

## Review

Angelika Arend. *Männerliebe Frauenleben*. Halle: Projekte-Verlag, 2008. ISBN: 386634631X.

Gisela H.L. Roger, *Winnipeg*

Sprache ist ständigem Wechsel unterworfen, jede Generation ist der Nährboden für die nächste und somit gehört Angelika Arend, 1942 in Leipzig geboren, einer Schriftstellergeneration an, deren jugendliche und prägende Erlebniswelt aus Krieg, Bomben, Nachkriegsjahren, Republikflucht und ständiger Anpassung bestand. Obwohl dem Buch *Männerliebe Frauenleben* grundsätzlich persönlich Erlebtes zugrunde liegt und somit eine Einheitlichkeit aufzeigt, lässt sich das Werk inhaltlich sowie stilistisch in drei Genren einteilen: Memoiren -- Prosa -- Lyrik.

Das erste (sogenannte) Kapitel enthält Erinnerungen und einen Geburtstagsbrief an den verstorbenen Vater. Es beginnt mit der Aussage *Am Anfang war das Ende* und ist die Einführung in einen geistreichen und eigenwilligen Stil. Durch Abstrahierung schafft Angelika Arend Entfremdungen und erst nach weiterem Lesen enträtselt sich Ungeklärtes. Satzbau und Wortwahl, die bis zur Neuschaffung reicht, faszinieren.

Die augenscheinliche Widersprüchlichkeit des Satzes *Am Anfang war das Ende* bezieht sich auf Felicitas' -- hier Angelika's Pseudonym -- unterdrückte musikalische Entwicklung und auf Ausschnitte des späteren Lebens. Wiederkehrende Enttäuschungen, äußere Geschehnisse werden für die junge Felicitas zur inneren Zwangsjacke. Im späteren Leben begegnen ihr zwei Männer, beide mit *"kräftigen weichen Händen"*; die ersten beherrschen die Klaviertastatur und die zweiten *"können alles basteln und bauen"*. Trotz anfänglicher Unterstützung Felicitas musikalischen Talents scheitert die Liebe beider Männer genau daran: an ihrer Musik.

Nach dieser Rückblende folgt der "Geburtstagsbrief" zum einhundertseibenten Geburtstagsjubiläum des Vaters, eine Auseinandersetzung mit dessen strenger Erziehung, einer Diktatur, wie die Tochter es nennt, die dem feinfühligem Kind Schmerz, Rätsel und Ablehnung zugefügte.

Der Stil ist schlicht und klar in der Wechselbeziehung zwischen Vater und Tochter, die strenge Tischmanieren, Frieren in unzulänglicher Kleidung, Rohrstock und Küchenlöffel, und anderes ins Gedächtnis ruft. Wenn die Tochter schreibt: *"O ja, du hast uns Liebes angetan"* so klingt das mehr wie ein Nachsatz, der nicht fehlen sollte. Dennoch lassen die angeführten Beispiele, *"die herrlichen heißen Haferflocken am rauhen Novembermorgen"* oder die erste Apfelsine in ihrem Leben, echte kindliche Liebe und Bewunderung erkennen. Anstelle einer Unterschrift trägt der Brief den Satz: *Vater, ich hätte dich so gern geliebt*. Ein anonymer Brief und eine gescheiterte Hoffnung.

Der (sogenannte) mittlere Teil enthält drei Kurzgeschichten. Angelika Arend schildert zwei Frauen, die von Männern seelisch mißbraucht, in ihrer Naivität und liebenden Abhängigkeit eigene Perspektiven verlieren und dadurch zum Produkt ihrer Partner werden. Sie werden später rücksichtslos verlassen.

Die dritte Erzählung handelt von zwei jung Verliebten, die zwischen verschiedenen Kulturen ihren Weg suchen. Die Muslimin Shadi, von ihrem Partner als Schutzengel betrachtet, bleibt nach dem Terrorangriff 9/11 unauffindbar. Wie man einer Abschiedsnotiz entnehmen könnte -- aber das ist unausgesprochen -- musste sie einer höheren Gewalt, die nicht genannt wird, folgen. Der Stil der drei Kurzgeschichten ist mühelos direkt und dem Inhalt angepasst.

Dagegen leuchten im (sogenannten) dritten Kapitel "Luftpost" die Liebesbriefe im Stil klingender, schwärmerisch-werbender Worte an die *Geliebte, Nötigste, Unentbehrliche*. Dass diese Überschwenglichkeit trägt, läßt sich erahnen. Aber erst aus dem letzten Brief geht hervor, dass die Briefempfängerin Anna-Louise sich nicht zur *Alltagsfrau* einzwängen lassen will und beendet, zur größten Überraschung Alfreds, die Verbindung.

Angelika Arend kann auf mehrere Publikationen, wissenschaftliche Arbeiten und Auszeichnungen (Walter Bauer Preis, 2004) zurückblicken. Die Grafiken (Claudia Arend) sind leicht und schwebend und versinnbildlichen das Unergründliche.

The Chair in German-Canadian Studies was established in 1989 with grants from the Secretary of State's Program for Canadian Ethnic Studies and a group of private philanthropists within the German-Canadian community of Winnipeg. It is located in, and affiliated with, the History Department at the University of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Chair promotes the teaching of, and research into the history and culture of German-speaking immigrants and their descendants in Canada. It interacts with the German-Canadian community in Winnipeg, Manitoba and the rest of Canada through public lectures and the newsletter. The Chair promotes regional, national and international research through conferences, publications and grants.

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Submissions of articles, news, reports, and reviews as well as artwork and photos for publication in this newsletter are welcome.



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## Last Paper Copy of Newsletter

Please note: The German-Canadian Studies Newsletter is becoming an electronic newsletter that can be accessed at <http://germancanadian.uwinnipeg.ca>. This is the last paper copy of the newsletter. To learn about ongoing events, lectures, and research, please pay frequent visits to <http://germancanadian.uwinnipeg.ca>.

## German-Canadian Studies Fellowship Program 2011

The Chair in German-Canadian Studies at the University of Winnipeg announces the Spletzer Family Foundation Inc. German-Canadian Studies Fellowship Program 2011. Scholarships, grants, and prizes are awarded to foster research of the highest quality into the past and present experiences of German-speaking immigrants and their descendants in Canada, as well as into history and nature of relations and exchanges between Germany and Canada.

The **German-Canadian Studies Research Scholarship (Ph.D.)** is awarded on an annual basis for the most promising doctoral dissertation project on any aspect in the field of German-Canadian Studies. The \$13,000.00 scholarship is renewable once and open to doctoral students from Canada and around the world who are setting out to conduct research for their dissertations on a German-Canadian topic in such disciplines as (but not limited to) history, linguistics, literature, sociology, geography, political science, economics, or cultural anthropology.

The **German-Canadian Studies Research Scholarship (M.A.)** is awarded on an annual basis for the most promising Master's thesis project on any aspect in the field of German-Canadian Studies. The \$9,000.00 scholarship is not renewable. It is open to Master's students from Canada and around the world who are setting out to conduct research for their M.A. theses on a German-Canadian topic in any discipline.

The **German-Canadian Studies Research Grant** is awarded on an annual basis for the best project proposal on any aspect in the field of German-Canadian Studies. The competition for this \$2,500.00 grant is open to academic researchers at the faculty or student level, private researchers, and collaborative projects, including projects at K-12 school levels. The award is not renewable, but researchers may apply with a different project in subsequent competitions.

The **German-Canadian Studies Undergraduate Essay Prize** is awarded on an annual basis for the best undergraduate essay on any aspect in the field of German-Canadian Studies. The \$500.00 prize is awarded to the author of the best undergraduate essay on any subject in the field of German-Canadian studies. All undergraduate students enrolled in a Canadian college or university are eligible.

All selections will be made by an interdisciplinary committee of university professors who will evaluate the merit of the proposal and its potential to broaden our knowledge of the German-Canadian experience or German-Canadian relations, the candidate's research background in related areas, the likelihood that the project can be completed within the proposed budget, and the candidate's willingness to share his/her findings with the community in public lectures and in other forms.

**Deadline** for all scholarships, grants, and prizes is **1 May 2011** (postmark). For more information and to **download application forms**, visit <http://germancanadian.uwinnipeg.ca>.



## New Research

### What Happens to German Language After Emigration?

Esther de Leeuw

My Ph.D. research comprised two experiments which investigated whether the domain of phonetics can undergo first language (L1) attrition when a second language (L2) is acquired in a migrant context.

Experiment I investigated the L1 speech of 57 German migrants to Anglophone Canada and the Dutch Netherlands. The bilinguals had grown up in a monolingual German environment and moved abroad in adolescence or adulthood. Their semi-spontaneous native German speech was globally assessed for foreign accent by native German listeners in Germany. It was revealed that 14 bilinguals were perceived to be non-native speakers of German. Age of arrival to Canada or the Netherlands and contact with native language played the most significant roles in determining whether the German speech of the migrants was assessed to be foreign accented. Bilinguals who arrived in Canada or the Netherlands earlier (e.g. in adolescence or early adulthood rather than mid adulthood) were more likely to be rated non-native speakers of German. Moreover, it appeared that not only the amount of contact, but also the type of contact influenced foreign accented native speech. Monolingual settings, in which little language mixing was assumed to occur, were most conducive to maintaining non-foreign accented native German speech.

These findings prompted Experiment II in which the speech of 10 German migrants to Anglophone Canada was examined in fine phonetic detail. The participants in this experiment had similarly grown up in a German speaking environment and moved to Canada in late adolescence or adulthood. Segmental and prosodic elements of speech, which generally differ between German and English, were selected for acoustic analyses.

Given that each phonetic element was measured according to two dimensions, it was possible to determine that in the lateral phoneme /l/, the frequency of the first formant was more likely to evidence L1 attrition than the frequency of the second; and that in the prenuclear rise, the alignment of the start of the rise was more likely to display L1 attrition than the alignment of the end. As such, both individual sounds and prosodic (e.g. intonation) features underwent L1 attrition in native German speech, becoming more English-like. In addition

to intrapersonal variation within the same phonetic variable, interpersonal variation was observed. Two participants evidenced no L1 attrition, whilst one participant realised both dimensions of the lateral phoneme /l/ and prenuclear tonal alignment according to the English monolingual norm in his German. When extralinguistic variables were investigated, age of arrival (and neither amount nor type of language contact) had a significant impact on determining L1 attrition, although this effect was only observed in the alignment of the prenuclear rise. Specifically, an earlier (more English-like) rise in native German speech was again associated with an earlier age of arrival.

On the one hand, the experiments revealed stability in the native speech of late consecutive bilinguals, whilst on the other, L1 attrition in the domain of phonetics was observed at both the level of perception and speech production. Taken together, these findings challenge the traditional concept of native speech by revealing that indeed native speakers diverge from norms associated with native (monolingual) speech.

## Upcoming Events

Why Democracy? Ten documentary films from around the world explore the state of democracy on five continents at the beginning of the 21st century. Visit <http://germancanadian.uwinnipeg.ca> for further information.

Prof. Jan Stewart, University of Winnipeg: "Educational, Economical and Environmental Barriers for Manitoba Newcomers." Free public lecture. Wednesday, 10 November 2010, 12:30-2:00 pm at the University of Winnipeg, Bryce Hall, 2nd floor, room 22 (2B22).

Dr. Janis Thiessen, "Education for Identity: A Half Century History of Westgate Mennonite Collegiate." Free public lecture. March 2011 (exact date to be announced). University of Winnipeg, Bryce Hall, 2nd floor, rm. 22

## New Research

### Credit Markets and Regional Policy Autonomy

Kyle Hanniman, University of Wisconsin-Madison



My dissertation examines the relationship between credit markets and regional public policy autonomy, with a special emphasis on Canadian provinces and German Länder. It is guided by two questions. First, are governments accountable to markets for particular spending decisions? Second, which governments borrow on cheaper terms: big or small governments?

I hypothesize that markets charge higher interest rates to governments with rigid spending commitments. Examples of such commitments are significant spending in healthcare or other politically sensitive areas. Creditors worry that financially troubled governments won't temper these commitments in order to honour their debts. But lending conditions are not based solely on government spending decisions. Another important factor is the commitment of the national or other regional governments to bailing out fiscally distressed regions. This commitment is stronger in Germany than in Canada and markets seem less concerned about the spending priorities of the Länder as a result.

What about the effects of government size? Most economists will tell you that large governments borrow on better terms. Investors prefer big borrowers, because their bonds are more plentiful and easier to trade on secondary markets. But my discussions with investment bankers in Germany and Canada reveal a more complicated story. Investors often prefer investing in Manitoba or Saarland to Ontario or North-Rhine Westphalia. Scarce bonds may be more difficult to sell, but buying them helps investors diversify their portfolios. This makes it cheaper for small regions to borrow, but the advantages of small size aren't unconditional. They ultimately depend on market conditions and characteristics of the national investor base. Indeed, one of my most interesting findings is that global credit markets aren't that globalized. Provinces and Länder continue to rely primarily on domestic investors, the characteristics of which affect the relative borrowing costs of large and small governments.

## Review

Verena Stefan, *Fremdschläfer*. Zürich: Amman Verlag & Co., 2007. 219 pages.

Myka Burke

To put it simply, *Fremdschläfer* is an autobiographically inspired novel that poignantly addresses Stefan's migration to Canada as well as her story of breast cancer. It is well-written and intelligent. To do her *opus* proper justice, however, requires a great deal more fervor.

*Fremdschläfer* is as much part of Verena Stefan's noteworthy feminist and lesbian *oeuvre* as it is a part of the momentous literary reflection on the complicated nature of migration in general. Stefan's career as a writer spans over three decades and her works have been translated into eight languages. Her wildly acclaimed novel *Häutungen* has been referred to as the feminist equivalent of Mao's little red book. Most recently, she was awarded the 2008 Swiss-German Schiller Prize from the Schweizerische Schillerstiftung. Since 1999/2000, Stefan calls Montreal home. Her own immigration to Canada is the foundation for this, her enlightening and most recent novel.

*Fremdschläfer* begins after she, the writer and protagonist Verena Stefan, has fallen in love with a Canadian woman named Lou and moved to Canada. She soon discovers that feeling foreign, being an immigrant, disrupts every fibre of her being: "Eine Immigrantin ist weder Reisende noch Gast. Der Körper weiß es" (p. 100). Migration, she aptly illustrates, is a complicated matter. It has many layers and affects you in untold ways. On the surface, the immigrant is busy linking and bridging two worlds: the cover illustration, for example, shows two red chairs side-by-side, evoking a feeling of inbetween-ness, like in the German saying "zwischen zwei Stühlen sitzen" [sitting between two chairs].

To read the complete review, please visit <http://germancanadian.uwinnipeg.ca>.

