

SUSAN BERNOFSKY : CURRICULUM VITAE

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Fall 2010 Guest Professor, Creative Writing and Literary Translation, Queens College
Graduate Translation Workshop
Introduction to Creative Writing
- Fall 2010 Guest Faculty, Creative Writing MFA Program, Columbia University
Master Class: Translation and the Art of Writing Prose
- 2007 – 2008 Guest Faculty, Literature and German, Sarah Lawrence College
The European Fairy Tale: A Modern History
The German Stage: Modern and Contemporary Theater
- 1998 – 2005 Assistant Professor of German, Bard College
Translation Workshop
Translation Criticism and Theory
Growing Pains: German Modernist Novels of Young Masculinity
What is Romanticism?
German Poetry
The Production of Literary Uncertainty
Seminars on Paul Celan, Günter Grass, Uwe Johnson
- 1994 – 1998 Instructor/Teaching Assistant, Princeton University
Departments of German and Comparative Literature
- 1991 – 1993 Lecturer, University of Stuttgart, Germany
American Studies Department
- 1990 Instructor, Washington University
Creative Writing Program

HONORS AND PRIZES

- Looren Translation Prize, 2009
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2008-2009
National Endowment for the Arts Translator's Fellowship, 2007-2008
Lannan Foundation Residency Award, 2007
PEN Translation Fund Award, 2007
Helen and Kurt Wolff Translation Prize, 2006
American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, 2005-2006
PEN Translation Fund Award, 2005
Honorable Mention, Helen and Kurt Wolff Translation Prize, 2004
Member, PEN American Center, nominated 2002
Bard Research Council Grant, Summer 2002
Supplementary Research Award (Wiederaufnahmestipendium), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation,
Spring 2002

Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 1997
Federal Chancellor Fellowship (Bundeskanzlerstipendium), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, 1995-96
National Endowment for the Arts Translator's Fellowship, 1991-92
Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 1990-1997
Olin Fellowship, Washington University, 1988-90
Swiss Universities Grant (administered by the Fulbright Association), 1987-88
Phi Beta Kappa, 1986
Beneficial-Hodson Scholarship, Johns Hopkins, 1984-87

EDUCATION

1990-1998 Princeton University. Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 1998.
1988-90 Washington University, St. Louis. M.F.A. in Fiction Writing, 1990.
1987-88 University of Zurich, Switzerland.
1986 (Spring) University of Münster, West Germany.
1984-87 The Johns Hopkins University. B.A. with honors, 1987.
 German/Creative Writing

BOOK

Foreign Words: Translator-Authors in the Age of Goethe. Kritik: German Literary Theory and Cultural Studies.
Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2005.

BOOKS TRANSLATED

(Under contract) *The Black Spider* by Jeremias Gotthelf (New York Review Books, winter 2011/2012).
Berlin Stories by Robert Walser, with Introduction (New York: New York Review Books Classics,
 forthcoming spring 2011).
Visitation by Jenny Erpenbeck (New York: New Directions and London: Portobello, forthcoming Sept.
2010).
Microscripts by Robert Walser, with Introduction; Afterword by Walter Benjamin (New York: New
Directions/Christine Burgin, 2010).
The Naked Eye by Yoko Tawada (New York: New Directions, 2009).
The Tanners by Robert Walser, Introduction by W.G. Sebald (New York: New Directions, 2009).
The Book of Words by Jenny Erpenbeck with Translator's Afterword (New York: New Directions; London:
Portobello, 2007).
The Assistant by Robert Walser, with Translator's Afterword (New York: New Directions, 2007; London:
Penguin Classics, 2008).
Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse, with Translator's Preface, Foreword by Tom Robbins (New York, Modern

- Library, 2006).
- The Old Child and Other Stories* by Jenny Erpenbeck (New York: New Directions, 2005).
- Celan Studies* by Peter Szondi, with Introduction; with Harvey Mendelsohn (Stanford: Stanford University Press, Meridian Series, 2003).
- The Trip to Bordeaux* by Ludwig Harig (Providence: Burning Deck, 2003).
- Where Europe Begins* by Yoko Tawada, trans. in collaboration with Yumi Selden; Foreword by Wim Wenders (New York: New Directions, 2002).
- The Robber* by Robert Walser, with Introduction (Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 2000.)
- Anecdote: A Summation* by Gregor von Rezzori (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1996).
- Masquerade and Other Stories* by Robert Walser, with Translator's Preface, Foreword by William H. Gass (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1990; London: Quartet, 1993).

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- "Coaxing German Literature into English," Beatrice.com: In Translation, <http://beatrice.com/wordpress/?s=bernofsky>, Dec. 3, 2009.
- "Anniversaries by Uwe Johnson," *Books: The Essential Insider's Guide*, ed. Mark Strand (New York: Fang Duff Kahn, 2009), 19-21.
- "Why Donald Duck is the Jerry Lewis of Germany," *Wall Street Journal*, May 23, 2009.
- "Disoriented Language: On Translating Yoko Tawada," *Transforming Texts – TextTransformationen*, ed. Christine Ivanovic (Tübingen: Stauffenburg), forthcoming 2009.
- "The Legal and Economic Conditions of Translators in the Twentieth Century," co-author with Jamie Richards (*Oxford History of Translation in English*, Vol. 5, Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2009).
- "The Infinite Imagination: Early Romanticism in Germany," *Companion to European Romanticism*, ed. Michael Ferber (London: Blackwell, 2005), 86-100.
- "What Did Don Quixote Have for Supper? Translation and Cultural Mediation in Eighteenth Century Germany," *Monatshefte* 97:1 (2005), 1-17.
- "We're Not Talking about Realism Here: An Interview with Angela Carter," *Conjunctions* 40 (2003), 161-72.
- "Hölderlin As Translator: the Perils of Interpretation," *The Germanic Review* 76:3 (2001), 215-33.
- "Lesenlernen bei Walter Benjamin," *Übersetzen: Walter Benjamin*, ed. C. Hart Nibbrig (Frankfurt/M: Suhrkamp, 2001), 267-78.
- "Schleiermacher's Translation Theory and Varieties of Foreignization: August Wilhelm Schlegel vs. Johann Heinrich Voss," *The Translator: Studies in Intercultural Communication* 3:2 (1997), 175-92.
- "Unrelenting Tact: Elements of Style in Walser's Late Prose," *Robert Walser and the Visual Arts*, ed. Tamara S. Evans, Pro Helvetia Swiss Lectureship 9 (New York: City University of New York, 1996), 80-89.
- "'glasbläser aus eigenem munde': The Poet after Auschwitz," *In den Wind werfen: Versuche um Metabarbarisches*, Gedichte von Gerschon Ben-David, ed. Renate Birkenhauer und Otto Dov Kulka (Straelen, Germany: Straelener Manuskripte, 1995), 50-57. (This essay also appears in German in the same volume, trans. Erwin Brauer.)
- Wie man aus Wörtern eine Welt macht. Essays von William H. Gass*, co-editor with Heide Ziegler; "Der Sprachbesessene"/Afterword (Salzburg: Residenz, 1995), 213-19.
- "Gelungene Einfälle: Der "Räuber"-Roman aus der Sicht des Übersetzers" and "Rezeptionsbericht: Englisch," *Wärmende Fremde: Robert Walser und seine Übersetzer im Gespräch*, ed. Peter Utz (Berne: Lang, 1994), 115-25, 181-85.
- "Zazie in Wonderland: Queneau's Reply to the Realist Novel," *The Romanic Review* 85:1, 1994, 113-24.
- "German Identity: In Search of a Volk," *Faultline: Interdisciplinary Approaches to German Studies* 2, 1993, 117-

19.

“Restaging the Past: *Hitlerjunge Salomon* and Its Reception in Germany,” *Faultline: Interdisciplinary Approaches to German Studies* 1, 1992, 11-20.

The Review of Contemporary Fiction: Robert Walser Number, co-editor with Tom Whalen, with Introduction, 12.1, 1992, 7-15.

“‘The Threshold Is the Source’: Handke’s *Der Chinese des Schmerzes*,” *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*, 1990, 58-64.

“Robert Walser’s *Mikrogramme*: Striking Sparks from the Ashes of Language. An Interview with Bernhard Echte and Werner Morlang” (conducted with Tom Whalen), *New Orleans Review* 16.3, 1989, 15-23.

REVIEWS

“*Nation, Language, and the Ethics of Translation*, ed. Sandra Berman and Michael Wood” (review), *Modern Language Notes*, 120:5 (2006), 1235-39.

“Marion Gees, *Schauspiel auf Papier: Gebärde und Maskierung in der Prosa Robert Walsers*” (review), *The German Quarterly* 76.1 (2003), 95-96.

“Azade Seyhan, *Writing Outside the Nation*” (review), *The Germanic Review* 77:3 (2002), 339-41.

“Rainer Nägele, *Echoes of Translation*” (review), *Modern Language Notes* 113:5 (1998), 1174-77.

CONFERENCE PAPERS, READINGS, WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES

“Wolff Prize Winners on the Art of Translation” (panelist), Helen and Kurt Wolff Symposium, Goethe-Institut Chicago, June 22, 2010.

“Robert Walser’s Microscripts” (reading/lecture), with Rivka Galchen, Triple Canopy @ 177 Livingston, Brooklyn, NY, May 22, 2010.

“That’s Not What I Meant!” (moderator), panel with Peter Stamm and Michael Hofmann, Instituto Cervantes, PEN World Voices Festival, April 29, 2010.

“Translation and the Art of Revision” (keynote address), Fourth Biannual Graduate Student Translation Conference, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, April 24, 2010.

Workshop: Say It in What Language? An Introduction to Literary Translation, Horace Mann School, Riverdale, NY, April 8, 2010.

Workshop: Translation as Writing, European Studies, Amherst College, March 24, 2010.

Workshop: Translating Tawada, Multicultural Germany Project, Department of German, University of California Berkeley, Feb. 11, 2010.

“Robert Walser’s Micrography” (lecture), Department of German Studies, Stanford University, Feb. 10, 2010.

“Robert Walser’s *The Tanners*” (reading), Center for the Art of Translation, San Francisco, Feb. 9, 2010.

“Robert Walser International” (panelist), Buch.09 Literature Festival, Basel, Switzerland, Nov. 15, 2009.

“Hermann Hesse’s *Siddhartha*” (guest lecture), Seminar on Mythology, Mysticism and Modernity, Pace University, Nov. 5, 2009.

Reading at Spoonbill & Sugartown Booksellers, Brooklyn, NY, Oct. 8, 2009.

Translation Faculty, Banff International Literary Translation Centre (three week program), Banff, Canada, June 2009.

“Women Translating Women” (panelist), PEN World Voices Festival, The Mercantile Library Center for Fiction, May 2009.

“Discovering Unbearable Truths: Writers in East Germany” (moderator), PEN World Voices Festival, Austrian Cultural Forum, May 2009.

- “Robert Walser’s *The Tanners*” (reading), Schoen Books, South Deerfield, MA, April 2009.
- “Robert Walser in the Archives” (public lecture), Mount Holyoke College, April 2009.
- “Internationale Übersetzerwerkstatt” (workshop on translating Jenny Erpenbeck), Literarisches Colloquium Berlin, Germany, March 2009.
- “Writing as Translation, Translation as Writing,” (panel: The Writer, the Translator, the Marketplace), American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Harvard University, March 2009.
- “Translating as Peregrination: Robert Walser and Other Journeys” (public lecture), University Professors Program, Boston University, Feb. 2009.
- “Summer Seminar: Literary Translation” (week-long program, co-director with Christa Schuenke), University of Bielefeld, Germany, Aug. 2008.
- “A Tribute to Robert Walser” (panelist), PEN World Voices Festival, The Morgan Library & Museum, May 2008.
- “Translation Slam” (panelist), PEN World Voices Festival, Bowery Poetry Club, May 2008.
- “Translation and the Academy” (roundtable panelist), Graduate Student Translation Conference, Center for Literary Translation at Columbia University, March 2008.
- “Between the Lines: The Theory and Practice of Literary Translation” (invited lecture), Department of Comparative Literature, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Dec. 2007.
- “The Contemporary German Literary Scene” (conference panelist), American Literary Translators Association, Dallas, Nov. 2007.
- “Translation Workshop” (invited lecture), Chatham University, Pittsburgh, Oct. 2007.
- “Intervention” (conference panelist), German Literature Abroad: 2nd Frankfurt Literaturbiennale, Frankfurt, Germany, June 2007.
- “Podiumsgespräch: Robert Walser übersetzen,” *Ferne Nähe*. Symposium zum 50. Todestag Robert Walsers, Universität Zürich, Switzerland, Dec. 2006.
- “Lessing and Goethe as Translators of Diderot,” (Translation and Metamorphosis, panel organized by Suzanne Jill Levine), American Comparative Literature Association, Princeton, March 2006.
- “Lessing and the Translation of Resemblance,” (invited lecture), Department of German, University of California at Los Angeles, Jan. 2005; and Departments of German and Comparative Literature, University of California at Berkeley, Feb. 2005.
- “Can the ‘auld’ be new? On the Use of Archaism as a Foreignizing Technique with Particular Reference to the Work of Friedrich Schleiermacher,” American Literary Translators Association, Las Vegas, Oct. 2004.
- “Works-in-Progress”: PEN Annual Translation Reading - Curated and moderated reading also featuring Burton Pike, Krishna Winston and Joel Agee, Deutsches Haus, New York University, May 2004.
- “The Old Young Man: The Stylistics of Robert Walser’s Early Prose with Particular Attention to His Novel *Der Gehülfe*” (symposium panelist), Robert Walser in America, Deutsches Haus, New York University, March 2004.
- “The Art of Translation: Yoko Tawada’s *Where Europe Begins*” (invited lecture), German Studies Department, Vassar College, Nov. 2003
- “Awkward Resonance: Archaism & Exoticism in Translation” (conference panelist), American Literary Translators Association, Boston, Nov. 2003.
- “Studio LCB” – Guest on radio broadcast from the Literarisches Colloquium Berlin (114 min.) – interviewed along with American novelist Jeffrey Eugenides and critic Gustav Seibt on contemporary literature in Germany and the United States (moderator: Denis Scheck), broadcast nationally on June 28, 2003, Deutschlandfunk.
- “Laudatio” – Speech in honor of 2003 Helen and Kurt Wolff Translation Prize recipient Margot Dembo, Goethe Institut, Chicago (award ceremony held in the Civic Center Chicago), June 2003.
- “Translating Intertextuality: Montaigne and Fischart in Ludwig Harig’s *Die Reise nach Bordeaux*” (symposium panelist), American Translation Center, Lilly Library, University of Indiana, Bloomington, May 2003.

- “Intersections with Robert Walser” (symposium panelist), Cornell University, Department of German, April 2003.
- “Language and Nation: Literary Translation into German in the late 18th Century, or: What did Don Quixote have for supper?” Modern Language Association of America, New Orleans, Dec. 2001.
- “The Paradox of the Translator: Goethe and Diderot,” Modern Language Association of America (Goethe Society of America panel), Washington, D.C., Dec. 2000.
- “The Word as Text: Martin Luther as Translator,” Tyrannies of the Target Language, Biennial Conference for Contemporary Literary Translation, Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ, Nov. 2000.
- “Crossing the Ocean with a Dictionary: The Translator’s Suitcase” (invited lecture), University of Pennsylvania, Department of German/Kelly Writers House, Sept. 2000.
- Workshop Leader: “Uneasy Pieces: Translating Franz Kafka and Robert Walser,” University of Pennsylvania, Kelly Writers House, Sept. 2000.
- “Robert Walser’s *The Robber*,” (invited lecture), Public Library, Saratoga Springs, NY, Sept. 2000.
- Workshop Leader, German Translation Workshop, American Literary Translators’ Association meeting, New York, Oct. 1999.
- “Walter Benjamin and German Romantic Translation Theory,” Biennial Conference for Contemporary Literary Translation, Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ, Nov. 1998.
- “Unrelenting Tact: Elements of Style in Walser’s Late Prose,” Robert Walser and the Visual Arts, Swiss Institute, New York, March 1994.
- Workshop Leader, “Translation Workshop: Robert Walser’s *The Robber*,” Wärmende Fremde: Robert Walser und seine Übersetzer im Gespräch, Centre de traduction littéraire de Lausanne (Univ. of Lausanne), Feb. 1994.
- “Translating Walter Benjamin” (roundtable speaker), Walter Benjamin: Übersetzen, Centre de traduction littéraire de Lausanne (Univ. of Lausanne), Feb. 1993.

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND INTERVIEWS

- Interviewed by George Fragopoulos, *The Quarterly Conversation*, <http://quarterlyconversation.com/pushing-thorny-syntax-to-an-extreme-the-susan-bernofsky-interview/>, May 9, 2010.
- Interviewed by Scott Esposito, *Two Worlds: The Blog of the Center for the Art of Translation*, <http://catranslation.org/blog/2010/01/19/each-sentence-is-its-own-little-journey-and-i-try-to-keep-the-itinerary-intact-susan-bernofsky-on-translating-robert-walser/>, Jan. 19, 2010.
- On *Der Kramladen des Glücks* by Franz Hessel, *The Quarterly Conversation*, <http://quarterlyconversation.com/translate-this-book-single-page>, Dec. 7, 2009.
- Interviewed by Georgie Devereux, *Cantos: A New Directions Blog*, <http://ndpublishing.wordpress.com/2009/10/01/interview-with-new-directions-translator-susan-bernofsky>, Oct. 1, 2009.
- Interviewed by Scott Esposito, *Two Worlds: The Blog of the Center for the Art of Translation*, <http://catranslation.org/blog/2009/09/10/walking-around-pretending-to-be-another-person-susan-bernofsky-on-yoko-tawada/>, Sept. 10, 2009.
- Interviewed by Jed Lipinski, *The Brooklyn Rail*, <http://www.brooklynrail.org/2009/07/books/susan-bernofsky-with-jed-lipinski>, July-Aug. 2009.
- World Update, BBC World Service with Peter Dobbie, “Donald Duck in Germany,” June 15, 2009.
- PRI’s *The World: World Books* with Bill Marx, “An Interview with Susan Bernofsky,” March 3, 2009.
- Interviewed by Alice Jennings, Marfa Public Radio (KRTS), Oct. 9, 2008.
- Bookworm with Michael Silverblatt (Radio KCRW), “A Celebration of the Work of Swiss Author Robert Walser,” Aug. 28, 2008.

Studio LCB with Denis Scheck (Radio Deutschlandfunk), "Ein Gespräch mit Jeffrey Eugenides," June 28, 2003.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Reader's Reports recently written for: *Goethe Yearbook*; *Women in German Yearbook*; Routledge; Nebraska UP; New Directions; Farrar, Straus & Giroux; Harcourt; German Book Office New York.

Member of PEN, MLA, ACLA, ALTA, Robert Walser-Gesellschaft

Co-Chair, PEN Translation Committee

Member, PEN Festival Advisory Committee

Advisory Board, PEN Translation Fund

Advisory Board Member, Susan Sontag Translation Prize

Numerous short translations published

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

German (fluent)

French (good reading and speaking)

Italian (fair reading and speaking)

Spanish (rudimentary)

Russian (rudimentary)