

PDA report Prof. Monika Nenon, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

I started my PDA in the spring of 2016 with a book review of a book that is very valuable for my current research, namely STIENING, GIDEON/VELLUSIG, ROBERT, *Poetik des Briefromans. Wissens-und mediengeschichtliche Studien*. Berlin: de Gruyter (2012), 374 S. The book review will be included in the review section of the forthcoming *Lessing Yearbook 43*. I am currently serving as book review editor of the *Lessing Yearbook*. Therefore, collecting and editing the reviews for this volume was part of the activity that also took place during my PDA. I just finished the fifth and last proofreading and the volume is currently in the printing process.

I then began working on an article on ‘,Daseyn enthüllen‘. Zum mediengeschichtlichen Kontext von Friedrich Heinrich Jacobis *Eduard Allwills Papiere*.“ This is an epistolary novel that grew out of the historical-cultural context of sensibility and Jacobi’s acquaintance with Goethe. In this article I show how Goethe and Jacobi were both participants in the culture of sensibility. They used the new media of the time, namely social communication, letter writing, and epistolary novels for creating a new kind of literature that expresses feeling and emotion. I have shown how both – Goethe and Jacobi – are indebted to the reception of Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s novel *Julie, ou la nouvelle Héloïse*. Therefore, this article stands in close connection to my book project. It will be included as the third chapter of my book. This article was accepted for publication at the *Goethe Yearbook* which is a very positive development since the *Goethe Yearbook* is one of the most outstanding journals/yearbooks in my field. Researching, writing and - after the acceptance – revising the article took basically the whole months of February and March.

At the same time, I have started researching and reading for the larger research project on the German reception of Rousseau’s *Julie, ou la nouvelle Héloïse*. I began with Rousseau’s main works such as the *First and Second Discourses*, *Émile*, *Rousseau Juge de Jean-Jacques*, the *Reveries*, and the *Confessions*. Many of these works have several hundred pages and require a lot of time. I also read the main secondary literature, especially works by Jean Starobinski, Heinrich Maier, and Robert Darnton, and numerous articles. I have written the first draft of the introduction and first chapter of my book project. I have also read important philosophical and historical-cultural literature that I need for this project such as Plato’s Dialogues *Symposium*, *Crito*, *Phaedo* or Faramerz Dabhoiwala’s *The Origins of Sex*, to name only a few.

At the end of September, I will participate in a three-day seminar on Franco-German cultural relations 1750-1850 that will take place during the national meeting of the German Studies Association in San Diego from September 29 through October 2. For this meeting, every participant will write a paper that will be distributed ahead of time and will be discussed at the seminar. The deadline was September 1. I wrote the paper in June and submitted it on time. I am very glad that I will have the opportunity of presenting my current research at the seminar and get feedback of main researchers in the field of German literature and history.

In sum, I have made good progress in my research project. I have read the main primary and secondary literature on Rousseau, I have written a draft of the introduction and the first chapter of the book project. I have basically written the third chapter that will first appear as an article in the *Goethe Yearbook*. I am very grateful for having received the PDA. Without it, I would have never had so much time for reading, conducting research, and writing. I have acknowledged the support in the *Goethe Yearbook* article.