

Kurt Beals, M.A.

BA in Philosophy, Oberlin College, 2002; MA in German Studies, University of California, 2007; PhD Candidate German Studies, University of California; Visiting Student at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2011-12 (DAAD Research Grant).

Dissertation Project:

“From Dada to Digital: Experimental Literature and Commercial Culture”

In my dissertation I examine the ways in which 20th- and 21st-century German-language poets have engaged with advertising and mass media. Along with Dada and Concrete Poetry, I address recent developments in digital and electronic poetry that integrate commercial and technological innovations into poetic production. Drawing on the aesthetic theory of the Frankfurt School as well as recent work in media theory and material textuality, I consider these movements in relation to the media environments in which they emerged, from the print media of the Weimar Era to the interactive media of the digital age, placing these literary movements not in opposition to, but in the mainstream of the media history of the past century.

Publications:

“The *Großstadt* and the *Landstraße*: Modernity on the Periphery in the Works of Regina Ullmann,” in Steven R. Huff and Dorothea Kaufmann, eds., *“Ein Buch des Andenkens”*: Essays in Honor of Heidi Thomann Tewarson (Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 2012)

“Confessional Fictions, Fictional Confessions” (co-author), in *Das Geständnis und seine Instanzen* (Vienna: Verlag Turia + Kant, 2011)

“A Conversation with Bernard Banoun” (co-author), *TRANSIT* (2010)

Book Review: *Sonderzeichen Europa*, by Yoko Tawada and László Márton, *TRANSIT* (2010)

“Play for Two Voices: On Translating the Poetry of Anja Utler,” *TranscUlturAl* (2009)

Translations:

Regina Ullmann, *The Country Road*, forthcoming (New York: New Directions, 2013)

Anja Utler, *engulf – enkindle*, poetry (Providence: Burning Deck, 2010); excerpts, with translator's introductions, published in *Two Lines* (2010) and in *Triple Canopy* (February 2011). Finalist for the Northern California Book Award for Poetry in Translation

Sarah Alina Grosz, "Housing Block," story, in *Dimension²*, 9.3 & 10.1

Alexander Kluge, "Curiosity is my Profession" and "When push comes to shove, politics demands the impossible," stories, in *n+1* (Spring 2005)

Alexander Kluge, "A German scholar in Persia," "On the advancing frontiers of Europe," and "500 Euros for an attorney," stories, in *Dimension²*, 9.1 & 2

Jana Hensel, "Country Girl," in *The New York Times* (September 22, 2005)

Helmuth Kiesel, "November 1918," in *A Companion to the Works of Alfred Döblin*, R. Dollinger, W. Koepke, and H. Tewarson, eds. (Elizabethtown, NY: Camden House, 2003)

Ernst Jandl, "a love story: rushed," translation/variation on the poem "a love-story: dringend," published in *The Spook* (April/May 2002)