

The King's Image: A History of Representation

Repraesentatio, “to make present” or “set before the eyes,” was originally a juridical concept, which gained theological import in early Christian debates about the true doctrinal meaning of the Eucharist. But the dynamic of *Darstellung* has always *also* been an aesthetic problem: the nexus between theories of power and theories of art—between the making-present of the sovereign and the making-present of the Idea—plays a central role in the history of literature from the middle ages to the modern. In this course, we will examine some of the key German-language texts in this lineage, by authors like Lohenstein, Goethe, Schiller, Novalis, Grillparzer, Wagner, Hofmannsthal, Kafka and George, alongside a few of the foundational theoretical attempts (Kantorowicz, Schmitt, Benjamin, Agamben) to make sense of this tradition.

Readings in German and English translation; class discussions in English.



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GERMAN 890S

Dr. Sarah Pourciau

Tuesdays 4:40-7:10 PM

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