

## **Timothy J. Attanucci, M.A.**

Studies in comparative literature at Harvard (B.A. 2003), Tübingen, and Paris IV, Sorbonne (*Maitrise*, 2004); since 2005, PhD-candidate in German at Princeton University and a guest student at the Humboldt University, Berlin.

### **Dissertation project**

„*Stories from Earth: Adalbert Stifter's Geohistorical Poetics*“ (working title)

Through a focus on the literature of Adalbert Stifter, this dissertation seeks to gain insight into various discursive contexts in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that lead to a fundamental reevaluation of our understanding of the earth, its inhabitants, and their respective histories. From the formation of a new science of geography around 1800, new discoveries in geology, and the development of a science of ecology towards the century's end, the theory and praxis of earth and life sciences developed in constant interaction with literary and historical discourses. Stifter's literary work not only addresses a number of key questions of the period (how old is the earth and how can one read its age? under what circumstances does life develop and how does it vary in distinct places (ecosystems)? what are the conditions and limits for scientific observation?), but also proposes poetic forms adequate to this new geographical and historical orientation.

### **Adviser:**

Prof. Dr. Joseph Vogl, Institut für deutsche Literatur, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Wegmann, Princeton University, Department of German

### **Publications:**

"Der Junggeselle zwischen Familie und Amt: Kafka liest Stifter," in: *Für alle und für keinen Lektüre, Schrift und Leben bei Nietzsche und Kafka*, ed. Friedrich Balke, Joseph Vogl and Benno Wagner, Berlin: Diaphanes, forthcoming 2008.

**Contact:** [tattanuc@princeton.edu](mailto:tattanuc@princeton.edu)