Indiana University Graduate Student Conference in Germanic Studies

“Peeling the Onion: Levels and Stratification in Germanic Literature and Linguistics”

February 20-21, 2015

Keynote Speaker: Kerstin Barndt, University of Michigan
Plenary Speaker: Rob Howell, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Memory, says Günter Grass, is an onion: “Peeled, it renews itself; chopped, it brings tears; only during peeling does it speak the truth” (Peeling the Onion, 2007). Grass attempts to reveal the past by narratively peeling back the layers of memories which “tend to play hide and seek”. He navigates between the desire to conceal and to reveal his past.

In this conference we hope to investigate the concept of peeling back the layers that constitute German literature, linguistics, and culture. From stratification in sociolinguistics and generative grammar, to truth in memory, and literary methodologies as well as pedagogical approaches, amongst others, the peeling of layers can be examined in all aspects of Germanic studies. With each layer that is peeled away, one approaches truth and understanding or reveals a core even more mystifying.

To this end, we invite contributions from graduate students who conduct research on all subfields of Germanic Studies (linguistics, literature, and culture) from before the Middle Ages to the present day, in the hopes of a collaborative peeling of the onion. Possible topics for submission include, but are not limited to:

- Stratification in:
  - Sociolinguistics: age varieties, language varieties, registers/sociolects, etc.
  - Stratal Interfaces in Linguistics (Phonology-Morphology, Morphology-Syntax)
  - Contemporary socio-economic divisions and traditional class boundaries
  - Peeling back temporal/social layers
- Methodologies in literary and language pedagogy
  - Distant, surface, and close reading
  - Pedagogical approaches to learners at different levels
  - Level of depth in interpretation
- Levels and modes of sexuality and affect
- Collective memory
- Günter Grass: Exploration of one’s own past, layering of the past to create the present; beyond Grass: Filling in the gaps he left

Please send abstracts of not more than 400 words to: fkruger@indiana.edu

>>Extended deadline for abstract submission: January 7th, 2015<<

Website: www.indiana.edu/~germconf