

*The MU Department of German and Russian Studies
presents*

a public lecture by

Professor Simon Richter

Co-Sponsored by the Chancellor's Distinguished Visitors Program, the College of Arts and Science, and MU's Life Sciences and Society Program.



“Goethe’s Wetlands: Soggy Texts and Permeable Selves”

Thursday, November 5

3:00 p.m.

N206 Memorial Union

The premise of this paper is that the kinds of radical adaptation that will be required to respond to **drastic sea level rise** (underscored by the recent study by Hansen, et al, 2015) can be coordinated with modifications in our understanding of the self. If Freud compared the work of psychoanalysis to the damming up and poldering of the Zuiderzee, in the soggy terrain of many of Goethe’s major literary works (e.g., Werther, Iphigénie, Elective Affinities, and Faust) we encounter the model of a permeable ego. Permeability—a notion we are more likely to associate with C. G. Jung than with Freud—will be key to adapting to our new terrain.

Dr. Simon Richter is Professor of German in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Richter has authored three books and co-edited three more on Goethe and German Classicism. He has also published more than forty scholarly articles on a broad variety of topics.

For additional information:

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