



Nordamerikastudienprogramm
Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie

Events | Veranstaltungen Sommersemester 2009



Sophia Komor, M.A.

Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik Universität Hamburg

“Screaming Silence, (Un)Veiling Violence: Will Eno's Dramatic Art”

Dienstag • 19. Mai 2009 • 18.00-20.00 Uhr c.t.
Konferenzzimmer, Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie

Sophia Komor's talk examines works by the contemporary American playwright Will Eno. Eno's plays are often deemed existentialist, with the touch of the absurd as their directive. In *TRAGEDY: a tragedy* (2001), *THOM PAIN (based on nothing)* (2004), and *THE FLU SEASON* (2003), he is not afraid of deliberations central to the plays subsumed under the heading of the theater of the absurd: that “man is inhabiting a universe with which he is out of key,” that this universe is “indecipherable,” and man’s “place within it is without purpose”.

In this existentialist mode, how do language, the absence of language, and ‘the space between words’ work together in Eno’s plays to coerce the audience into “confronting the limits of its human condition”? Do Eno’s dramatic methods recover and re-employ earlier strategies of the playwrights of the theater of the absurd, maybe after having adapted them to the demand of the ‘postmodern’ *Zeitgeist*? Sophia Komor's talk will center on Eno’s dramatic use of language and pauses, of noise and silence. It will outline how Eno instrumentalizes these dramatic devices to both focus on and represent violence and how violence in Eno’s work can be conceptually defined as being and serving much more than straightforward de(con)struction.

Sophia Komor works as *wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin* in the field of American Studies at the University of Hamburg and is currently writing her dissertation on 21st-century American drama. Further research and teaching interests include the ethics and aesthetics of American culture and, more particularly, contemporary US-American film. Having completed her studies at Bonn in 2007, Sophia Komor has graduated from the North American Studies Program and wrote a master thesis entitled “*If I can do it, you can do it – here's how. US-American Self-Help and How-to Books.*”