

**Empire, Revolution, and New Identities:
Geoculture and Geopolitics in Brown and his
Contemporaries**



Canaletto, "Dresden Elbufer" (1748)

6th Biennial Conference of the Charles Brockden Brown Society

Technische Universität Dresden
Thursday-Saturday October 9-11, 2008

**Sixth Biennial Conference of the
Charles Brockden Brown Society***

**Empire, Revolution, and New Identities:
Geoculture and Geopolitics in Brown and his Contemporaries**

The conference theme emphasizes current efforts to explore Brown and his era in terms of historical systems and forces that exceed traditional perspectives based on the nation-state. From his earliest writings and novels to the late “Annals of Europe and America,” Brown reflected on imperial and colonial systems, and drew on revolutionary-era print and intellectual networks that connected writers across his circum-Atlantic context. Our focus on geopolitics and geoculture in Brown and his contemporaries relates historical versions of these questions to contemporary scholarly work from “trans” or “post” nationalist perspectives on a variety of topics, from Empire and Colonialism to new formations of the subject.

Our conference site at the Saxon State Library in Dresden marks the Brown Society’s return to Europe. At the heart of *Mitteleuropa* and in a region central to the German Enlightenment, Dresden is an ideal location to consider international themes and the reconfiguration of national boundaries. The conference site in Dresden offers special opportunities for engaging with questions concerning Brown and German or Central-European Enlightenment, the cultural politics of *Sturm und Drang* and early romanticism, and the period’s German-language novelistic and historical production generally.

The conference has been planned and organized by:

Philip Barnard (University of Kansas); Hans-Ulrich Mohr (Technische Universität Dresden); Bryan Waterman (New York University); Lisa West (Drake University).

The officers of the Charles Brockden Brown Society are:

Nancy Ruttenberg (New York University), President; Philip Barnard (University of Kansas), Vice-President; Fritz Fleischmann (Babson College), Executive Secretary and Treasurer.

For their support in organizing the conference, the Brown Society thanks the Technische Universität Dresden (Fakultät Sprach- Literatur- & Kulturwissenschaft; Institut für Anglistik & Americanistik); the SLUB (Sächsische Landes- und Universitätsbibliothek); and the DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft).

In addition to Uli Mohr, the conference organizing committee and society members wish to thank Till Grahl, Benny Pock, Andreas Born, Andrea Schubert, and Patricia Schaal for their generous assistance with program, technical, tour, and administrative aspects of the conference.

* Previous conferences were held in Philadelphia (1998), Las Vegas (2000), Groningen (202), New York (2004), and New Orleans (2006).

All sessions will take place in the Vortragssaal of the SLUB.

Suggestions for Arrival, locating the Conference venue, and public transport in Dresden

Arrival at Dresden Airport:

Just outside the baggage claim area an escalator/ elevator will take you two floor levels down to the City Train terminal (follow the 'S-Bahn' symbol, an S in a circle). This train will carry you, after a 20 min. trip, to Dresden Hauptbahnhof. Tickets for "1 Tarifzone" (= EUR 1.80) can be bought at the information desk in the entrance/exit hall or from a touch-screen vending machine on the platform downstairs.

—Those who stay at the **Pension am Zwinger** should get off the train at "Dresden-Mitte", three S-Bahn stations before the Hauptbahnhof.

—For the **Pullman Hotel** and **City Herberge**, guests travel to the Hauptbahnhof and leave this building on the left hand ("City") side (left in the direction of travel).

—All three of the Conference hotels are North of the Hauptbahnhof.

Directions to the Conference venue:

Our meeting room is the "Vortragssaal," at the Sächsische Landes- und Universitätsbibliothek (SLUB), Zellescher Weg 18, on the 1st floor behind a dark red door. For more information see the Library's website, which can be accessed in English: <http://www.slub-dresden.de/en/>. The Library is located on the South side of the intersection of Zellescher Weg (an East-West street) and Räcknitzer Markweg (a North-South street). Note that a search for "Saxon State Library, Dresden" or "SLUB, Dresden" is operable on Google-Earth or Google-Maps and provides an easy way to visualize the walk.

From the Hauptbahnhof, the Saxon Library is a 20-minute walk uphill (South) along Fritz-Löffler-Straße to Fritz-Förster-Platz and then 300m to the left (East) along the Zellescher Weg, passing by the Mensa and a lengthy adjoining building. If you are a bit more adventurous, you can shorten the walk by taking a sort of left-hand (South-East) diagonal at the intersection of Reichenbachstraße and Fritz-Löffler-Straße (just before you reach a blue and golden Russian orthodox church). From there, you proceed left (East) along Reichenbachstrasse until you reach Andreas-Schubert-Straße; turn right (South) to the Lukas Kirche (church) and you will head uphill toward the Zellescher Weg. The Library, a 4-story modern concrete oblong block that looks like books in stacks, is on the left across the 4-lane arterial road.

You can also take a bus No. 72 or 76 from outside the central entrance/exit of the Hauptbahnhof with two stops (Southbound) to Fritz-Löffler-Platz, and change there to Bus 61 (Eastbound) for one more stop in front of the SLUB.

Registration will be in the foyer just outside the Vortragssaal on the 1st floor of the SLUB.

Lunch possibilities include:

—the Cafeteria next to the "Vortragssaal";

—the "Siedep" ([zeede punkt]= boiling point), Zellescher Weg, on the ground floor of a large building opposite the SLUB which offers three self-service meal alternatives at ca. EUR

—more possibilities will be provided in the conference folder.

For more information or any question, please email: **Hans-Ulrich.Mohr@ tu-dresden.de**

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

- 11:00am-1:00pm Registration at the Vortragssaal der SLUB
(Lunch available at the SLUB cafeteria or the nearby Siedepunkt)
- 1:00-1:15 Welcomes: Local Organizer, Professor Hans-Ulrich Mohr;
Dean of the Faculty. Professor Brigitte Georgi-Findlay
- 1:15-2:45 Session 1: **Models of Self and Civil Society**
Chair: Philip Barnard (University of Kansas)
- a) Thomas Scanlan (Ohio University): “Private Interest and Public Good: *Arthur Mervyn* and the Limits of Benevolence”
 - b) Duncan Faherty (Queens College): “‘Abundant in temptation and calamity’: Porous Borders and the Illusion of Privacy in *Memoirs of Stephen Calvert*.”
 - c) Christian Reed (University of California, Los Angeles): “‘A Doubling of Existence’: Urban Intimacy and *Ormond*”
 - d) Dietmar Schloss (Universität Heidelberg): “Civilization and Violence: Reading *Wieland* with Norbert Elias”
- 2:45-3:00 TEA & COFFEE
- 3:00-4:30 SESSION 2: **Geopolitics of the Imperial Imaginary**
Chair: Lisa West (Drake University)
- a) Robert Battistini (Franklin & Marshall College): “Playing Hooky from Walstein's School: Generic Play and the *Historical Sketches*”
 - b) Allison Bigelow (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill): “Making Sense of Ventriloquism: Colonial Bodies, Voices, and Beliefs in *The Female American* and *Memoirs of Carwin the Biloquist*”
 - c) Michael C. Weisenburg (State University of New York, College at Brockport): “*Edgar Huntly* and Post-Colonial Jive: the Hybrid Savage of the American Wilderness”
 - d) Mark Kamrath (University of Central Florida): “‘Seizing all within our reach’: Brown, Napoleon, and Historical Objectivity in the ‘Annals of Europe’”
- 4:30-4:45 TEA & COFFEE
- 4:45-6:30 SESSION 3: **Relations with the Godwin Circle and British Gothic**
Chair: Oliver Scheiding (Johannes-Gutenberg Universität, Mainz)

- a) Oliver Scheiding: opening remarks.
- b) Jessica Sellountos (Emory University): “Revolutionary Uncertainties: Transatlantic Subjectivity in *Edgar Huntly*”
- c) Maria-Ana Tupan (University of Bucharest): “*Wieland*: a Political Allegory?”
- d) Abigail Smith (University of Aberdeen): “‘Insanity: a Fragment’: a Revision of Reason”

7:00-9:00 **Reception & Buffet Dinner at the Marché Lounge (Hauptbahnhof)**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

9:00-10:30 **SESSION 4: Landscapes of Empire and Colonialism**

Chair: Andy Doolen (University of Kentucky)

- a) Stefan L. Brandt (Freie Universität Berlin): “‘New tracks, new prospects, new summits’: Cultural Self-Fashioning and the Poetics of Space in *Edgar Huntly*”
- b) Larisa Grollemond (City University, New York): “Untamed America: Brown, Thomas Cole, and the Influence of the Native American.”
- c) Susan Oliver (University of Salford): “Landscaping Disaffection: the Ecology of Wastelands in Brown’s *Edgar Huntly* and Walter Scott’s *The Bride of Lammermoor*”
- d) Andy Doolen (University of Kentucky): “Imaginary Borders: Geographies of the Early US Exploration Narrative”

10:30-10:50 TEA & COFFEE

10:50-12:15 **SESSION 5: Roundtable on the Canon: "The Man at Home"**

Chairs: Edward White (University of Florida) and Michael Drexler (Bucknell University)

- a) Edward White (University of Florida)
- b) Michael Drexler (Bucknell University)
- c) Fritz Fleischmann (Babson College)
- d) Evert van Leeuwen (Leiden University)
- e) Oliver Scheiding (Johannes-Gutenberg Universität, Mainz)
- f) Abigail Smith (University of Aberdeen)
- g) Bryan Waterman (New York University)
- h) Lisa West (Drake University)

12:15-2:00 LUNCH BREAK

1:30-2:00 Guided Tour of the Sächsische Landes- und Universitätsbibliothek

2:00-3:30 **SESSION 6: “Secrets of the Cosmopolitan Order”: Beyond the Early Republic**

Chair: Mark Kamrath (University of Central Florida)

- a) Stephen Shapiro (University of Warwick): “*Wieland als Weltliteratur / Wieland as World Literature: Can Brown Escape the Chimeras of Early American Studies?*”
- b) Leonard von Morze (University of Massachusetts at Boston): “States Against Empire: Brown's Enlightenment and the *Kleinstaat*”
- c) Tamika Nadine Walker (New York University): “Leonora Sansay and the Secret History of Political Subjectivity”
- d) Thomas Richter (Zentrum für Literatur und Kulturforschung, Berlin): “Brown’s Thuringian Subterfuge in ‘Walstein’s School of History’”

3:30-4:15 **CBBS Business Meeting, TEA & COFFEE**

- 1. Life memberships & graduate travel funds
- 2. Alliances and planning for panels at ALA and other venues
- 3. Officers & Advisory Board for next cycle
- 4. Location for 2010 meeting

4:30-6:00 **SESSION 7: KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Introduction: Uli Mohr (Technische Universität Dresden)

Wil Verhoeven (University of Groningen):

“In Defense of Empire: Charles Brockden Brown and the Recolonization of America.”

6:00 **BUFFET AT THE CONFERENCE VENUE**

6:45 Departure by bus to the Karl-May-Museum (Dresden-Radebeul)

7:30-8:30 Guided Tour of the Karl-May-Museum

9:00 Back in Dresden City

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

9:00-10:30 **SESSION 8: Imbrications of Self and Other: Novel Heroes and Villains**
Chair: Bryan Waterman (New York University)

- a) Lisa West (Drake University): “The Rake Reformed—into a Disordered Personality: or, How *Ormond* Anticipates DTSM Standards of Behavior”
- b) Joe Shapiro (Stanford University): “Arthur Mervyn's Apprenticeship: The Beginnings of the American Bildungsroman”

c) Nikki Wilson Clasby (University of Northern Iowa): “Brown’s Sofia: Safe in the Arms of a Literary Monster”

10:30-10:45 TEA & COFFEE

10:45-12:15 SESSION 9: **Roundtable: Teaching Brown beyond American Studies**
Chair: Hilary Emmett (Queensland University)

- a) Hilary Emmett (Queensland University)
- b) Evert van Leeuwen (Leiden University)
- c) Leonard von Morze (University of Massachusetts at Boston)
- d) Susan Oliver (University of Salford)
- e) Stephen Shapiro (University of Warwick)

12:15-2:00 LUNCH BREAK

2:00-3:15: SESSION 10: **“Sex and Property”: Circumatlantic Performance**
Chair: Fritz Fleischmann (Babson College)

- a) Philip Barnard (University of Kansas): “Ending with Achsa: Abolition and the Jewish Question in *Arthur Mervyn*.”
- b) Lana Finley (University of California, Los Angeles): “Philosophic Death: *Ormond* and the Culture of the Occult”
- c) Sarah Blythe (University of Kansas): “‘By the contagion of example’: Pestilence and the Performative Gaze in *Ormond*”
- d) Stephanie Sommerfield (Göttingen University): “‘I care not from what source these disasters have flowed’: Vigilance and Virtue in Mettingen”

3:15-3:30 TEA & COFFEE

4:00-6:00 Guided Tour of the City

7:30 **CONFERENCE DINNER** at the *Chiaveri* Restaurant, Dresden Elbufer.
(Bernhard-von-Lindenau-Platz 1: this location overlooks the Elbe river, just east of the Augustus bridge.)

Conference Participants

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