

## Sonja Rae Fritzsche

Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
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### EDUCATION

Ph.D. in German Studies - University of Minnesota, May 2001, Advisor: Professor Jack Zipes  
Dissertation: "Alternate Worlds, Alternate Visions: Cultural Politics and Socialist Critique in East German Science Fiction."

M.A. in Modern European History - University of California, Los Angeles, 1993-1995

B.A. in German and History, with Distinction - Indiana University, Bloomington, 1988-1992

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Book

*Science Fiction Literature in East Germany*. DDR Studien/East German Studies Series 15. Bern; Oxford: Peter Lang, 2006.

#### Articles

"Utopia, Dystopia, and Ostalgia: The Pre- and Post Unification Visions of East German Science Fiction Writer Alexander Kröger." *Utopian Studies* 17.3 (Winter 2006): 441-464.

"Reading Ursula Le Guin in East Germany." 47.3 *Extrapolation* (Winter 2006): 471-487.

"East Germany's *Werkstatt Zukunft*: Futurology and the Science Fiction Films of *defa-futurum*." *German Studies Review* 29:2 (May 2006): 367-386.

"East German Science Fiction Literature/Ostdeutsche Science Fiktion Literatur." Invited Introductory Essay. *In the Dust of the Stars*. DVD. Dir. Gottfried Kollditz. University of Massachusetts-Amherst: DEFA Film Library, September 2005.

"Reconceptualizing East German Popular Literature Via the Science Fiction Niche" *German Quarterly* 77.4 (2004): 443-461.

"Auf dem Weg zur Venus. Die Entdeckung ostdeutscher Populärkultur: 'Der schweigende Stern.'" Trans. Hans Günther Dicks. *Filmforum* 19.4 (September-October 1999): 20-21.

#### Interviews

--, Esther Dischereit, and Jennifer Good. "Esther Dischereit, Self-Interview - Based on a Conversation with Sonja Fritzsche and Jennifer Good." *Women in German Yearbook* 23 (2007): 1-9.

Encyclopedia Entries

Forthcoming entries, "Stanislaw Lem" and "Solaris." *Compendium of 20th Century Novelists and Novels*. ed. Michael Sollars. New York, NY: Facts on File, 2007.

**REVIEWS**

Review of "Hausväteridylle oder sozialistische Utopie? Die Familie im Recht der DDR." By Ute Schneider. *German Studies Review* 29.3 (2006): 63-64.

Review of "Die grosse Illustrierte Bibliographie der Science Fiction in der DDR." By Hans-Peter Neumann. *SFRA Review* 269 (2004): 5-6.

Review of "Der schweigende Stern." Directed by Kurt Maetzig. *German Studies Review* 27.3 (2004): 681-682.

Review of "Triumph of the Ordinary. Depictions of Daily Life in East German Cinema 1949-1989." By Joshua Feinstein. *German Quarterly* 76.4 (2003).

Review of "Women After Communism. The East German Experience." By Helen Frink. *German Studies Review* 25.2 (October 2002): 665-666.

Review of "For Lack of Knowledge: On the Epistemology of Politics as Salvation." By Darko Suvin. *Journal of Utopian Studies* 13.1 (2002): 246-247.

Review of "Deutsche Science Fiction 1870-1914. Rekonstruktion und Analyse der Anfänge einer Gattung." By Roland Innerhofer. *Journal of Utopian Studies* 10.1 (1999): 223-224.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Associate Professor, German and Eastern European Studies, Illinois Wesleyan University, Fall 2007-  
Department Co-Chair, Fall 2007, Department Chair Spring 2008-Fall 2008

Assistant Professor, 2001-2007

Responsible for teaching two courses in German Studies and one course in the Eastern European Studies program each semester.

Courses: German Language/Culture Courses 101, 102, 201, 202, 301  
German 417 Beyond the Wall: German Culture Since 1989 (W)  
German 488 From Democracy to Dictatorship  
German 499 Independent Study  
LC 116 German Postwar Cinema  
LC 272 From Utopia to Science Fiction: Imagining the Future in Russia & Germany  
LC 274 Women and Minorities in East German Culture  
Gateway 100 Introduction to Science Fiction  
Gateway 100 Amazons, Cyborgs, and She-monsters

Digital Audio Project for First Year German, University of Minnesota, Spring/Summer 2001.

In coordination with the textbook's primary authors Charlotte Melin and Jeff High, I supervised a graduate student and an undergraduate assistant in creating web-based listening exercises to accompany *Wende*. Most recent version <http://cla.umn.edu/wende/index.php>.



Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 1996-1997, 1999-2001  
Department of German, Scandinavian and Dutch, Supervisor: Professor Charlotte Melin  
German 1001-1004 and 3011WI (writing intensive) - First, second and third year German  
language/conversation and composition with excellent student evaluations

Certificate in Educational Technology, Middlebury College, Vermont, Summer 2000  
Three-week intensive training program in multi-media and web-based educational  
technology with the development of individual course materials.  
For further information see [www.cet.middlebury.edu](http://www.cet.middlebury.edu).

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

East German literature and film, utopian theory, theories of the fantastic, science fiction, popular culture

## **AWARDS/GRANTS**

### **National**

Co-writer/sponsor of successful grant proposal to the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence program with  
colleague Marina Balina to bring Russian academic Valery Dymshits to Illinois Wesleyan  
University as a visiting professor during the Fall Semester 2006.

Arthur O. Lewis Award 2004, Society for Utopian Studies. Given for the best article given by an  
untentured scholar at the society's annual conference. For the article: "Utopia, Dystopia and  
Ostalgia: The Pre- and Post-Unification Visions of East German Science Fiction Writer  
Alexander Kröger."

Fulbright German Studies Seminar "Visual Culture in Germany: Film, Television and the Internet."  
June 4 - 25, 2004.

Invited to attend the East German Summer Film Institute on "DEFA and Eastern European Cinema",  
DEFA Film Library at University of Massachusetts Amherst and Smith College, July 7-12,  
2003.

Travel Grant from Thyssen to attend the 2002 Symposium on German Film, "Between the Local and  
the Global: Revisiting the Sites of German Cinema," March 21-23, 2002, Washington  
University, St. Louis.

Grant to Attend the East German Summer Film Institute "Interdisciplinary Approaches to the DEFA  
Film." June 25-July 1, 2001, Sponsored by DEFA Film Library, University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst. Held at Smith College, Northampton, MA,

Best Student Paper for "Out of the Western Box: Rethinking Popular Cultural Categories from the  
Perspective of East German Science Fiction," Science Fiction Research Association Annual  
Conference, June 26-July 2, 2000, Cleveland, Ohio.

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Research Fellowship, 1998-1999.  
Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany; an international fellowship competition.

**Local**

Instructional Development Grant, Illinois Wesleyan University, Spring 2008

Curriculum Development Grant, Illinois Wesleyan University, Fall/Spring 2007-2008.

Art and Scholarly Development Grant, Illinois Wesleyan University, Summer 2007.

Instructional Development Grant. Illinois Wesleyan University, Summer 2007.

International Office Site Visit Grant. Illinois Wesleyan University, Summer 2007.

Curriculum Development Grant, Illinois Wesleyan University, Summer 2005, with colleague Julie Prandi.

Junior Faculty Leave, Illinois Wesleyan University, Fall 2004 - a campus-wide competition.

Art and Scholarly Development Grant, Illinois Wesleyan University, Summer/Fall 2004.

Humanities Occasional Grant, Illinois Wesleyan University, Fall 2003 - To support the visit of Dada performer Dr. Bernd Seydel, Mundwerkstadt, Erfurt, Germany.

Humanities Occasional Grant, Illinois Wesleyan University, Spring 2003 - To support the visit of Paralympic Athlete-Scholar Cara Dunne Yates, Visiting Scholar at Brandeis University.

Curriculum Development Grant, Illinois Wesleyan University, Summer-Fall 2002.

Art and Scholarly Development Grant, Illinois Wesleyan University, Summer 2002.  
Spent researching East German Science Fiction Film in Berlin Film archives

College of Liberal Arts Fees Committee Instructional Technology Grant, University of Minnesota, Spring/Summer 2001.

Graduate School Doctoral Dissertation Special Grant, University of Minnesota, Summer 2000.

German Departmental Summer Grant, University of Minnesota, Summer 2000.

**CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**National**

“The Thorndikes and East Germany’s 70 mm Film Experiment”  
22<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Literature Conference. University of West Georgia. November 15-17, 2007.  
Carrollton, GA.

“Dis(co)pia: East German Youth Culture and the Disco Film”

Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference, October 4-7, 2007 Toronto, Canada.

"The Inner Fight For Agency,"

Coalition of Women in German Annual Conference, October 19-22, 2006, Snowbird, UT.

"Feminist Visions of the Future in the German Science Fiction of Today,"

Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference, October 12-15, 2006. Colorado Springs, CO.

"East Germany's *Werkstatt Zukunft*: Futurology and the Film's of *defa-futurum*,"

Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference. October 27-30, 2005. Memphis, TN.

"Reinventing the Communist Science Fiction Novel in East Germany: Continuities and Discontinuities,"

German Studies Association Annual Conference, September 29-October 2, 2005. Milwaukee, WI.

"Publishing Ursula Le Guin in East Germany,"

Science Fiction Research Association Annual Conference, June 23 - 26, 2005, Las Vegas, NV.

"That Was Then, This Is Now: the Pre- and Post-Unification Visions of East German Science Fiction Writer Alexander Kröger,"

Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference, October 30 - November 2, 2003, San Diego, CA.

"Science Fiction in the Soviet Sector: Ludwig Turek's *The Golden Ball*,"

German Studies Association Annual Conference, September 18-21, 2003, New Orleans, LA.

Co-organizer of panel "Teaching Students with Disabilities in the Foreign Language Classroom,"

American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) Annual Conference, Sponsored by the Coalition of Women in German. November 22-24, 2002, Salt Lake City, Utah.

"Web-based Listening Exercises for the Textbook *Wende*" Courseware Showcase,

Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO) Annual Conference, March 28-30, 2002, Davis, California.

"Subversion or Diversion?: Science Fiction Fandom in East Germany,"

German Studies Association Annual Conference, October 4-7, 2001, Washington, D.C.

"Utopian Realism in the East German Science Fiction Film *Eolomea*,"

International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts Annual Conference, March 21-25, 2001, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

"East is East and West is West: Exploring the Limits of Western Theories of Popular Culture in the Former East,"

"The Politics of Pop: Popular Culture in German-speaking countries," Department of German, Scandinavian and Dutch, University of Minnesota, March 2-4, 2001, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"East German Apocalypse: Hopelessness in Angela and Karlheinz Steinmüller's *Der Traummeister*,"

Modern Language Association Annual Conference, December 27-30, 2000, Washington, D.C.

Co-organizer of the panel: "Moving Towards a Web-Based Curriculum Beyond Language Instruction,"

Women in German Annual Conference, October 19-22, 2000, Rio Rico Resort, Arizona.

"Out of the Western Box: Rethinking Popular Culture Categories from the Perspective of East German Science Fiction,"

Science Fiction Research Association Annual Conference, June 26-July 2, 2000, Cleveland, Ohio.

"East German Science Fiction as Critical Space: Authors Johanna and Günter Braun,"

German Studies Association Annual Conference, October 7-10, 1999, Atlanta, Georgia.

"Negotiating Ideology-Reading Strategies in Kurt Maetzig's *First Spaceship on Venus*,"

Popular Culture Association/American Cultural Association Annual Conference, March 31 - April 3, 1999, San Diego, California.

**Local**

"Promoting Discussion with Wikis in the Upper Level German Literature Classroom"

Writing Workshop, Illinois Wesleyan University, January 12, 2008.

"East German Identity Through Science Fiction."

Interview with WGLT, a local public radio station. December 4, 2006. Illinois State University, Bloomington, Illinois.

"Publishing American Science Fiction in East Germany: The Case of Ursula Le Guin,"

Inaugural Talk of the International Studies Colloquium, Illinois Wesleyan University, October 6, 2005, Bloomington, Illinois.

"But is it your English?"

"Must the Whole World Speak English?," a panel in conjunction with the IWU Presidential Inauguration, Illinois Wesleyan University, April 8, 2005, Bloomington, Illinois.

"Identity in German Media Today: Reflections on a Fulbright Seminar in Germany, June 2004,"

Non-Org Talk, Illinois Wesleyan University, February 14, 2005, Bloomington, Illinois.

"Fantasy in Today's World,"

Interview with WGLT, a local public radio station. January 21, 2004. Illinois State University, Bloomington, Illinois.

"*The Matrix* - Cyberpunk as Film,"

Non-Org Talk, Illinois Wesleyan University, November 17, 2003, Bloomington, Illinois.

"Teaching Learning Strategies,"

Gateway Instruction and First Year Advisor Orientation, Illinois Wesleyan, August 15, 2003.

"Strategic Sifting through the Newest and the Not-So-New: Educational Technology for Foreign Language Teaching,"

Presentation for the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures and the Department of Hispanic Studies, Illinois Wesleyan University, May 1, 2002, Bloomington, Illinois.

"Socialist Realism - an Impossible Aesthetic," Co-presenter with Marina Balina and Joy Calico,

Non-Org Talk, Illinois Wesleyan University, January 21, 2002, Bloomington, Illinois.

"Stories from a Parallel World: East German Science Fiction."

Non-Org Talk, Illinois Wesleyan University, November 26, 2001.

Co-organizer and introducer of screenings of East German Films *Signale: Ein Weltraumabenteuer*, *Orpheus in der Unterwelt*, and *Hauptmann Florian von der Mühle*.

"The Politics of Pop: Popular Culture in German-speaking countries," Graduate student conference, Department of German, Scandinavian and Dutch, University of Minnesota, March 2-4, 2001, Minneapolis, Minnesota. With generous funding from Filmstudio Babelsberg, Polzer Media Group GmbH Potsdam, Bojebuck Film Studios Berlin, Delphi Filmtheater Betrieb Berlin, Oak Street Cinema, and the U Film Society.

## **WORKSHOPS**

Loyola College Berlin Literature Seminar, am Müggelsee, Germany, June 25-30, 2007

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

### **National**

Awards Committee, Society for Utopian Studies, 2007-2009

At-large member, Steering Committee, Society for Utopian Studies, 2005-2007.

Referee, *Utopian Studies*, Journal of the Society for Utopian Studies, 2001- present.

Referee, *Women in German Yearbook*, Journal of the Coalition of Women in German. 2007-present.

Faculty referee, *Focus on German Studies*, Graduate student journal, University of Cincinnati, 2001-present.

### **Illinois Wesleyan University**

Chair, Teaching and Learning with Technology Roundtable, a campus-wide committee, 2006-2007

Committee Member since 2002/ Strategic Planning Subcommittee, 2002-2003

Fulbright Campus Coordinator, 2003-2008 (except Fall 2004).

Study Abroad Committee, a campus-wide committee, 2002-present.

First-year Student Advisor, of students in freshman writing seminar, 2002-2003, 2005-2008.

University Speakers' Committee, a campus-wide elected committee, 2005-2007.

Russian and East European Studies Team Coordinator, Fall 2002, Fall 2003-Spring 2004,

Spring 2005-2007.

German Studies Website Manager 2001-present.

German Studies Section Coordinator, Fall 2005-Spring 2007.

"Literature and Culture" Course Rubric Coordinator, 2002-2003.

Co-organizer of and Faculty Liaison for the new Language House, 2001-2003.

Regular screenings and introduction of films in the IWU International Film Series 2001- present.

## REFERENCES

**Professor Julie Prandi**, Current Department Co-Chair and Professor of German, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL 61702, (309) 556-3084, [jprandi@iwu.edu](mailto:jprandi@iwu.edu).

**Professor Nancy Sultan**, Department Chair 2001-2005, Professor of Greek and Roman Studies, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL 61702, (309) 556-3173, [nsultan@iwu.edu](mailto:nsultan@iwu.edu).

**Professor Jack Zipes**, Department of German, Scandinavian and Dutch, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, (612) 624-1041, [zipes001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:zipes001@tc.umn.edu).