GER 393, summer course in Münster)

2015-2018 Director, Faculty-Led Summer Study Abroad, Münster

2006-08 Director, Faculty-Led Summer Study Abroad, Lüneburg

2004 Director, Faculty-Led Summer Study Abroad, Bamberg

2004- Liaison, Semester Study Abroad in Bamberg

1991-92 Visiting Assistant Professor (ABD), Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Kentucky, Lexington

### Undergraduate Courses:

§ Intermediate German  
§ Popular German Culture  
§ Contemporary German Literature

Graduate Courses:

- §                   The Romantic Tradition in German Literature
- 1988           Instructor, Department of Foreign Languages, Pepperdine University, Malibu—  
Intermediate German
- 1982-84       Teaching Associate, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Los  
Angeles
- 1978-81       Teaching Assistant, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University  
of California, Los Angeles

**PUBLICATIONS**

“Unearthing a Post-Humanist Ecological Socialism in Christa Wolf’s  
‘Selbstversuch’, *Kassandra* and *Störfall*.” *Christa Wolf: A Companion*. Eds. Sonja  
E. Klocke and Jennifer R. Hosek. Vol. 8. *Companions to Contemporary German  
Culture*. Boston/Berlin: De Gruyter, 2018. 81-95.

“On Potatoes, Forgeries, Mistaken Identities, and Cultural Revolution in Uwe  
Timm's Post-Wall Novel *Johannisnacht*.” *Envisioning Social Justice in  
Contemporary German Culture*. Eds. Axel Hildebrandt and Jill Twark. Rochester:  
Camden House, 2015. (21-46).

“Ins Ungebundene gehet eine Sehnsucht”: Zur Funktion der Literatur in Christa  
Wolfs *Leibhaftig*.” *Vielheit und Einheit der Germanistik weltweit*. Ed. Franciszek  
Grucza. Vol. 11. *Publikationen der Internationalen Vereinigung für Germanistik*.  
Frankfurt am Main: Lang, 2012. 111-15.

“Ika Hügel-Marshall.” *Encyclopedia of Blacks in European History and Culture*.  
Ed. Eric Martone. Westport, CT and London: Greenwood Press, 2008. 277-78.

“The Subject in Black and White: Afro-German Identity Formation in Ika Hügel-  
Marshall’s Autobiography *Daheim unterwegs: Ein deutsches Leben*.” *Women in  
German Yearbook* 21 (2005): 62-84.

“Autobiography as a Means of Identity Transformation in Post-Wende Literature.”  
*Glossen* 15. On-line journal. 2002.  
(<http://www.dickinson.edu/departments/germn/glossen/bw.html>)

Rev. of *Fringe Voices: An Anthology of Minority Writing in the Federal Republic of  
Germany*, edited and translated by Antje Harnisch, Anne Marie Stokes and  
Friedemann Weidauer. *Colloquia Germanica* 34.2 (2001). January 2002.

"In Search of Common Ground: An Ecofeminist Inquiry into Christa Wolf's Work."  
*Ecofeminist Literary Criticism: Theory, Interpretation, Pedagogy*. Ed. by Greta

Gaard and Patrick D. Murphy. Chicago: U of Illinois P, 1998. 172-85. (This anthology chapter is a revision and expansion of the *ISLE* article listed below; the entire volume was translated into Chinese under the title, *Sheng tai nv xing zhu yi wen xue pi ping: li lun, chan shi he jiao xue* by Lin Jiang (China Social Sciences Press, 2013).

"The Nature of German Romanticism." *The Literature of Nature: An International Sourcebook*. Ed. Patrick D. Murphy. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 1998. 206-11.

Rev. of *The Feminist Encyclopedia of German Literature*, edited by Friederike Eigler and Susanne Kord. *Colloquia Germanica* 31.2 (1998): 175-77.

"Ilse Aichinger's *Spiegelgeschichte*: Challenging the Symbolic Order." *Frauen: MitSprechen MitSchreiben. Beiträge zur literatur- und sprachwissenschaftlichen Frauenforschung*. Ed. Marianne Henn and Britta Hufeisen. Stuttgarter Arbeiten zur Germanistik. Stuttgart: Verlag Hans-Dieter Heinz, 1997. 500-13.

"Susan Griffin." *Cyclopedia of World Authors, Revised Edition*. Ed. Frank N. Magill. 5 vols. Pasadena: Salem Press, 1997. 853-54.

Rev. of *Absent Mothers and Orphaned Fathers: Narcissism and Abjection in Lessing's Aesthetic and Dramatic Production*, by Susan E. Gustafson. *Colloquia Germanica* 30.1 (1997): 91-92.

"In Search of Common Ground: An Ecofeminist Inquiry into Christa Wolf's Work." *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 3.1 (1996): 115-29. (Appeared in 1997).

"Ein Gespräch mit Olaf Georg Klein." *GDR Bulletin* 23 (1996): 1-10.

"Ein Gespräch mit Günter Kunert." *Neue Germanistik* 5.1-2 (1988): 89-104.

"The Emancipation Which Enslaved." *New German Review: A Journal of Germanic Studies* 1 (1985): 15-28.

## PRESENTATIONS

"Bettina von Arnim's Ecological Vision in her Literary Fairy Tale 'The Queen's Son'." Paper presented at the American Comparative Literature Association at Harvard University, March 17, 2016.

"The Problem of Speaking for Others: Günter Wallraff's Film *Schwarz auf Weiß. Eine Reise durch Deutschland*." Paper presented at the German Studies Association Conference in Arlington, VA, October 2, 2015

“‘And he became king of the animals and of humankind in spirit, without language’: Bettina von Arnim’s Concept of an Enlightened Ruler in her Fairy Tale ‘The Queen’s Son’.” Paper presented at the Western Society for Eighteenth Century Studies in San Luis Obispo, Feb. 12-16, 2015.

“Is the Use of Blackface Ever Justified? On Günter Wallraff’s Role as a Somalian in Germany.” Paper presented at the NEMLA (Northeast Modern Languages Association) conference in Harrisburg, PA, April 3-6, 2014.

„A Parable against Domination: Overcoming the Human-Animal Barrier in Bettina von Arnim’s ‚Der Königssohn.“ Paper presented at the German Studies Association conference in Denver, CO, October 3-6, 2013.

„‘Der Spur der Schmerzen nachgehen’: Coming to Terms with the Past in Christa Wolf’s *Leibhaftig* and *Stadt der Engel*.” Paper presented at the German Studies Association conference in Milwaukee, WI, October 4-7, 2012.

"The Wessi as Picaro in Uwe Timm's Post-Wall Novel *Johannisnacht*." Paper presented at the Northeast Modern Languages conference in Rochester, NY, March 15-18, 2012.

"Parameters of Change in Post-Wall Germany: On Potatoes, Forgeries, Mistaken Identities, and (Multi-) Cultural Revolution in Uwe Timm's *Johannisnacht*." Paper presented at the American Comparative Literature Association in Providence, RI. March 29-April 1, 2012.

“‘Ins Ungebundene gehet eine Sehnsucht’: Zu Funktion und Versprechen von Literatur in Christa Wolfs *Leibhaftig*.” Paper presented at the international conference, “Vielheit und Einheit der Germanistik weltweit” at the Warsaw University in Poland, July 30-Aug.7. 2010

“Sharing Illusions or Achieving Common Ground? An Eco-feminist Reading of Christa Wolf’s Work.” Invited featured talk presented at the Symposium: “20 Years Fall of the Wall: Germany, a Sustainable Democracy?” University of North Carolina at Greensboro, November 6, 2009.

“Finding Common Ground: An Eco-Feminist Reading of Christa Wolf’s Work.” Invited featured talk at the Humanities Symposium on Nature and the Human Spirit, Belmont University, Nashville, TN, September 5, 2009.

Participant, DEFA Film Library’s fifth biennial East German Summer Film Institute, Northampton, Massachusetts, July 12-19, 2009.

“‘Ins Ungebundene gehet eine Sehnsucht’: On the Function and Promise of Literature in Christa Wolf’s *Leibhaftig*.” Paper presented at the Rocky Mountain Modern Languages Association Conference in Reno, NE, October 8 - 11, 2008

“Absent Fathers and Orphaned Children: The Role of the Missing Father in Afro-German Life Stories.” Paper presented at the German Studies Association Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, September 28 - October 1, 2006.

“Ich weiß, warum sie mich grüßen’: Cross-Cultural Encounters and Hybrid Identity in Ika Hügel-Marshall's Life Story.” Paper presented at the international conference, “Crossovers: African Americans and Germany” in Münster, Germany, March 22-26, 2006.

“*Die Seele als Störfaktor*: Faustian Guilt and Romantic Predilections in Christa Wolf's *Leibhaftig*.” Paper presented at the PAMLA conference in Pepperdine, California, October 11-14, 2005.

“*Die Seele als Störfaktor*: Romantic Predilections in Christa Wolf's *Leibhaftig*.” 40-minute paper presented at a conference on “Twentieth-Century Romantics: A Century of Reception Assessed,” held at the University of London's Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, May 5-6, 2005.

“The Embodied Subject: Identity Trans/formation and Social Change in Ika Hügel-Marshall's Autobiography *Daheim unterwegs. Ein deutsches Leben*.” Paper presented at the 54<sup>th</sup> Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee, October 14-16, 2004.

“The Embodied Subject: German Identity in Works by Minority Writers.” Conference on “The New Europe at the Crossroads,” Berlin, Germany, VII, July 1-3, 2003.

“Corporeal Boundaries: Body Politics and German Identity in Works by Minority Writers.” Presented at the PAMLA convention in Bellingham, WA, November 8-10, 2002.

“Autobiography as a Means of Identity Transformation in Post-Wende Literature.” Presented at the Second Symposium on Contemporary German Literature: “Crosscurrents—German Literature(s) and the Search for Identity,” Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA, October 11-13, 2001.

“Factual Fictions in Olaf Georg Klein's *Ploetzlich war alles ganz anders*.” Paper presented at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference in Buffalo, New York, April 7-8, 2000.

“The Queen's Transgression in Bettine von Arnim's ‘Der Königssohn’.” Paper presented at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. Lexington, KY. April 22-24, 1999.

"Ecofeminism: The Centerpiece." Plenary talk given at the West Virginia NOW Conference: "The Gaia Connection: Environmental & Human Justice." Jackson's Mill, WV. October, 18, 1997.

"With Respect to Nature: An Ecofeminist Analysis of Novalis's *The Novices of Sais*." Paper presented at the Third Annual Interdisciplinary Environmental Association Conference. Boston. June 26-29, 1997.

"Writing Nature: Ecocritical Approaches to German Literature." Co-organizer and co-moderator of this special session, held at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. Lexington. April 17-19, 1997.

"Alternative Visions: Science and Technology in the Work of Christa Wolf." Paper presented at "A Woman's Place: Women in Engineering, Science, and the Humanities" Conference. Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Terre Haute, Indiana. April 18-20, 1996.

"The Subversive Power of Language in Ilse Aichinger's 'Spiegelgeschichte'." Paper presented at the Interdisciplinary "Frauen--Literatur--Sprache" Conference. University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. August 9-11, 1995.

"Finding Common Ground: Christa Wolf and American Ecofeminism." Paper presented at the Conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. Fort Collins, Colorado. June 9-11, 1995

"Still 'No Place on Earth': An Ecofeminist Inquiry into Christa Wolf's Work." Paper presented at the Modern Languages Association Conference, San Diego, CA. December 28, 1994

Participant, "The Berlin Seminar on Literature, Politics and Society in Germany Today." Berlin, June 27-July 2, 1994

"Subverting the Mirror: Seduction in Ilse Aichinger's 'Spiegelgeschichte'." Paper presented at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. Lexington, KY. April 22, 1994

"Patriarchy Preserved: Unification as False Liberation." Paper presented at the AATG Annual Conference. Baden-Baden, Germany. July 20, 1992

"The Displaced Voice of the Writer in Post-Revolutionary GDR Society." University of Michigan Paper presented at the Conference on "Gegenwartsbewältigung: Coming to Terms with the Present." University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. October, 1990

"The Reevaluation of Romanticism in the GDR: Merging Past and Present, East and West." Paper presented at the Junior Scholars Training Seminar. Co-sponsored by

the Wilson Center and the American Council of Learned Societies. Wye Plantation (Maryland), Summer 1989.

"Romanticism Reevaluated: An Analysis of Christa Wolf's novel *Kein Ort. Nirgends.*" Paper presented at the Literature and History Conference. Yale University, New Haven, CT. April 18-19, 1986

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

### While at West Virginia University, 1992-2014

To the State and/or Profession:

- § Founder, Friends of German
- § Co-organizer, Oktoberfests in Morgantown, 2005 – 2007, 2009-2013, 2015, 2016
- § Moderator, German Studies Association panels, 2006, 2013
- § Treasurer, West Virginia American Association of Teachers of German, 2002– 10
- § President, West Virginia American Association of Teachers of German, 1994-1996, 2000-2002
- § Member, Executive Committee, West Virginia Foreign Language Teachers Association, 1994-1996, 2000-2002
- § Presenter, Morgantown High School Awards Day, May 2000 and May 2002
- § Director, WVU's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium on Literature and Film: "The Language of Humor in Literature and Film" (2012)
- § Director, WVU's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium on Literature and Film: "Race and Racism in Literature and Film" (2002)
- § Organizer, public reading by Ika Hügel-Marshall, from her autobiography *Invisible Woman: Growing Up Black in Germany*. March 2002
- § Sessions Moderator, WVU Colloquium on Literature and Film. 1993-2012
- § Reviewer, Olaf Georg Klein's book *Plötzlich war alles ganz anders*, under consideration for possible translation by Duke University Press. Spring 1999
- § Co-organizer of public talks given by Professor Frederick Lubich, Spring 1999
- § Review consultant, WVU Senate research grant proposals, 1999, 2000, 2001
- § Organizer of Public Talk, "Berlin Author Olaf Georg Klein reads from his Works." WVU. October 23, 1997
- § Organizer of Public Talk: "The Mankurt Legend, or, Who Controls Perceptions of History?" by guest speaker Phillip S. McKnight, Chair, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Kentucky. April 26, 1994
- § Session moderator, "Literary Responses to German Unification/Demise of the GDR," Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, Kentucky. April 22-24, 1993

To the University:

- Member, Phi Beta Kappa Faculty (active in 2017)
- § Member, Faculty Senate (2003-06)



§ Member, Faculty Senate Library Committee or Liaison (2002–03, 2011-12, 2016)  
§ Main facilitator of an ongoing Exchange Agreement between WVU and the Otto-Friedrich-University in Bamberg (since 2002)  
§ Founder and facilitator of Exchange Agreement between WVU and the University of Magdeburg (1994-2004)  
§ Faculty Leader, Summer Study Abroad in Bamberg (2002, 2004) and Lüneburg (2006, 2008) and Münster (2015)  
§ Member, European Area Studies Group (1999)  
§ Member, Ad hoc Committee on Environmental Curriculum (1996)  
§ Member, Graduate Faculty  
§ Grant proposal evaluator, International Programs (1994)

To the College:

- Member, WGST Scholarships Committee (2017)
- Member, Eberly College Faculty Evaluation Committee (2009-2010)
- § Member, Eberly College's Curriculum and Academic Quality Committee (2005-07)
- § Chair/Member, West Virginia Development Office Internship Selection Committee (2000-2012)
- § Member, Women's Studies' Stitzel Endowment Selection Committee (1999-2000)
- § Member, Outstanding Teacher Award Committee (1996-1997)
- § Member, Outstanding Public Service Award Committee (1995-1996; 1999-2000)

To the Department:

§ Director, WVU Colloquium on Literature and Film (2002, 2012)  
§ Member, Colloquium Committee (most years, 1997-2012)  
§ Undergraduate Advisor, German (2008-2017)  
§ Graduate Advisor, German (1993-2007)  
§ Advisor to WVU's German Club and LAMBDA, the local chapter of Delta Phi Alpha (1998-2017)  
§ Chair or Member, Faculty Evaluation Committee (1995-96; 1999-2001, 2003-05 2006-08, 2010-2012, 2015-17)  
§ Library Liaison for the Department (2015-17)  
§ Chair, German Search Committee (2000-2001 and 2002-2003)  
§ Member, Chinese Search Committee (2013-14)  
§ Chair or Member, Honors and Awards Committee (1996-99, 2002-03, 2005-06, 2006-17)  
§ Member, Undergraduate Committee (2005-06, 2012-13)  
§ Member, Advising Committee (2013-15)  
§ Member, Strategic Planning Committee (2003-05)  
§ Chair, German Faculty (1993-2011)  
§ Chair, Graduate Student Admissions and Assistantships Committee (1999-2001)  
§ Member, Curriculum Committee (1996-98, 2009-2010)  
§ Member, Graduate Recruitment and Admissions Committee (1994-1995, 1997)  
§ Member, Graduate Assistantship Committee (1992-1994)  
§ Member, Budget and Planning Committee (1992)

While at the University of Kentucky, January 1991 - May 1992:

- § Session organizer, "Literature of the Twentieth Century after 1945," Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, 1992
- § Faculty Advisor, UK German House
- § Faculty Advisor, Kaffeestunden
- § Review Editor, *Colloquia Germanica*
- § Associate Member, UK Graduate Faculty
- § Judge, Kentucky Foreign Language Festival

While at UCLA, 1986 - 1988:

- § Organizer of a UCLA public reading by the former GDR writer Wolfgang Hilbig
- § Organizer of a UCLA public reading by the former GDR writer Monika Maron
- § Managing Editor, New German Review: A Journal of Germanic Studies

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP**

- § American Association of Teachers of German (and WP/WV AATG)
- § Delta Phi Alpha
- § German Studies Association
- § Phi Beta Kappa
- § Women in German