

Veranstalter:	Dr. Felix Sprang
Thema:	The Image of the Banker: From <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> to the fat cat [AA-V3a/b, ENG-12, AA-M4, AA-M6, AA-M11, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-554
Zeit:	2st. Mi. 10-12
Raum:	Phil 1269
Beginn:	19. Oktober 2011

Golden goodbyes and big bonuses: with a world at the brink of a financial crisis, it is the big-salary culture with its generous payoffs and pay packets that has come under scrutiny in recent years. We will trace the image of the banker in fictional texts over the course of more than 400 years in order to explore changing conceptions of bankers and banking. What are the specific aesthetic and rhetoric devices employed by fictional texts across genres to shape that image? Can we discern recurring



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image clusters? What does the image of the banker in fiction tell us about conceptions of class and gender? With texts like *Cityboy* or *Confessions of a City Girl* written in the form of “life writing”, can the imagery employed in these texts help us to define the boundary between factual and fictional accounts? And, finally, are texts discussing the image of the banker particularly prone to Marxist literary criticism which seems to have undergone a revival in the wake of the financial crisis?

primary sources:

William Shakespeare. *The Merchant of Venice* [1598]. Third Series Arden. London: A&C Black, 2010.
Jonathan Swift. “Run Upon the Bankers” [1720]. *Poetical Works*. London: OUP, 1967.
Charles Dickens. *Little Dorrit* [1857]. London: Penguin, 2003 ,
Geraint Anderson. *Cityboy: Beer and Loathing in the Square Mile*. London: Headline, 2008.
Suzana S. *Confessions of a City Girl*. London: Viking, 2009.

selected secondary sources:

Belting, Hans. “Image, Medium, Body: A New Approach to Iconology.” *Critical Inquiry* 31.2 (2005): 302-319.
Dickson, P. G. M. *The Financial Revolution in England: A Study in the Development of Public Credit*. London: Macmillan, 1967.
Hoppit, Julian. “The Myths of the South Sea Bubble.” *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, Sixth Series, 12 (2002): 141-165.
Markels, Julian. “Toward a Marxian Reentry to the Novel.” *Narrative* 4. 3 (1996): 197-217.
Muldrew, Craig. *The Economy of Obligation: The Culture of Credit and Social Relations in Early Modern England*. Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1998, repr. 2000.
Neal, Larry D. *The Rise of Financial Capitalism: International Capital Markets in the Age of Reason*. Cambridge: CUP, 1990.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Di. 9:30 – 11:00
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	nach Vereinbarung per email