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**NORTH
AMERICAN
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PROGRAM**

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University of Missouri-Columbia



“Economizing Desire: The Sibling (in) Law”

Monday, July 14, 2014 | 6:00-8:00 pm | Room A, IAAK



In the nineteenth century, the figure of the sibling was used to discipline desire into socially and economically productive channels. The dynamics of siblinghood and fraternity were crucial to modern constructions of political enfranchisement, sociality, gender, and subjectivity. The logic of the sibling, not quite self and not quite other, also carried a more threatening – or promising – potential just below the surface, however. Its challenge to an exclusionary dialectics of selfhood may account for its excision from 20th-century theory. This talk will explore the economics of desire in the context of the sibling in Adam Smith, Goethe, George Eliot,

and Claude Lévi-Strauss.

Stefani Engelstein is Associate Professor of German and a 2013–2014 Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung, Berlin. She received her PhD and MA from the University of Chicago and her BA from Yale University. Her recent articles have appeared in journals such as *Critical Inquiry*, *PMLA*, and *German Quarterly*, as well as in anthologies. She is the author of *Anxious Anatomy: The Conception of the Human Form in Literary and Naturalist Discourse* (2008), and co-editor of *Contemplating Violence: Critical Studies in Modern German Culture* (2011). Engelstein is currently completing a book entitled *Sibling Logic: The Genealogical Structure of Modernity*.



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