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Alex Hogue  
Matthew Bauman

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Please send correspondence to: [fogs.editor@gmail.com](mailto:fogs.editor@gmail.com) or

***Focus on German Studies***

University of Cincinnati

PO Box 210372

Cincinnati, OH 45221-0372 U.S.A.

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## | From the Editor |

**F**ocus on German Studies is a publication with a rich and inspiring history. Now in its twenty-second year, *Focus* compels the cooperative efforts of motivated graduate students and established professional faculty of colleges and universities across North America, Europe, and beyond. In my time at the University of Cincinnati, I have always been just a bit in awe of the *Focus* editors. A fully graduate student directed, professionally peer-reviewed publication, *Focus* was a first of its kind in the field of German Studies. It has been passed from editor to editor with not only the necessary instructions for oversight of the process, but also with the sort of personal advice one can have the fortune to receive from a colleague in a small but thriving department. Despite this more than two decade legacy of passed down knowledge, there has always been an element of independent hands-on learning for the *Focus* editor, as he or she navigates the daunting but, I am pleased to say, rewarding series of tasks involved in successfully publishing a volume. In the end, the result is a strong sense of proficiency in and knowledge of the academic publishing process, and I am proud to have taken a place in this lineage.

*Focus* has changed over the years, and continues to develop today. Originally titled *Focus on Literatur*, the journal was initially published biannually. With the new millennium came annual publication and our current title, and in 2008, Editor-in-Chief Marie Buesch began the process of digitizing *Focus* issues with the University of Cincinnati library to ensure the worldwide accessibility of the journal. I am pleased to announce that since *Focus* has transitioned to fully online publication last year, it has found a permanent home this year with Open Journal Systems and the University of Cincinnati Library. My special thanks go to our department chair Dr. Todd Herzog, our previous editor Emily Bauman, Nathan Tallman and the rest at Langsam Library staff, and my co-editor Matthew Bauman for their advice and collaboration in making this transition. The University of Cincinnati Libraries have established the OJS platform at UC and we are pleased to be the first journal at the university to adopt it fully, through which interested readers will be able to access the articles without subscription. It is my hope that in the coming years, more readers will find and access *Focus on German Studies*, and that the journal's already excellent reputation as a scholarly publication will continue to thrive in the digital world. I am confident that my succeeding editors, Matthew Bauman and Katie Paul, will do great work in continuing to build *Focus*'s place online as a respected graduate student journal.

I would like to extend my thanks to this year's Assistant Editor, Amanda Hatch for her continued support, and in particular for her generosity in – always graciously – taking on any and every task assigned with meticulous attention to quality. My thanks go as well to previous editor Emily Bauman for her time and valuable advice. Finally, I would like to thank the graduate students of the University of Cincinnati Department of German Studies, who have volunteered their time and attention in numerous ways. *Focus* owes its success to remarkable collaboration, and it has been my honor to play a role.

*Alex Hogue*