

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **Oceans and Deserts 2017: Charting Transdisciplinary Currents in Environment and Culture**

The graduate students in the Department of German Studies at the University of Arizona invite proposals for their fourth annual **interdisciplinary conference for emerging scholars** (graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and junior faculty) on **March 31-April 1, 2017 in Tucson, Arizona**.

Oceans and deserts are phenomena in the natural world, but they also exist on a metaphorical level in concepts such as “cultural deserts” or “oceans of time.” These ideas draw on the characteristics of these environments, from the desert’s isolation, hostility to life, and strange beauty to the ocean’s currents, vast dimensions, and variety of life forms. Through an interdisciplinary lens, this year’s conference explores specifically oceans and deserts in the German-speaking world, both as spaces in the environment and concepts of thought. We are looking to discuss how a wide range of disciplines engages with oceans and deserts as places and metaphors in German-speaking contexts. We invite papers from all disciplines engaging with German-related notions of oceans and/or deserts. The conference language will be English.

Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Simon Richter, Professor of German, University of Pennsylvania**

Contributions might touch on the following questions and keywords: What types of oceans and deserts exist in the German imagination across time, from art and literature to popular culture? How have actual and symbolic oceans and deserts shaped human and nonhuman lives, and vice versa? Which implications come to light in rhetoric and media discourse involving oceans and deserts? How do ideas of oceans and deserts relate to historical and contemporary political crises and currents? Do oceans and deserts carry a particular religious or ethical weight? In what ways do ocean or desert cultures impact other lifestyles and spaces? How do policies affect oceans and deserts, both in the private and the public spheres?

rising tides

linguistic landscapes and deserts

space(s) and place(s)

cultural nomads

(deserted) islands

remoteness and isolation

cultural deserts and tides

frontiers and ports  
transculturalism and transnationalism  
waves of ideology, e.g. feminism  
political crises and currents  
hostile environments  
refugee experiences  
oasis and refuge  
exile  
survival  
food deserts  
floods of products and resources  
cash flow, circulation, and offshoring  
concepts of waste and trash  
colonialism and postcolonialism  
history of oceans and deserts  
evolution(s) and ecosystems  
environmental concerns regarding oceans/deserts  
ocean and desert plants and animals  
climate change and cultural climates  
temperature and affect  
tourism  
travel and travel literature  
dimensions of sand  
images of the sea and seaside  
pirating (arrrr!)  
torrents and tsunamis  
mirages and illusions  
aesthetics of oceans and deserts  
performing oceans and deserts  
ocean and desert fictions  
ocean and desert myths, legends, and adventures

Please submit a **proposal of no more than 350 words** for a 15-20 minute paper presentation (including your name and institutional/departmental affiliation, paper title and A/V needs) together with a **short description** of your current position and research by **December 10, 2016** to [OceansAndDesertsUA@gmail.com](mailto:OceansAndDesertsUA@gmail.com). Proposals for full panels are also welcome.