

Claudia Benthien, short CV

Dr. phil. Claudia Benthien is professor at the Institute for German Language and Literature, at Universität Hamburg. She is a widely published specialist in German literature and culture from 1600 to the present whose work focuses on cultural theory, gender studies, intellectual history, aesthetics as well as performance and intermedial studies. Her historical foci include the German Baroque, literature around 1800, literary Modernism, and contemporary arts and culture.

She is the author of *Skin: On the Cultural Border between Self and the World* (Columbia UP, 2002), for which she received the Tiburtius dissertation award 1999 of the Berlin Senate. She has also published a monograph on the rhetoric and performativity of silence in the 17th century (*Barockes Schweigen. Rhetorik und Performativität des Sprachlosen im 17. Jahrhundert*; Fink, 2006). A third book of hers examines the intersection of notions of shame and guilt cultures around 1800 with close readings of four tragedies by Schiller and Kleist (*Tribunal der Blicke. Kulturtheorien von Scham und Schuld und die Tragödie um 1800*; Böhlau, 2011).

Dr. Benthien's recently concluded research project *Literarizität in der Medienkunst*, funded by the German Research Foundation, investigated the aesthetics of oral and scriptural language in emerging forms of artistic expression. The project was based on the observation that literature, poetic elements and structures as well as literary sources play a significant role in many media artworks. It resulted in the co-authored book publication *The Literariness of Media Art*, written together with Jordis Lau and Maraike M. Marxsen (Routledge, 2019).

Presently she is working on an interdisciplinary research project on the 'return' of the baroque trope of *vanitas* in contemporary art, literature and theater together with art historian Victoria von Flemming and four PhD students. The project, entitled *Vanitas in den Künsten der Gegenwart* (Vanitas in Contemporary Arts), is funded by Fritz Thyssen Stiftung.

Another recent research focus is poetry in the digital age, which was also the topic of her sub-project *Performing Poetry: Medial Translations and Situational Framings of Contemporary Poetry*, within the collaborative research group *Translating and Framing: Practices of Medial Transformation*. Recent research in this field includes 'public poetry' in urban space and on the internet. In 2020 she has received an ERC Advanced Grant for her proposal *Poetry in the Digital Age* and will conduct research on this topic together with an interdisciplinary team from 2021 to 2025. The large-scale project will be structured into three sub-projects, focusing on (1) poetry and performance, (2) poetry and music, and (3) poetry and visual culture.

Claudia Benthien is co-editor of the book series *Handbücher zur Kulturwissenschaftlichen Philologie* (with De Gruyter) and co-edited the first volume, a comprehensive handbook on literature and visual culture (2014), together with Brigitte Weingart.

Among other grants, Dr. Benthien has held a DAAD Fellowship at Deutsches Haus, New York

University, a senior fellowship at the Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften, Vienna, the Nord LB/ Warburg-Wolfenbüttel-Fellowship of the Herzog August Library, Wolfenbüttel, and the Warburg Institute, London, and a research fellowship at the Maison des sciences de l'homme, Paris. She was a visiting scholar at Columbia University, New York, and has held visiting professorships at Rutgers University (2019), the University of Washington, Seattle (2014), the University of California, Berkeley (2008), and Emory University, Atlanta (2004).

Website (with select information in English):

<https://www.slm.uni-hamburg.de/en/germanistik/personen/benthien.html>