"Traveling without Moving? Contemporary Narratives of Mobility"

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, AT 4:00 P.M. IN 142 STRAUB HALL

Over the past decade, the rise in texts dealing with global mobility in the form of travel has signaled an increasingly cosmopolitan, displaced cultural consciousness of German-language authors. While many of the fictional characters that inhabit the pages of these authors' texts are distinctly transnational in their effortless maneuvering of global spaces, their relentless travel also conveys a nostalgia for a bygone sense of place and stable identity that the experience of globalization has called into question. The postmodern life strategies of these fictional global tourists point to the fragmentary and discontinuous nature of human relations in the global sphere and criticize the social and economic inequities exacerbated by globalization.

“Transatlantic Cities: Real, Imagined and Virtual Spaces”

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH AT 5PM IN 117 GLOBAL SCHOLARS HALL

The talk's underlying question is how societies organize different social spaces and how these spaces are related to individual and collective identity. European cities, on which this talk focuses, have been constructed both in reality and in the imagination from the 19th to the 21st century. Exploring differences and commonalities between various nations, such as Germany, France, and Spain will allow us to understand how space and place are determined and produced, and what this production means for the individual and social groups, for countries and nations and their respective self-understanding.