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About Volume 27: *Transitions*

The prefix *trans* (meaning ‘on one or the other side of’, ‘across’, or ‘beyond’) has engendered various recent scholarly derivations, such as transgender, transmedia, and transhumanism alongside more established concepts such as transnationalism and translation. They all have in common the attempt to venture beyond the single, static viewpoint and create a dynamic notion that considers networks, developments, and processes, whether gradual or abrupt, as suitable objects of study. As such, transitions and the derivations above deserve special scholarly attention.

For the 27th volume of the graduate student journal *NGR (New German Review)* of UCLA’s Department of Germanic Languages, we wanted to stimulate our readers’ imagination to parttake in our journey between one point and the other. We invited authors to submit works that address the topic of transitions in fields related to Germanic Studies.

Contributions to this volume address the concept—or manifestation—of transitions from manifold angles: Jessica Backus traces the professional trajectory of Leipzig School painter Werner Tübke in the German Democratic Republic, analyzing his central works *Die fünf Kontinente* against the backdrop of political tensions in the Cold War of the 1950s. Bethany Bowen-Wefuan highlights the artistic and emotional struggles of Adalbert Stifter’s character Friedrich Roderer as he deals with depicting and experiencing the Real. Alex Hogue’s contribution ties the basic philosophical tenets of German philosophers Kant, Fichte, Hölderlin, and Heidegger to the hotly debated subfields of transhumanism—the noetic and ontic models. Arndt Kremer discusses the notion of a German *Kulturnation* defined by language, examining the intriguing dynamics between *Muttersprache* and *Vaterland*. The book reviews, accordingly, venture into the timely fields of urban humanities and transculturality.

The contributions greatly reflect the journal’s own transition, this volume being the first to have an overarching theme. We hope that this new direction will serve for the enjoyment and intellectual stimulation of its readers.

Patricia A. Wiley
Editor-in-Chief

