

Robin Ellis, M.A.

BA in German Literature, Oberlin College, 2004; MA in German Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2008; PhD Candidate German Studies, University of California, Berkeley; Visiting Student at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2011-12.

Dissertation Project:

"Making Translation Visible: The Figure of the Interpreter in German Literature and Film"
(working title)

In my dissertation, I investigate fictional representations of interpreters in postwar and contemporary literature and film. I ask how this figure enables writers and filmmakers to question relationships between the body and language, including issues of physical presence and absence, economic exchange, mediation within power structures, and the very possibility of communicating meaning. This project is by nature transnational, multilingual and intercultural; I focus on intersections with the German language in the context of 20th century European history. In examining literary works by authors such as Ingeborg Bachmann and Yoko Tawada, as well as films by Jean-Luc Godard, Hans-Christian Schmid, and Thomas Arslan, I ask how the embodied labor of mediation is made visible or obscured within diverse networks of global circulation and exchange.

Adviser:

Prof. Dr. Deniz Göktürk, University of California, Berkeley, Department of German

Publications:

"People-Watching: Völkerschau Viewing Practices and The Indian Tomb (1921)," in Steven R. Huff and Dorothea Kaufmann, eds., *"Ein Buch des Andenkens": Essays in Honor of Heidi Thomann Tewarson* (Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 2012)

"Linguistic Rebellion in Feridun Zaimoğlu's *Koppstoff*" (co-author), in *Contemporary German Culture: Feridun Zaimoğlu*, eds., Tom Cheesman and Karin Yeşilada (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2012)

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

“Translating Communities: Rethinking the Collective in Feridun Zaimoğlu's *Koppstoff*” (co-author), *TRANSIT* (2008)

Translations:

Black Virgins by Feridun Zaimoğlu and Günter Senkel. (Co-translator). Surtitles for the international production by Ballhaus Naunynstrasse, 2010.

“The Knowledge-Holder Doesn’t Choke on Cleverness.” From *Koppstoff* by Feridun Zaimoğlu (co-translator), *Words Without Borders* (Nov 2009).

“Selections from *Koppstoff* by Feridun Zaimoğlu.” (co-translator), *TRANSIT* (Nov 2008).