

Co-Conveners: Duke University: Departments of German Studies and History, UNC Chapel Hill: Departments of Department of Germanic & Slavic Languages & Literatures History, and UNC Center for European Studies

Friday, 8 April 2022

3:30–5:30 pm | Zoom Webinar

VANCE BYRD

Presidential Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pennsylvania



The Allied Bombing Raids in Dresden and Panoramic Representation

Invented in 1787, the panorama was an attraction that gave audiences around the world the opportunity to immerse themselves in natural and city landscapes as well as bloody battle scenes depicted on larger-than-life circular paintings. After nearly one-hundred years of relative obscurity, panoramas have become popular again in the twenty-first century. Over ten million visitors have seen Yadegar Asisi's panoramas in Germany and France since 2003. This talk focusses on Asisi's panoramic representation of Dresden after the allied bombing raids of February 1945, which establishes a debatable comparison to military violence and destruction in Rotterdam, Coventry, Stalingrad, and Warsaw during World War II. The presentation will challenge a universalizing narrative about European trauma and military conflict and ask how exhibition design and site specificity contribute to debates on German victimhood, guilt, and responsibility

VANCE BYRD is Presidential Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pennsylvania and a scholar of nineteenth-century German literature. In addition to his first book, *A Pedagogy of Observation: Nineteenth-Century Panoramas, German Literature, and Reading Culture*, Byrd has co-edited two books and two journal special issues. He is working on a second monograph, *Listening to Panoramas: Sonic and Visual Cultures of Commemoration*, and a co-edited collection titled *Queer Print Cultures*.

Moderation: JAKOB NORBERG | Associate Professor of German and Chair | Duke University, Department of German Studies

Comment: PAUL JASKOT | Professor | Duke University, Department of Art, Art History & Visual Studies

More information on the NCGS website: <https://ncgsws.web.unc.edu/>

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CONVENERS: Duke University: Dept. of German Studies | Dept. of History | The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Carolina Seminars | Carolina Center for Jewish Studies | Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Languages & Literatures | Dept. of History