Catastrophe and Catharsis: Interdisciplinary Perspectives
March 1, 2013- March 3, 2013, University of Cincinnati
Max Kade Center
Conference Chairs: Katharina Gerstenberger, University of Utah, German Studies,
Tanja Nusser, University of Cincinnati, German Studies

Thursday, February 28
15:00-18:00 Pre-conference workshop “Von der Katastrophennarration zur gesellschaftlichen Katastrophenproduktion“ with Katharin Röggla,

Friday, March 1
14:00-14:30 Welcome by the organizers of the conference
Opening remarks by Ronald Jackson, Dean of McMicken College of Arts & Sciences, University of Cincinnati
14:30-15:30 Keynote: Franz Mauelshagen, University of Essen
15:45 -17:30 Panel 1: Defining Catastrophe
Moderator: Todd Herzog
Christoph Weber, North Texas University, Tableaux of Terror: The Instrumentalization of the Lisbon Earthquake of 1755 as a Cathartic Spectacle
Adam Woodis, Illinois Wesleyan University, The Catastrophic Status Quo: Narrative of Communal Violence in the 19th Century
Daniel G. Murphy, U of Cincinnati, Hazardous Hybrids: Vulnerability, Resilience, and the Ontology of Disaster of Mongolia

17:30 Coffee Break
18:00-19:30 Reading: Kathrin Röggla
20:00 Dinner for all presenters
Saturday, March 2

10:00-12:15 Panel 2: Mediating Catastrophe
Moderator: Katharina Gerstenberger
Naresh Chandra Sourabh, University of Turku, The Negligence of Responsibility and the 2008 Bihar Flood Catastrophe: A Reflection of Popular Newspapers/Agencies
Jan Hinrichsen, Universität Tübingen, Interfaces: Traditions of Disaster and the Cultural Construction of Avalanche Catastrophes
Nikolaus Perneczky, Freie Universität Berlin, Hangin’ in the Treme: A Novel Catastrophe

12:15-14:00 Lunch

14:00-16:30 Panel 3: Narrating Catastrophe
Moderator: Gergana Ivanova
Tanja Nusser, University of Cincinnati, Beautiful Destructions: The Filmic Aesthetics of Catastrophes
Torsten Pflugmacher, Universität Mainz, Observing the Observation of Nuclear Disasters in Alexander Kluge
Yasemin Dayioglu-Yücel, University of Pennsylvania, Narrating the Untellable: Yoko Tawada, Haruki Murakami and their Poetics of Catastrophe

18:00-19:30 Dinner

19.30 Reading: Yoko Tawada

Sunday, March 3

10:30-12:15 Panel 4: After the Catastrophe
Moderator: Matthew Baumann
Alexandra Parks, University of Cincinnati, Post-dating the Apocalypse: The Role of Writing in Arno Schmidt’s Schwarze Spiegel
Carol Anne Costabile-Heming, University of North Texas, Re-reading Christa Wolf’s Störfall following the Fukushima Catastrophe
Janine Hartman, University of Cincinnati, The Morning after Paris Burns: Romantics in the Ruins—1871

12:15-13:30  Lunch

13:30-16:00  Panel 5: Commemorating Catastrophe
Moderator: Valerie Weinstein
Claudia Jerzak, Universität Dresden, Narratives of the Bombings of Dresden and Hamburg
Richard Schade, University of Cincinnati, The Art and Politics of Disaster: Günter Grass and Strip Mining
Anna E. Zimmer, Georgetown University, Narrating Catastrophe in the Wake of 9/11 in American and German Novels
Lars Koch, Universität Siegen, “To Survive is an Uncanny Experience.” Joseph Haslinger and the Tsunami of 2004

16:00-16:30  Concluding Remarks, Katharina Gerstenberger