



## »VERFREUNDETE NACHBARN«

### The German-Austrian Encounter in Literature, Film and Critical Discourse

Modern Austrian Literature and Culture Association at Emory University (Atlanta)

Date: April 23-26, 2009.

Application deadline: October 17, 2008.

Please send 250 word abstracts (e-mail attachments) and a short paragraph on yourself to Maximilian Aue (maue@emory.edu), entering »MALCA 2009 proposal« in your subject line. Conference languages are English and German.

Please note: all conference participants have to be members of MALCA. Membership forms are available at the MALCA Website (<http://www.malca.org>).

Hinweis für KonferenzteilnehmerInnen aus Europa: TeilnehmerInnen an der MALCA Jahrestagung werden gebeten, Reise- und Aufenthaltskosten bei ihren jeweiligen Heimatuniversitäten zu beantragen. Die Veranstalter bitten um Verständnis, dass sie gemäß den Gepflogenheiten an nordamerikanischen Instituten für derartige Kosten nicht aufkommen können. Es wird jedoch auf die Möglichkeit hingewiesen, Anträge auf Reiseunterstützung bei der ÖFG Wien einzureichen. Die Tagungsgebühr, die nordamerikanischen Usancen entsprechend von allen TeilnehmerInnen zu entrichten ist, sieht als Gegenleistung einige Essen, die Pausengetränke, das Rahmenprogramm u.ä. vor.

The Modern Austrian Language and Culture Association invites papers for its upcoming annual symposium at Emory University.

Austrians and Germans have always shared a special relationship due to their »common history«. Although their lengthy process of political separation began two hundred years ago, that separation is not clear in cultural terms and has frequently been called into question. By exploring the changing portrayal of Germans in Austrian cultural discourse and of Austrians in German cultural discourse over the past two hundred years, we hope to cast a critical light on particulars of the often stereotype-laden relationship between the two countries and its impact on the (continuing) development of their respective identities.

This theme lends itself to interdisciplinary approaches, including fields such as history, sociology, linguistics, political science, film studies and literary studies. What follows is just a small sample of topics that might be explored in individual papers, in no way intended to restrict or exclude.

- Goethe's shadow on Austrian literature;
- the reception of German Romanticism by Austrian authors;
- topics surrounding the ambiguous relationships of the major Austrian political parties to Germany and German culture during the First Republic
- the (changing?) role of the Burgtheater as a locus of German drama (e.g. the »era Peymann«);
- the portrayal of German characters in works by Austrian authors (such as Robert Musil, Karl Kraus, Heimito von Doderer, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Robert Schindel, Felix Mitterer, Marlene Streeruwitz, etc.)
- the implications of the development of an Austrian variety of German Austrian journals and anthologies as vehicles of cultural self-understanding (e.g. the journal *Literatur und Kritik* and the anthologies *Aufforderung zum Mißtrauen* [1967], *Österreich zum Beispiel* [1982] and *Landvermessung* [2005]);
- Austria's musical imperialism: Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms;
- Germans and Austrians in each others' jokes, newspaper caricatures or cabarets;
- the role of National Socialism in the formation of Austrian identity;
- Austrians in German films.