



University of
Zurich^{UZH}

English Department

Doctoral Program in English and American Literary Studies

Archaeologies of Indebtedness

Workshop on Debt and Indebtedness with
Richard Dienst (Rutgers University) et al.

6-7 November 2015



Issues of debt have gained renewed urgency in critical thought as a result of the current financial crisis. This workshop explores the social, political, moral and aesthetic bonds created by debt in examples drawn from literature and the media.

All students, members of staff and other interested parties are cordially invited to the workshop. Please register by sending an e-mail to Elizabeth Kollmann <elizabeth.kollmann@uzh.ch>.



Friday 6th November (PLH 102, Plattenstrasse 47)

4:00-6:00 p.m. Richard Dienst (Rutgers): "Unsettled Endings: Debt and the Limits of Narrative"
-- Richard Dienst: "The Dialectic of Indebtedness" (recommended)*

Saturday 7th November (PLH 102, Plattenstrasse 47)

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Workshop on "Debt Studies" with Richard Dienst
-- Etienne Balibar: "Politics of Debt"*
-- Miranda Joseph: "Accounting for Debt"*
-- t.b.a.*

1:00-3:00 p.m. Individual lunch (e.g. at Apo-Theke, Sento, Globus Bellevue)

3:00-5:00 p.m. Discussion of Research Projects
Mischa Suter (Basel): Debt in Nineteenth-Century Capitalism
Ulrike Dencovski (Erlangen-Nürnberg) & Barbara Straumann (Zurich): Debt in George Eliot's *Middlemarch*
-- texts by the three contributors*

Richard Dienst is Professor of English at Rutgers University. His book publications include *The Bonds of Debt: Borrowing Against the Common Good* (Verso, 2011) and *Still Life in Real Time: Theory After Television* (Duke University Press, 1994). He writes two blogs: <http://bondsofdebt.wordpress.com/> and <http://thinkingthroughimages.wordpress.com/>.

Ulrike Dencovski, M.A., Assistant at the English Department of the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, is currently working on her Ph.D. project on "Narrative Bonds: Representing Debt and Credit in the Victorian Realist Novel".

Dr. des. **Mischa Suter**, Assistant at the History Department of the University of Basel, is currently completing his book manuscript based on his Ph.D. thesis entitled *Rechtstrieb: Schulden and Vollstreckung im liberalen Kapitalismus, 1800-1900* for publication with Konstanz University Press.

Barbara Straumann, Assistant Professor with tenure track at the English Department of the University of Zurich, is currently working on a research project with the working title "IOU: Debt in the British Victorian Novel".

*The texts will be made available on OLAT:

<https://www.olat.uzh.ch/olat/url/RepositoryEntry/13856604161?guest=true&lang=de>