

**Transcending Diaspora:**  
**Whiteness, Performativity and the Politics of the Body**

**Inaugural Workshop  
of the DFG Young Scholars Network “Black Diaspora and Germany”**

**December 3-4, 2010**

**English Department, Münster University, Germany**

The inaugural workshop of the DFG Young Scholars Network “Black Diaspora and Germany” will take place in Münster, Germany on December 3-4, 2010. It will address the potential and limitations of current conceptualizations of diaspora as a category of analysis and identity construction in the German context.

It is the two-fold aim of the workshop to, first, question and re-evaluate the suitability of the terminology of a ‘Black diaspora’ in the case of Germany and to determine the factors that differentiate the Black diaspora from other collective identities. Second, theoretical approaches in current Black diaspora scholarship that have so far been neglected will be further developed and empirically substantiated. Based on specific case studies, the concept of diaspora will be located within the force field of nationality, transnationality, and ethnicity and interrogated as to its transgressive potential. Exemplary studies dealing with the interdependencies of the body, politics, ethnicity, culture, the territorial state and deterritorialized identities will illuminate transnational parameters and transcultural practices and deconstruct essentializing definitions of diaspora.

The thematic spectrum of the workshop participants ranges from counterhegemonic approaches rooted in critical whiteness studies over analyses of the performativity of diaspora to aspects of body history that understands physical as well as imagined bodies as arenas of power and discursive conflict.

The Workshop is organised jointly by Christina Oppel, Silke Stroh, Holger Droessler and Frank Mehring.

**Keynote Speakers**

Prof. Dr. Tina Campt

*(Associate Professor of Women's Studies, History and German, Duke University;  
Visiting Professor of Women's and Africana Studies, Barnard College, Columbia University)*

Prof. Dr. Alexander Weheliye

*(Associate Professor of English, African American Studies, Northwestern University)*

**Network Participants Presenting at the Workshop**

Christina Oppel (English Department, Münster University)

Dr. Frank Mehring (JFK Institute, Free University of Berlin)

Holger Droessler, MA (Harvard University / Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich)

Dr. Silke Stroh (English Department, Münster University)

For further information see <http://blackdiasporaandgermany.blogspot.com/>.

For workshop registration please contact the workshop organizers (Christina Oppel, Frank Mehring, Holger Droessler, Silke Stroh) at [bdg\[ad\]uni-muenster.de](mailto:bdg[ad]uni-muenster.de).

## Workshop programme

### Friday, December 3

- 2.30pm Workshop Opening**  
Maria I. Diedrich (Münster)  
Silke Stroh (Münster)  
Christina Oppel (Münster)
- 3-4pm Workshop Paper 1**  
CHRISTINA OPPEL (WWU Münster)  
*Transcending Diaspora? Relations of Power, (Dis)identification and the Human*
- 4-4.30pm Coffee Break**
- 4.30-5.30 Workshop Paper 2**  
FRANK MEHRING (FU Berlin)  
*Performing Anthropological Authenticity:  
Franz Boas, Zora Neale Hurston, and the Transatlantic Blues*
- 5.30-6pm Break**
- 6-7.30 Keynote 1**  
ALEXANDER WEHELIYE (Northwestern University):  
*Without Comparison: W.E.B. Du Bois's and Walter Benjamin's Modernities*  
(room H19, Englisches Seminar, Johannisstrasse 12-20, 48143 Münster)
- 8pm Dinner**

### Saturday, December 4

- 9.00-10.30 Keynote 2**  
TINA CAMPT (Duke University / Columbia University)  
*Diaspora and/in Stasis*  
(room H19, Englisches Seminar, Johannisstrasse 12-20, 48143 Münster)
- 10.30-11.00 Coffee Break**
- 11-12am Workshop Paper 3**  
SILKE STROH (WWU Münster)  
*Transperipherality as a Model for Diaspora Studies?  
Interfaces of Race, Class and (Post)colonialism*
- 12-1pm Workshop Paper 4**  
HOLGER DRÖSSLER (Harvard University)  
*Resistant Bodies: Towards an Analytics of the Body in African Diaspora Studies*
- 1.30pm Lunch: Schlossgarten-Café**  
Schlossgarten 4, 48149 Münster (behind the palace)
- 2.30-3.30 Roundtable Discussion**  
*Transcending Diaspora? Concepts and Contexts*  
(Schlossgarten-Café)
- 3.30-4.30 Discussion of Organisational Matters**  
(network members only)
- 4.30pm End of Workshop**