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RESEARCH INTERESTS

19th-century French fiction and poetry; 20th-century Austrian literature; European intellectual and cultural history; literature and science (psychology, medicine, biology); literature and philosophy; intellectual and cultural transfers

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Books

Robert Musil. Le "virtuose de la distance" (Robert Musil. The "Master of Distance"). Paris, Belin, 2013, 272p.

Robert Musil et la question anthropologique (Man as a Question: Robert Musil's Anthropology), with a foreword by Jacques Bouveresse. Paris, Presses Universitaires de France, April 2000, 281p.

2. Edited volumes and guest-edited journal issues

"Entre savoir et fantasme: le corps et ses énigmes" ("Between Science and Fantasy: the Body and Its Enigmas." *Arts et Savoirs*. Co-edited with Anne Vila, 11, 2019

<https://journals.openedition.org/aes/1695>

"L'Esprit (dé)réglé: Literature, Science, and the Life of the Mind in France, 1700-1900," special issue of *L'Esprit créateur*. Co-edited with Anne Vila, 56:4, Winter 2016

Memory and Postwar Memorials: Confronting the Violence of the Past. Co-edited with Marc Silberman. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, December 2013, 256p.

"Flaubert et les sciences" ("Flaubert and Sciences"). *Revue Flaubert*, n° 4 (2004) <https://flaubert-v1.univ-rouen.fr/revue/revue4/index.php>

3. Articles

Journal articles

"Unterwegs mit dem 'Fliegenpapier': Robert Musil in Frankreich" ("Wandering Flies: Robert Musil in France"), *Musil-Forum* 37 (2021/2022): 37-76

"Présences animales: Elias Canetti et Robert Musil" ("Animal Presences: Elias Canetti and Robert Musil") *Europe* 1093 (May 2020): 83-98

"'Cultiver son jardin': rêves et délires de l'engrais dans *Bouvard et Pécuchet*" ("We Must Cultivate Our Garden": Agrarian Fantasies and Obsession with Composting in *Bouvard and Pécuchet*"). *Revue Flaubert*, n° 18 (2019) <https://flaubert.univ-rouen.fr/revue/article.php?id=311>

- "Introduction" (co-authored with Anne Vila). "Entre savoir et fantasme: le corps et ses énigmes" ("Between Science and Fantasy: the Body and Its Enigmas"). *Arts et Savoirs*. Co-edited with Anne Vila. 11, 2019 <https://journals.openedition.org/aes/1706>
- "Gustave Flaubert ou l'alambic des rêves" ("Gustave Flaubert or the Alambic of Dreams") *Romantisme*, n° 178 (2017-4): 51-62 <https://www.cairn.info/revue-romantisme-2017-4-page-50.htm>.
- "Esprit, bêtise, idiotie: le cas Flaubert" ("Intelligence, Stupidity, and Idiocy in Flaubert's Work"). "L'Esprit (dé)réglé: Literature, Science, and the Life of the Mind in France, 1700-1900." *L'Esprit créateur*. Co-edited with Anne Vila 56:4 (2016) Winter: 79-91
- "Introduction" (co-authored with Anne Vila). "L'Esprit (dé)réglé: Literature, Science, and the Life of the Mind in France, 1700-1900." *L'Esprit créateur*. Co-edited with Anne Vila 56:4 (2016) Winter: 1-10
- "Le vivant, l'informe et le dégoût: Baudelaire, Flaubert et l'art de la (dé)composition" ("Living Matter, Amorphousness, and Disgust: Baudelaire, Flaubert, and the art of (de)composition"). *Flaubert. Revue critique et génétique* 13 (2015) <http://flaubert.revues.org/2436>
- "Vertige et quête de maîtrise: Flaubert et le Dr. Le Fèvre" ("Powerlessness and Mastery: Flaubert and Dr. Le Fèvre"). *Revue Flaubert* 13 (2014) <http://flaubert.univ-rouen.fr/revue/article.php?id=166>
- "L'Aventure de la pensée" ("The Adventure of thinking"). *Revue de métaphysique et de morale* 3 (2013): 331-341 <https://www.cairn.info/revue-de-metaphysique-et-de-morale-2013-3-page-331.htm>
- "The Lure of Disgust: Musil and Kolnai." *The Germanic Review* 88 (March 2013): 28-46
- "Au chevet de Monsieur Bovary" ("Revisiting Charles Bovary"). *Bulletin Flaubert-Maupassant* 23 (2009): 313-328
- "La 'puissance de l'image': Bouvard et Pécuchet, disciples de Taine?" ("The Power of Images': Bouvard and Pécuchet Revisit Taine"). Special issue on "Fiction et philosophie" ("Fiction and Philosophy") of *Gustave Flaubert – La revue des lettres modernes* 6 (2008): 109-141
- "Robert Musil ou les voies de la mystique diurne" ("Robert Musil and the Paths to Daylight Mysticism"). *Savoirs et clinique* 8 (2007): 73-80 <https://www.cairn.info/revue-savoirs-et-cliniques-2007-1-page-73.htm>
- "Robert Musil chez les philosophes" ("How Philosophers Read Robert Musil"). *Austriaca* 63 (2006): 53-70
- "De près, de loin: Canetti, Musil et la question de la masse" ("Afar and Close: Canetti, Musil, and the Issue of Crowds"). *Austriaca* 61 (2005): 235-254
- "Comment penser et écrire après Freud? Robert Musil et la psychanalyse" ("Confronting Freud: Robert Musil and Psychoanalysis"). *Savoirs et clinique* 6 (2005): 43-52 <https://www.cairn.info/revue-savoirs-et-cliniques-2005-1-page-43.htm>
- "The 'Poet-Philosopher' and the 'Physician-Philosopher': a Reading of Baudelaire's Prose Poem 'Assommons les pauvres!'" *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* 33 1/2 (2004-05): 89-106
- "Du désir de savoir à l'art de (faire) rêver" ("From the Desire to Know to the Art of (Eliciting) Dreams"). Preface to the 4th issue on "Flaubert et les sciences" ("Flaubert and sciences") of *Revue Flaubert* Fall 2004 <https://flaubert-v1.univ-rouen.fr/revue/revue4/01vatan.pdf>
- "Moi, Baudelaire, misogyne, hystérique" ("I, Baudelaire, Misogynist and Hysteric"). *Studi di Letteratura Francese: Rivista Europea* 28 (2003): 79-96

- "L'obscur Attrait des formes: Wolfgang Köhler et la catégorie de *Gestalt*" ("The Obscure Appeal of Forms: Wolfgang Köhler and the Category of *Gestalt*"). Special issue on "La littérature, laboratoire conceptuel des sciences humaines" ("Literature as a Conceptual Laboratory for the Human Sciences") of *Revue d'histoire des sciences humaines* 5 (2001): 95-116
<https://www.cairn.info/revue-histoire-des-sciences-humaines-2001-2-page-95.htm>
- "Entre science et mythe: Erich Voegelin et les théories raciales" ("Between Science and Myth: Erich Voegelin and Racial Theories"). *Austriaca* 47 (1998): 19-38
- "Un Livre 'pour vivre': Flaubert, lecteur des *Essais*" ("Flaubert as Reader of Montaigne's *Essays*"). *Montaigne Studies* X. 1-2 (1998): 151-168
- "La Mélancolie sans miroir: une lecture de 'Brumes et pluies'" ("Melancholy Without a Mirror: a Reading of Baudelaire's Poem 'Mist and Rain'"). *The French Review* 70/2 (1996): 119-131
- "De la Bêtise: une conférence de Robert Musil" ("On Stupidity: a Talk by Robert Musil"). *Europe* 741/742 (1991): 54-61

Book chapters

- "Un Enchantement littéraire? *La Tentation de saint Antoine* face à ses lecteurs" ("A Literary Enchantment? *The Temptation of Saint Anthony* and Its Readers"), in *Relire La Tentation de saint Antoine (New Readings of The Temptation of Saint Anthony)*. Eds Éric Le Calvez and Atsuko Ogane, Paris: Garnier (forthcoming)
- "Savoir et transmission : Gustave Flaubert et Frédéric Baudry" ("Knowledge and Transmission : Gustave Flaubert and Frédéric Baudry") in *Flaubert dans son siècle* (Flaubert in his Century). Eds Philippe Dufour and Gisèle Séginger, Paris, Herrmann, 2023: 239-255
- "Provocations littéraires: Gustave Flaubert face au monde savant" ("Literary Provocations: Gustave Flaubert in Dialogue with Contemporary Scientists"), in *Flaubert et le scandale (Scandal in Flaubert's Work)*, Ed. Éric Le Calvez, Roubaix, Éditions Passage(s) 2022, p. 341-364
- "Des singes et des hommes: hybridations flaubertiennes" ("On Apes and Men: Flaubert's Hybridizations") in *Littérature française et savoirs biologiques au XIXe siècle: traduction, transmission, transposition (French Literature and Biological Sciences in the 19th-Century: Translation, Transmission, Transposition)*. Eds Thomas Klinkert and Gisèle Séginger, Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019: 247-264
<https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783110665833-017/html>.
- "Au prisme des métamorphoses: Michelet, Flaubert et les insectes" ("The Prism of Metamorphoses: Michelet, Flaubert, and insects"), in *Les Métamorphoses, entre fiction et notion (Metamorphoses as Fiction and as Notion)*. Eds Gisèle Séginger and Juliette Azoulai. Paris: Laboratoire LISAA, 2019: 189-207
<https://books.openedition.org/lisaa/1093?lang=en>.
- "Statistics and the Novel: Robert Musil and Richard von Mises," in *Robert Musil's Intellectual Affinities*. Ed. Brett Martz and Todd Cesaratto. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, series Musiliana, 2017: 117-148
- "Gustave Flaubert, Robert Musil, and the Challenges of Visualization," in *Anschaung und Anschaulichkeit. Visualisierung im Wahrnehmen, Lesen und Denken (Vision and Vividness: Visualization in Perception, Reading, and Thinking)*. Ed. Hans Adler and Sabine Gross. Munich: Fink Verlag, 2016: 195-216
- "Le Comble du singulier: génie et idiotie dans le discours médical au XIXe siècle (l'exemple de *Louis Lambert*)" ("Ultimate Singularity: Genius and Idiocy in 19th-century Medical

- Discourse. The Example of *Louis Lambert*), in *Figures de la singularité (Figures of Singularity)*. Ed. Rolf Wintermeyer and Michel Kauffmann. Paris: Presses de la Sorbonne Nouvelle, 2014: 155-168
- "Le Sublime et le grotesque dans *Bouvard et Pécuchet*" ("The Sublime and the grotesque in *Bouvard and Pécuchet*"), in *Le Grotesque et le sublime (The Grotesque and the Sublime)*. Ed. Jan Miernowski. Genève: Droz, 2014: 269-295
- "Introduction. After the Violence: Memory," co-written with Marc Silberman, in *Memory and Postwar Memorials: Confronting the Violence of the Past*. Co-edited with Marc Silberman. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2013: 1-11
- "'Und auch die Kunst sucht Wissen': Robert Musil und literarische Erkenntnis" ("'Art too Seeks Knowledge': Robert Musil and Literary Knowledge"), in *Aisthesis & Noesis. Zwei Erkenntnisformen vom 18. Jahrhundert bis zur Gegenwart (Aisthesis & Noesis. Two Forms of Knowledge from the 18th Century to the 21st Century)*. Ed. Hans Adler and Lynn Wolff. Munich: Fink Verlag, 2013: 113-129
- "Lectures du merveilleux médiéval: Gustave Flaubert et Alfred Maury" ("Revisiting the Middle Ages: Gustave Flaubert and Alfred Maury"), in *Savoirs en récits. XIXe siècle. I. Flaubert: la politique, l'art et l'histoire (Narratives and Knowledge. 19th Century. I. Flaubert: Politics, Arts and History)*, Ed. Jacques Neefs and Anne Herschberg Pierrot. Paris: Presses universitaires de Vincennes, 2010: 87-107
- "Beruf: Entzauberer? Robert Musil und Max Weber" ("The Craft of Disenchantment: Robert Musil and Max Weber"), in *Terror und Erlösung. Robert Musil und der Gewaltdiskurs der Zwischenkriegszeit (Terror and Salvation. Robert Musil and the Discourse on Violence in the Interwar Period)*. Ed. Hans Feger, Hans-Georg Pott and Norbert Christian Wolf. Munich: Fink Verlag, 2009: 65-91
- "Emma Bovary: 'poète hystérique' ou parfaite hystérique?" ("Emma Bovary: 'Hysterical poet' or 'True Hysteric'?"), in *Madame Bovary et les savoirs (Madame Bovary and Sciences)*. Ed. Pierre-Louis Rey and Gisèle Séginger. Paris: Presses de la Sorbonne Nouvelle, 2009: 219-230
- "L'art du désenchantement? Robert Musil et Max Weber" ("The Art of Disenchantment ? Robert Musil and Max Weber"), in *"Au nom de Goethe!" Hommage à Gérald Stieg ("In the Name of Goethe": A Tribute to Gerald Stieg)*. Ed. Jean-François Laplénie and Marc Lacheny. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2009: 25-34
- "'Outrage à la morale publique' et aux 'bonnes mœurs'! Gustave Flaubert et la 'morale de l'Art'" ("An Affront to 'Public Morals' and 'Common Decency'! Gustave Flaubert and the 'Morality of Art'"), in *Pensée morale et genres littéraires (Moral Thought and Literary Genres)*. Ed. Jean-Charles Darmon and Philippe Desan. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 2009: 133-152
- "Flaubert, Musil und der Reiz der Dummheit" ("Flaubert, Musil and the Appeal of Stupidity"), in *Robert Musil: Ironie, Satire, (falsche) Gefühle (Robert Musil: Irony, Satire, (False) Emotions)*. Ed. Kevin Mulligan and Armin Westerhoff. Paderborn: Mentis Verlag, 2009: 149-171
- "*Madame Bovary*, l'autopsie d'un scandale" (*Madame Bovary: the Autopsy of a Scandal*"), in *Énonciation artistique et socialité (Artistic Utterance and Sociality)*. Ed. Sylvain Fagot and Jean-Philippe Uzel. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2006: 73-86
- "'Quand papa prenait des leçons de tennis': Robert Musil et le sport" ("When Daddy Used to Take Tennis Lessons: Robert Musil and Sport"), in *Des Mots et des muscles! Représentations*

des pratiques sportives (On Words and Muscles! Representations of Sport Practices). Ed. Yan Hamel, Geneviève Lafrance and Benoît Melançon. Montréal: Nota Bene, 2004: 201-229

"'Le métier et la vocation de savant': la polémique des années vingt" ("'Science as a Vocation': the Polemical Debate of the Twenties"), in *Intellectuels et polémiques dans l'espace germanophone (Intellectuals and Polemics in German-Speaking Countries)*. Ed. Valérie Robert. Asnières: Presses de l'Institut d'Allemand d'Asnières, 2003: 165-176

"Berlin Dada." *Villes et écrivains. Berlin-Munich-Venise (Cities and Writers. Berlin-Munich-Venice)*. Asnières: Publications de l'Institut d'Allemand d'Asnières, 1999: 9-22

4. Translations

Hans Georg Gadamer. *L'Éthique dialectique de Platon (Plato's Dialectical Ethics)*. Trans. Véronika von Schenck and Florence Vatan. Arles: Actes Sud, 1994, 323 p. Trans. of *Platos dialektische Ethik*

Manfred Frank. *Le Dieu à venir (The Coming God. Lectures on the New Mythology)*. Trans. Véronika von Schenck and Florence Vatan. Arles: Actes Sud, 1989, 5. vol. 464 p. Trans. of *Der kommende Gott, Vorlesungen über die neue Mythologie*

5. Book reviews

Rev. of *Entre croyance et savoir: les figures religieuses de Flaubert (Between Belief and Knowledge: Religious Figures in Flaubert's Work)* (2021, 340p.), by Taro Nakajima, *Revue Flaubert* (in progress)

Rev. of *Die Institution im Roman. Robert Musil (The Institution in the Novel. Robert Musil)* (2019, 98p.), by Rüdiger Campe, *Austriaca* (in progress)

Rev. of *Robert Musil and the Question of Science* (2020, 172p.), by Tim Mehigan, *Monatshefte*, 114.2 (Summer 2022): 324-326

Rev. of *Robert Musil. La mise à l'essai du roman (Robert Musil. Novel and Experiment)* (2019, 223p.), by Walter Moser, *Francia-Recensio*, 2020/3 <https://journals.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/frec/article/view/75681/69608>

Rev. of *Die Rezeption der Gestaltpsychologie in Robert Musils Frühwerk (The Reception of Gestalt Psychology in Robert Musil's Early Work)* (2015, 336 p.), by Karen Brüning, *Monatshefte*, 112.3 (Fall 2020): 557-558

Rev. of *La Fabrique des valeurs dans la littérature du XIXème siècle (The Creation of Values in 19th-century Literature)* (2017, 299 p.), by Jean-Louis Cabanès, *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* 48 3/4 / (Spring–Summer 2020) <http://www.ncfs-journal.org/?q=node/1700>

Rev. of *A Pedagogy of Observation. Nineteenth-Century Panoramas, German Literature, and Reading Culture* (2017, 203 p.), by Vance Byrd, *Monatshefte*, 110.4 (Winter 2018): 688-690

Rev. of *Flaubert in the Ruins of Paris*, by Peter Brooks (xxiii + 241 p.), *H-France Review* Vol. 18 (February 2018), n° 26 <http://www.h-france.net/vol18reviews/vol18no26vatan.pdf>

Rev. of *Die Sprengkraft der Miniatur: Zur Kurzprosa Robert Walsers, Kafkas, Musils, mit einer antithetischen Eröffnung zu Thomas Mann (The Explosive Power of Miniatures: Robert Walser's, Kafka's, and Musil's Short Prose with an Antithetical Introduction to Thomas*

- Mann*) (2013, 234 p.), by Bernhard Böchenstein, *Monatshefte*, 109 .1 (March 2017): 156-158
- Rev. of *Phantasmen. Imagination in Psychologie und Literatur 1840-1930. Flaubert – Čechov – Musil (Fantasies, Imagination in Psychology and Literature 1840-1930. Flaubert – Čechov – Musil)* (2013, 512 p.), by Sandra Janßen, *Musil-Forum*, 34 (2015/2016): 382-388
- Rev. of *Écritures romanesques et philosophie: Hermann Broch, Hermann Hesse, Thomas Mann, Robert Musil (Novelistic Writing and Philosophy: Hermann Broch, Hermann Hesse, Thomas Mann, Robert Musil)* (2011, 299 p.) by Christine Mondon, *Musil-Forum*, 33 (2013/2014): 342-344
- Rev. of *Denken erzählen. Repräsentationen des Intellekts bei Robert Musil und Paul Valéry (Narrating Thought Processes: Representations of the Mind in Robert Musil's and Paul Valéry's Work)* (2009, 591 p.), by Olav Krämer. *Monatshefte*, 103/4 (2011): 679-680
- Rev. of *Robert Musil – Literatur und Politik (Robert Musil – Literature and politics)* (2007, 317 p.), by Klaus Amann. *Études germaniques*, 65.4 (October-December 2010): 958
- Rev. of *Robert Musil – Literatur und Politik* (2007, 317 p.) (*Robert Musil – Literature and politics*), by Klaus Amann. *Austriaca*, 67-68 (December 2008-June 2009): 254-258
- Rev. of *Mémoire d'un fou d'Emma (A Memoir by a fan of Emma)* (2009, 272 p.), by Alain Ferry, *Revue Flaubert* (2009) http://flaubert.univ-rouen.fr/debats/crendus.php#ferry_vatan
- Rev. of *A Companion to the Works of Robert Musil* (2007, 470 p.). Ed. Philip Payne, Graham Bartram & Galina Tihanov. *Études germaniques* 64/1 (2009): 242-243
- Rev. of *Ekel am Erzählen. Metafikcionalität im Werk Robert Musils, gewonnen am Kriminalfall Tonka (Aversion against Narrative: Metafiction in Robert Musil's Work, with a Focus on the Criminal Case of Tonka)*, by Villő Huszai (2002, 285 p.). *Monatshefte* 97/2 (2005): 356-357
- Rev. of *Multilinguale Literatur im 20. Jahrhundert (20th-century Multilingual literature)* (2002, 346 p.), ed. Manfred Schmeling and Monika Schmitz-Emans. *Monatshefte* 96/1 (2004): 137-139
- Rev. of *Der ästhetische Mensch bei Robert Musil (The Aesthetic Personality in Robert Musil's Work)* (1991, 334 p.), by Claus Erhart. *Austriaca* 33 (1991): 190-191
- Rev. of *Nietzsches Philosophie in Musils Roman Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften (Nietzschean Philosophy in Musil's Novel The Man Without Qualities)* (1987, 166 p.), by Charlotte Dressler-Brumme. *Austriaca* 27 (1988): 190-191

6. Others

- Entry "Gestalt," *Dictionnaire européen-asiatique des concepts critiques (European and Asian Dictionary of Critical Concepts)*. Ed. Michel Espagne (forthcoming)
- "Nachruf auf Jacques Bouveresse" (Obituary for Jacques Bouveresse), trans. Rosmarie Zeller. *Musil-Forum* 36 (2019/2020): 312-316.
- 109 entries for the *Dictionnaire Gustave Flaubert (Gustave Flaubert Dictionary)*. Ed. Eric Le Calvez, Paris: Éditions Garnier, (entries on *Madame Bovary*, its reception, *Un Coeur simple*, science, and medicine), 2017 (192p.)
- Review of *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* at the Comédie Française (April-June 2017) and interviews with stage director Katharina Thalbach and leading actor Laurent Stocker, *Communications from the International Brecht Society*, Issue 2: 2017 < <https://e-cibs.org/issue-2-2017/#vatan>> and < <https://e-cibs.org/issue-2-2017/#stocker>>

- Entry "Gestalttheorie," *Robert Musil-Handbuch (Robert Musil Handbook)*. Ed. Birgit Nübel and Norbert Christian Wolf. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2016: 530-535
- Entry "Flaubert," *Dictionnaire Montaigne (Montaigne Dictionary)*. Ed. Philippe Desan, Paris: Champion, 2004: 400-401