

## ICL-QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: David Brenner  
PRESENT POSITION US: Asst Prof, Kent State

GRANT PERIOD: Sept 06-July 07

BORN: USA  
LANGUAGES: English and German

### GERMAN HOST INSTITUTION

University of Konstanz

### ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

Major field: German Studies (i.e., German culture, history, and politics)  
Minor fields: Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies (i.e., American Studies, Jewish Studies, Film and Media Studies)

### AREAS OF RESEARCH

Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies (German Studies and American Studies), Jewish Studies, Ethnic Studies, Film/Media Studies

### POSSIBLE LECTURE TOPICS

#### **I. TOPICS OF RECENT INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PAPERS**

"Uncovering the Father: Franz Kafka on Judaism, Gender, and Sexuality"

"Shoah Business? Hollywood and the Holocaust in the Age of Globalization"

"Fiddler on the Cattle Car: The 'Tragedy' of 'Comedy' in Recent Holocaust Films"

"Performative Pedagogy: Teaching Today in the Corporate University"

"'Torn' Between Justice and Forgiveness: The Late(r) Derrida and the Death Penalty"

"Kafka's Kitsch: German-Jewish Popular Culture before the Holocaust"

## II. TOPICS OF RECENT INVITED LECTURES (at non-university venues, such as museums, community centers, synagogues, churches, and educators' workshops)

MEETING THE FOCKERS: How Jewish is Contemporary American Popular Culture?

SHOAH BUSINESS? The Holocaust and Hollywood Since 1945

THE HOLOCAUST BLOCKBUSTER: Holocaust Films Since *Schindler's List* (e.g., *Life is Beautiful*, *The Pianist*, etc.)

FIDDLER ON THE CATTLE CAR: The 'Tragedy' of 'Comedy' in Recent Holocaust Films"

SPIELBERG'S HOLOCAUST: Everything You Always Wanted To Know About *Schindler's List*

AFTER AUSCHWITZ: Jewish Life and Writing in Germany Since the Holocaust

MADE-FOR-TV GENOCIDE: Holocaust-Related Films Made for Television since *Holocaust* (1978) (includes *The Attic*, *War and Remembrance*, *Anne Frank: The Whole Story*, *Haven*, *Uprising*, etc.)

THE WARNERS GO TO WAR: Anti-Nazi Cinema of the 1930s (e.g., *The Life of Emile Zola*, 1937)

EXILE AND HOMECOMING: American and World Jewish Literature Today

### ACADEMIC TRAINING AND DEGREES

Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 1993

Major field: German Studies (i.e., German culture, history, and politics)

Minor fields: Jewish Studies, Comparative Literature

M.A., Brandeis University, 1988

Major field: Comparative Literature (American, British, French, German, Yiddish)

Minor field: Near Eastern and Judaic Studies

B.A., Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT), 1985

Major field: German Studies

Minor field: Comparative Literature

### PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Tenure-Track, Kent State University, Departments of Modern and Classical Language Studies and History (also affiliated faculty in English, Comparative Literature, Ethnic Heritage, Jewish Studies, Women's Studies, and Justice Studies), 1999-present

Visiting Adjunct Assistant Professor (invited), John Carroll University, Departments of Classical and Modern Languages and Cultures and Department of History, 2005-present  
Chair of Jewish Studies Program, Kent State University, 1999-2003  
Mellon Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Cornell University, Department of German Studies (also affiliated faculty in Humanities, Comparative Literature, and Judaic Studies), 1997-98  
Assistant Professor, Tenure-Track, University of Colorado at Boulder, Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures (also affiliated faculty in Comparative Literature and the Humanities), 1994-98  
Humboldt Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow (category: Federal Chancellor's Scholar), Technische Universität-Berlin, 1993-94

### PUBLICATIONS (selected)

#### SELECTED REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

##### I. Books

*Marketing Identities: The Invention of Jewish Ethnicity in Ost und West* (Wayne State University Press, 1998)  
*Kafka's Kitsch: German-Jewish Popular Culture before the Holocaust* (under review by University of California Press)  
*The Holocaust and Hollywood in the Age of Globalization* (in progress)

##### II. Articles

"Performative Pedagogy: Resignifying Teaching in the Corporatized University." *Review of Education, Pedagogy and Cultural Studies* 27.3 (2006): 3-24.  
"Working Through the Holocaust Blockbuster: From *Schindler's List* to *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, Globally and Locally." *The Germanic Review* 75.4 (2000): 296-317  
"Neglected 'Women's' Texts and Contexts: Vicki Baum's Jewish Ghetto Stories." *Women in German Yearbook* 13 (1997): 101-122  
"Making Jargon Respectable: The Reception of Yiddish Theater in Pre-Hitler Germany." *Yearbook of the Leo Baeck Institute* 42 (1997): 51-66  
"Promoting East European Jewry: *Ost und West*, Ethnic Identity and the German-Jewish Audience." *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History* 15.1 (1995): 63-88

##### III. Chapters

(forthcoming) "Fiddler on the--Cattle Car? Laughing Through the Catastrophe in *Train of Life*." In *Visualizing the Holocaust: Documents, Aesthetics, and Memories*. David Bathrick, Bradley Prager, and Michael Richardson, eds. Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2007. 26 pages..  
(forthcoming) "'Schlemiel, Shlimazel': A Proto-Postcolonialist Satire of 'Germans,' 'Jews,' and 'Blacks'." In: *Deutsch-jüdische Presse und jüdische Geschichte. Dokumente, Darstellungen und Wechselbeziehungen/ German Jewish Press and Jewish History: Documents, Representations, Interrelations*. Michael Nagel and Eleanore Lappin, eds. Bremen: edition lumière, 2007. 22 pages.  
"'Torn' Between Justice and Forgiveness: The Late(r) Derrida on the Death Penalty and Lawful Lawlessness." In *Crime and Punishment: Perspectives from the Humanities*. Austin Sarat, ed. (Studies in Law, Politics and Society, Vol. 37). New York: MacMillan/Elsevier, 2006. 113-127.

- "Uncovering the Father: Kafka, Judaism, and Homoeroticism." In *Kafka, Zionism, and Beyond*. Mark Gelber, ed. Tübingen: Niemeyer, 2004. 207-218.
- "German History, Jewish History, German-Jewish Studies: Old Wine in New Bottles?" Co-authored with Michael Berkowitz. In *Teaching German in Twentieth-Century America*. David Benseler, Craig Nickisch, and Cora Lee Nollendorfs, eds. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2001. 79-88
- "Reconciliation Before Auschwitz: The Weimar Jewish Experience in Popular Fiction." In *Evolving Jewish Identities in German Culture: Borders and Crossings*. Linda Feldman and Diana Orendi, eds. Westport, CT: Greenwood/Praeger, 2000. 45-61
- "Re(-)dressing the 'German-Jewish': A Jewish Hermaphrodite in Wilhelmine Germany," in *Borders, Exiles, and Diasporas*. Elazar Barkan and Marie-Denise Shelton, eds. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1998. 32-45.

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