

Curriculum Vitae

Lic. phil. Sonja Feßel
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Education

09/2009-08/2012

Participant of the Graduate School at the Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities and the Social Sciences (GS@IASH), University of Bern

03/2009-

Begin Dissertation Project on *The representation of historical places in contemporary fine art photography* (working title), University of Bern, Advisor: Prof. Dr. Peter J. Schneemann

11/2005

Lizentiat (MA) („insigni cum laude“), Title of MA-thesis: *Fotografie nach Modell - Oliver Boberg, Thomas Demand, Lois Renner* [Photography after Architectural Models] („summa cum laude“)

2002-2005

Continuation of studies at the University of Bern, Switzerland, with special focus on contemporary art and photography

2001-2002

Semester abroad at the Università degli Studi di Roma „La Sapienza“, Rome/Italy

1998-2002

Studies of Art History, Classical and Christian Archeology at the Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg/Germany

Professional Experience

08/2012-

Lecturer in History and Theory of Photography, University of the Arts (ZHdK), Zurich, Department of Art & Media, Specialization in Photography

02/-07/2009

Mentor, Bachelor Art Education, Bern University of the Arts (HKB)

06/2008-

Postgraduate research assistant and lecturer (Wissenschaftliche Assistenz), Institute of Art

History, University of Bern; research interests: contemporary photography, history and theory of photography, contemporary art and art theory, museology and curating

04/2006-06/2008

Assistant curator, Institut Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt/Germany, responsible for the following exhibitions and publications: *Andreas Gursky. Architecture* (May 11 – September 7 2008), *Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller. The Killing Machine and other Stories* (May 20 – August 26, 2007, Darmstadt – Barcelona – Miami), *Mathilda is calling. Erinnerung als Zukunft* (July 15 – October 8, 2006)

06-12/2005

Assistant curator and person in charge of the exhibition *How Society and Politics get in the Picture* (September 15 – December 19, 2005), Generali Foundation, Vienna/Austria

2002-2004

Graduate teaching and research assistant of Professor Dr. Peter J. Schneemann, Department for Contemporary Art at the Institute of Art History, University of Bern

Teaching Experience

2012

Einführung in die Geschichte und Theorie der Fotografie [Introduction to the History and Theory of Photography] as part of the theory-module *Welcome to the Jungle! Eine Einführung in (fast) alles* [Introduction to (almost) everything] (Sonja Feßel and Jörg Scheller), University of the Arts (ZHdK), Zurich, Department of Art & Media, Specialization in Photography

2011

Einführung in die Fotografie als künstlerisches Medium [Introductory course on photography as artistic medium], Seminar, BA-level, Institute for Art History, University of Bern

2010

Excursion Berlin, study trip for BA- and MA-students, Institute for Art History, University of Bern, together with Prof. Dr. Peter Schneemann and Thomas Schönberger (MA)

2009

Die Kunstsammlung des Kantons Bern – Archivieren, Zeigen, Vermitteln [The Art Collection of the Canton Bern – Archiving, Presentation, Mediation], Seminar, BA-level, Institute for Art History, University of Bern, together with Thomas Schönberger (MA)

2008

Narrationen. Welche Geschichten erzählt die Kunst der Gegenwart? [Narration. Story Telling in Contemporary Art], Seminar, BA-level, Institute for Art History, University of Bern

University Committees

Fall 2010 – Spring 2012

Collegium decanale (Dean's Committee) (Del. Ass.)

Fall 2010 – Spring 2012

Faculty Committee (Del. Ass.)

Fall 2009 – Spring 2010

Graduate representative in the Program Committee of the Graduate School at the Institute of Advanced Study in the Humanities and the Social Sciences (GS@IASH)

Conferences, Lectures, Papers

2012

Charged Sites: On the Representation of Historic Places in Contemporary Photography, paper held at the CIHA conference, Nuremberg (July 15-20)

Abandoned Battlefields: The Absence of the Historic Moment in Contemporary Photography, paper held at the international symposium on *How History Enters Photography*, conference, Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main (June 28-30)

Battlefields Revisited. Historische Schlachtfelder in der zeitgenössischen Fotografie, paper held at the Forschungskolloquium Vormoderne, Universität Luzern (May 1)

Participation in *Studenttage für Fotografie: Fotografie als Gegenwartskunst*, interdisciplinary research colloquium for PhD students, Deutsches Dokumentationszentrum für Kunstgeschichte – Bildarchiv Foto Marburg, (April 25-28)

2011

Photography: Event – Trauma – History – Site, Co-organizer of the interdisciplinary conference, University of Bern, Dec. 1-2, 2011), organized together with Wolfgang Brückle, University Zurich

Sites of Battle: Photographs of a War-Altered Landscape, paper presented at the interdisciplinary conference on *Photography: Event – Trauma – History – Site*, University of Bern (Dec. 1-2, 2011)

2010

Atrocity, Photography and War, international symposium, Monash Prato Center, Tuscany/Italy. Paper on “The Absence of Atrocity in the Photographs by Bart Michiels” (June 14-16, 2010)

Interdisziplinäres Erzählen. Strategien des Narrativen in Wort, Text und Bild (Interdisciplinary Narration. Narrative Strategies in Spoken Language, Text and Images), Co-organizer of the interdisciplinary conference for Ph.D. students, University of Bern (May 28/29, 2010)

Geschichte erzählen. Historiographische Strategien in der zeitgenössischen Fotografie (Telling history. Historiographical strategies in contemporary photography), paper

presented at the interdisciplinary conference for Ph.D. students on Interdisciplinary Narration (see above), University of Bern (May 28/29, 2010)

2008

Universal Heritage in the Hands of Museums and Departments of Preservation of Monuments and Historical Buildings, Co-organizer of the nationwide conference for museum assistants 2008 (working group of the German Museums Association) at Darmstadt and Frankfurt a. M. (March 14-16, 2008, Natural History Museum Senckenberg)

10/2007

Volunteers in Cultural Heritage and Museums: Promoting Active Citizenship, Conference organized by the European Museum Forum at Bertinoro/Italy, October 17-21, 2007, keynote speaker on the topic of „Volontariat: a German Training Program for Young Museum Professionals“

11/2005

Chantal Michel. The Trap, lecture on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition Chantal Michel. Werkschau III (Retrospective III), School for Visual Arts, Bern

Grants, Awards

2012

Scholarship, Theodor Schenk-Fonds, Bern

Scholarship, Dr. Joséphine de Kármán Foundation, Bern

2011

Travel grant (Feldspesen), Faculty of Humanities, University of Bern

2010

Travel grant (Feldspesen), Faculty of Humanities, University of Bern

2009

Visiting researcher at the Getty Research Institute (GRI), Los Angeles, travel grant of the American Embassy Bern

2004-2005

Scholarship, Dr. Joséphine de Kármán Foundation, Bern

2004

StudEx grant (3 months international internship, Vienna)

2002

Certificate of Academic Excellence, American Embassy Bern, travel grant (research trip to New York City)

2001-2002

Erasmus/Sokrates fellowship at the Università degli Studi di Roma „La Sapienza“, Rome

Publications

(Co)-edited publications:

2008

Andreas Gursky. Architecture, exhibition catalogue, Institut Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt (May 11 - September 7, 2008), ed. by Ralf Beil and Sonja Feßel, Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz (printed in two separate editions in German and English).

Articles in journals, anthologies, exhibition catalogues:

2013

“Charged Sites: On the Representation of Historic Place in Contemporary Photography,” in: *The Challenge of the Object / Die Herausforderung des Objekts*, congress proceedings, Vol. 1-3, ed. by Ulrich Großmann und Petra Krutisch, Nürnberg: Germanisches Nationalmuseum (in print).

2012

“The Absence of Atrocity: Bart Michiels’s The Course of History Photographs,” in: *The History of Photography*, 36:3 (2012), p. 315-325.

“Slagvelden: foto’s van oorlogslandschappen. Bart Michiels: The Course of History,” in: *EXTRA*, 10 (2012), p. 56-63.

2009

„Martin Brüger. Ein Aufbruch mit Widerstand“, in: *Martin Brüger*, exhibition catalogue, Kunstverein Ingolstadt, May 9 – June 14, 2009.

2008

„Laboratory of Power. Andreas Gursky's Stateville, Illinois (2002)” in: *Andreas Gursky. Architecture* (as above).

2006

„Martin Brüger. Der dritte Aufbruch“, in: *Mathilda is calling. Erinnerung als Zukunft*, exhibition catalogue Institut Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt (July 15 – October 8, 2006), Ostfildern-Ruit: Hatje Cantz.

2005

„Chantal Michel. Körper-Raum-Kollisionen“, in: *Dr Aare Naa*, exhibition catalogue, Kunsthalle Palazzo Liestal (November 12 – December 19, 2005).

2003

several catalogue texts in *Im Glanz der Götter und Heroen*, exhibition catalogue, Kunstmuseum Bern (October 17, 2003 – February 29, 2004), ed. by D. Willers et al., Mainz am Rhein: Philipp von Zabern.

Other publications:

2009

Bernhard Graf et al., *Leitfaden wissenschaftliches Volontariat* [guidelines for an educational training of young museum professionals], ed. by DMB / German Museum Association.

2003-

Several contributions in Bulletin/DMB, ICOM Mitteilungen, KM Kulturmagazin, unilink

Further Training

02/2008

Museum Education and Public Relations, Badisches Landesmuseum Karlsruhe

06/2007

Curating, Display and Strategies of Presentation, Rheinisches Landesmuseum Trier

03/2007

Branding in the Museum Scene. The Museum as Label?, Landesmuseum Württemberg, Stuttgart

02/2007

Museum Management and Museum Administration, Landesmuseum für Technik und Arbeit, Mannheim

Professional Affiliations

2004- VKKS (Association of Swiss Art Historians)

2005- ICOM Germany / Switzerland

2007- Deutscher Museumsbund (German Museum Association, 2007-2009 working group "Museum Training")

Languages read/spoken

German (mother language)

English (fluent spoken and written)

Italian (fluent spoken and written)

French (read)

Latin

Bern, October 31, 2012