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ERC-project ASSISTED LAB

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EDUCATION

PhD in Modern German Literature, University of Bern (2022)

Thesis entitled "Ni toi sans moi, ni moi sans toi!" Sterbehilfe in Literatur und Film der Gegenwart'. Supervised by Prof Dr Oliver Lubrich (first reviewer) and Prof Dr Anna Elsner (second reviewer, University of St.Gallen)

Master of Arts in German Literature (Major) and History (Minor), University of Bern (2014)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (SELECTION)

03/2023-	Postdoc in the ERC-funded project 'Assisted Dying in European Writing and Visual Culture: Reciprocal Interactions between Law, Medicine and the Arts since 2000', led by Prof Dr Anna Elsner at the School of Medicine (MED-HSG) and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS-HSG), University of St.Gallen
06/2018-	Expert and examiner for final exams in German at various schools in Bern, Biel and Zurich
08/2017-07/2019	Teaching at the Institute of German Studies at the University of Bern (including courses on narratology and on the cultural and literary history of love)
04-07/2017	Research assistant in the editorial project 'Alexander von Humboldt, Sämtliche Schriften (Aufsätze, Artikel, Essays). Berner Ausgabe" at the Institute for German Studies at the University of Bern
03/2016-11/2020	Aid organisation representative in asylum seekers' federal hearings for the Association of Swiss Jewish Refugee Aid and Welfare Organisations (VSJF) and the Hilfswerk der Evangelisch-reformierten Kirche Schweiz (HEKS). Numerous training courses, including on the traumatisation of asylum seekers and intervening in difficult hearing situations
02/2014-03/2015	Research associate for the book project 'Am Üetliberg. Die Geschichte des Lehr- und Forschungswaldes der Eidgenössischen Technischen Hochschule Zürich 1927-2011' by Alfred Lienhard
2012-	Freelance proofreader and transcriber , proofreading of academic writing, transcribing mainly for the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland
02-07/2010	Tutor of the seminar 'Berlin – Die Stadt als Text' at the Institute of German Studies at the University of Bern

09/2008-01/2010

Student associate in the SNF-funded project ‘Historische Eisenbahnstatistik 1847-1920’ by ViaStoria (<http://www.bahndaten.ch>)

12/2007-03/2008

Tutor ‘German as a foreign language’ at the University of Durham, UK

PUBLICATIONS

Monography

Sterbehilfe als Liebestod. Existenzielles Leiden in Literatur und Film der Gegenwart, Paderbon: BRILL Fink 2025 (https://doi.org/10.30965/9783846769126_006)

Articles in Journals and Edited Volumes

‘Diagnose Lebensattheit? Literarische und filmische Perspektiven auf das “vollendete Leben” und den “Altersfreitod” in den Niederlanden, Belgien, Deutschland und der Schweiz,’ Marcella Fassio (ed.): *Mental Health in Literatur, Populärmedien und Medizin. Aushandlungen von psychischer Gesundheit und Krankheit aus intersektionaler Perspektive*, Berlin: De Gruyter 2025, pp. 117–141 (<https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111591933-006>), with Wouter Schrover

‘Assisted Lab – Zur kulturellen Dimension der Sterbehilfe,’ *The (Un)Speakability of Death. Contemporary Literarisations and Visualisations of Dying*, an issue of *Re:visit. Humanities & Medicine in Dialogue* 4 No. 1 (2025), pp. 135–149 (https://doi.org/10.57974/re:visit_2025_4.1_7), with Anna M. Elsner

‘Language Matters: The Semantics and Politics of “Assisted Dying”,’ *Hastings Center Report* 54, no. 5 (2024), pp. 3–7 (<https://doi.org/10.1002/hast.4910>), with Anna M. Elsner, Charlotte E. Frank, Jordan O. McCullough, and Vanessa Rampton

‘Love, Death, and – No Hospital!: Assisted dying, “Liebestod,” and Existential Suffering,’ Anna M. Elsner and Steven Wilson (eds.): *Cultures of Palliative Care*, a special issue of *Literature and Medicine* 42:1 (Spring 2024), pp. 112–136 (<https://doi.org/10.1353/lm.2024.a935836>)

Zur Darstellung der Sterbehilfe-Diskurse in Ferdinand von Schirachs *Gott* (2020), Thomas Nehrlich and Erik Schilling (eds.): *Juristendichtung. Ferdinand von Schirachs Werk zwischen Literatur und Recht*, Berlin: Metzler 2024, pp. 207–226 (https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-662-68787-1_13)

‘Creating a “Living Archive of Assisted Dying”,’ *The Polyphony*, 13 May 2024 <https://thepolyphony.org/2024/05/13/living-archive-assisted-dying/>, with Jordan McCullough

‘De nuances van de liefdesdood’, in: *Neerlandistiek – Online tijdschrift voor taal- en letterkundig*, 26 March 2024, <https://neerlandistiek.nl/2024/03/de-nuances-van-de-liefdesdood/>, with Wouter Schrover

“‘Ich möchte, dass du mir hilfst, Schluss zu machen.’ Buchbesprechung zu Emmanuèle Bernheim: *Alles ist gutgegangen*,’ Claudia Bozzaro, Gesine Richter and Christoph Rehmann-Sutter (eds.): *Ethik des assistierten Suizids: Autonomien, Vulnerabilitäten, Ambivalenzen*, Bielefeld: transcript

2024 (Bioethik / Medizinethik, Bd. 5), pp. 41–45 (<https://10.14361/9783839467923-004>), with Anna Elsner

‘Medizinische Geisteswissenschaften, Sciences humaines en médecine, Scienze umane mediche: Medical Humanities in Switzerland,’ *The Polyphony*, 17 October 2023 (<https://thepolyphony.org/2023/10/17/medhums-in-switzerland/>)

Archival Entries

‘Life After,’ *Assisted Lab: A Living Archive of Assisted Dying*, September 2025 (<https://assistedlab.ch/visual/life-after-by-reid-davenport>)

‘Die Glückssucherin. Warum Margrit Schächli einen Lebensratgeber schrieb und trotzdem den Freitod wählte,’ *Assisted Lab: A Living Archive of Assisted Dying*, August 2025 (<https://assistedlab.ch/textual/die-glueckssucherin-warum-margrit-schappi-einen-lebensratgeber-schrieb-und-trotzdem-den-freitod-wahlte>)

‘Alices Reise in die Schweiz. Szenen aus dem Leben des Sterbehelfers Gustav Strom,’ *Assisted Lab: A Living Archive of Assisted Dying*, 9 June 2025 (<https://assistedlab.ch/performative/alices-reise-in-die-schweiz-by-lukas-barfuss>)

‘Sarco,’ *Assisted Lab: A Living Archive of Assisted Dying*, 8 April 2025 (<https://assistedlab.ch/performative/the-sarco-by-philip-nitschke>)

‘Exit,’ *Assisted Lab: A Living Archive of Assisted Dying*, 7 October 2024 (<https://assistedlab.ch/visual/exit-by-benjamin-kempf>)

‘Die letzte Reise,’ *Assisted Lab: A Living Archive of Assisted Dying*, 10 September 2024 (<https://assistedlab.ch/visual/die-letzte-reise>)

‘Liebe bis in den Tod,’ *Assisted Lab: A Living Archive of Assisted Dying*, 15 July 2024 (<https://assistedlab.ch/textual/liebe-bis-in-den-tod>)

‘Tanner geht. Sterbehilfe – Ein Mann plant seinen Tod,’ *Assisted Lab: A Living Archive of Assisted Dying*, 26 June 2024 (<https://assistedlab.ch/textual/tanner-geht-sterbehilfe-ein-mann-plant-seinen-tod?token=2ed7fa01546922b4faa63442bd4a95744d2ca188>)

‘SuissID,’ *Assisted Lab: A Living Archive of Assisted Dying*, 10 April 2024 (<https://assistedlab.ch/textual/suissid>)

‘Arbeit and Struktur,’ *Assisted Lab: A Living Archive of Assisted Dying*, 18 March 2024 (<https://assistedlab.ch/textual/arbeit-und-struktur?token=e34636c4c98c18ecd1271123cc7675bd7864b72e>)

‘GOTT: Ein Theaterstück,’ *Assisted Lab: A Living Archive of Assisted Dying*, 18 March 2024 (<https://assistedlab.ch/performative/gott-ein-theaterstueck>)

‘Schlemm,’ *Assisted Lab: A Living Archive of Assisted Dying*, 18 March 2024 (<https://assistedlab.ch/textual/schlemm>)

Articles in Magazines and Newspapers

'Selbstbestimmt bis zuletzt – im Sterben wie im Leben,' *Die Wochenzeitung (WOZ)*, 11 September 2025
<https://www.woz.ch/2537/ethik/selbstbestimmt-bis-zuletzt-im-sterben-wie-im-leben/!AM5WQ1R2WEG9>

'Sterbehilfe in der Kunst: Ein lebendiges Archiv des assistierten Todes,' *palliative.ch – Zeitschrift der Schweizerischen Gesellschaft für Palliative Medizin, Pflege und Begleitung* 23:1 (2025): 32–36.

'Tod auf Verlangen,' *Praxis PalliativeCare* 27 (2015): 44 (reprint)

'Tod auf Verlangen,' *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 7 February 2015, no. 31: 61

CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR PAPERS

'Kulturelle Narrative zur Sterbehilfe: Von ärztlicher Assistenz zur selbstgedruckten Suizidkapsel Sarco,' *Workshop at the 9th Autumn Congress of the Swiss Society of General Internal Medicine (SGAIM)*, Olma Messen St.Gallen, 25/26 September 2025

""Going to Switzerland." Spaces of Assisted Dying in Contemporary German-, French- and English-language Literature and Film,' *Medical Spaces in Cultural Studies, Architecture, Literature: Trans-disciplinary Perspectives*, Chair of Medical Humanities, University of Fribourg, 4/5 July 2025

'Stories in Law and Law in Stories: The Case of Assisted Dying,' *Research Seminar at the Southampton Centre for Medical and Health Humanities*, University of Southampton, 6 June 2025 (with Jordan McCullough)

'Palliative Care and Assisted Dying: Stories of the End of Life,' *Workshop at the Southampton Centre for Medical and Health Humanities*, University of Southampton, 5 June 2025 (with Jordan McCullough)

'Exit by Benjamin Kempf' presentation within End-of-Life Stories Matter Workshop, McGill International Palliative Care Conference, October 2024

'Are "Angels of Death" Allowed to Cry? Narratives about the Psychological and Emotional Burden of Assisted Dying on "Sterbehelfer:innen"', *Cultures of Disenfranchised Grief: An Online Work-in-Progress Series*, School of Modern Languages Newcastle University, 22 May 2024

'Trauer, Depression oder Liebestod? Literarische und filmische Darstellungen von Verlust und Suizidalität im Alter', *Mental Health erzählen in Literatur und Medizin. Aushandlungen von psychischer Gesundheit und Krankheit aus intersektionaler Perspektive*, Medical Humanities conference at FU Berlin, 29 February & 1 March 2024

'Souffrance existentielle et suicide assisté dans la littérature, le cinéma et le discours public en Suisse', *Journée d'étude Fondation Camargo-La Maison de Gardanne, Cassis*, 25–26 May 2023

“Das ist nicht richtig”: Sterbehilfe und Liebestod in Ferdinand von Schirachs GOTT’, *Juristendichtung: Ferdinand von Schirachs Werk zwischen Literatur und Recht*, Conference at the University of Bern, 17-18 November 2022

‘Euthanasia and Assisted Dying as ‘Liebestod’: The Ethical Dimensions of a Literary Motif, *European Cultures of Palliative Care*’, Conference at Villa Hatt, University of Zurich and ETH, 25-26 October 2019

‘Sterbehilfe in der Gegenwartsliteratur’, *Research Seminar*, University of Freiburg im Breisgau, 5 February 2018

“Wenn er ihr nicht half, war er ein Unmensch. Wenn er ihr half, ebenso.” Tötung auf Verlangen in der Gegenwartsliteratur’, *“Un/Schuld”*, conference of the swissuniversities PhD program ‘Allgemeine und Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft’, Münchenwiler, 8 April 2017

‘Narrative Ethik und Sterbehilfe in der deutschsprachigen Gegenwartsliteratur’, *Research Seminars at the Department of Germanic Studies*, Sheffield University, 23 November 2016

“Neue Mündlichkeit” und “Migrant_innenstimmen”: Zwei aktuelle Tendenzen in der Schweizer Gegenwartsliteratur’, *Visiting Swiss Author: Martin R. Dean. Contemporary Swiss-German Literature in Translation / Literature in German and its Cultural Context*, Department of Germanic Studies, Sheffield University, 12 October 2016

‘Literaturwissenschaft als ethische Praxis? Sterbehilfe in Literatur, Literaturwissenschaft und Gesellschaft’, *Annual conference of the Swiss Society for Cultural Studies entitled ‘Wissenschaftsethik in den Kulturwissenschaften’*, University of Bern, 28 November 2015

‘Dichtung und Dilemma. Sterbehilfe in der Gegenwartsliteratur’, *‘Zur Renaissance kontextualisierender literaturwissenschaftlicher Methoden – Narrative Ethik’*, University of Bern, 11 September 2015

‘Die Würde der Leiblichkeit. Demenz und Sterbehilfe in literarischen Berichten von Françoise Xenakis und Arno Geiger’, *Workshop on the key concept ‘Körper–Leib’*, Walter Benjamin Kolleg, University of Bern, 10 October 2014

ORGANISATION AND MODERATION AT CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS

Co-organisation of the webinar “The Sarco Question: Can Technology Replace Doctors in Assisted Dying?” jointly organised with the Forum for Global Health Ethics and the Competence Center Medicine, Ethics, Law Helvetiae (MERH) at the University of Zurich, 22 October 2025

Co-organisation of the conference ‘Endings and Meanings: Existential Suffering in the 21st Century’, Collegium Helveticum, ETH Zurich, 8/9 April 2025

Moderation of a panel at the conference ‘Ambulante Poesie. Explorationen deutschsprachiger Reiseliteratur seit dem 18. Jahrhundert’, University of Bern, 5 July 2018

Co-organisation of the workshop ‘Kollektive Emotionen’, Walter Benjamin Kolleg, University of Bern, 26 & 27 March 2015

TEACHING

SEMINARS

- 2025 'Vom "Zauberberg" bis "Davos 1917" – Das Sanatorium als Ort der Heilung und Gegenstand der Imagination,' University of St. Gallen (MA seminar)
- 2024 'Gesundheit, Krankheit und Sterben – Zwischen biologischem Faktum und kulturellem Konstrukt,' University of St. Gallen (BA seminar)
- 2019 'Einführung in die Erzähltheorie,' University of Bern (Basiskurs)
- 2018 'Romantische Liebe als literarische Erfindung,' University of Bern (BA semna)
- 2018 'Narratologie: Theorie und Praxis der Erzähltextanalyse,' University of Bern (BA seminar)
- 2017 'Sterbehilfe in der Gegenwartsliteratur,' University of Bern (BA seminar)

GUEST-LECTURES

"Vom geplanten Ende erzählen: Sterbehilfe im Spannungsfeld von Kunst, Medizin und Recht," Guest Lecture in the Lecture Series „Interdisziplinäre Thanatologie“, University of Koblenz, 3 November 2025

PODCAST HOSTING

Wega Wetzel zur Rolle der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Humanes Sterben, in: *Assisted – The Podcast*, 13 January 2025 (<https://assistedlab.ch/podcasts>)

Nicola Bardola zur Entwicklung der Sterbehilfe in Deutschland und der Schweiz, in: *Assisted – The Podcast*, 18 July 2024 (<https://assistedlab.ch/podcasts>)

INVITATIONS TO ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Cinema@SQUARE, Screening and discussion of the documentary *Eternal You*, University of St. Gallen, 26 March 2025

Talk im Studio zu 'Gott', *Konzert Theater St.Gallen*, 18 March 2024

Reviews for: *Re:visit. Humanities & Medicine in Dialogue*