

Photolog: An Academic Life in Pictures

Reingard M. Nischik's (*Nov. 3, 1952) academic route has taken her in two seemingly opposite directions. Starting out as a student of British and American Literature, she later, during her doctoral and postdoctoral studies, increasingly turned north to include, and sometimes focus on, Canadian Literature (as well as Comparative Literature) in her research and teaching. Her geographical career path, however, took her unswervingly south: from the University of Cologne (1977–1988) via the University of Mainz (1988–1992) and the University of Freiburg (1992–1994) to ultimately Germany's southernmost university, the University of Konstanz (as of 1994) on Lake Constance, where Germany borders on Switzerland.

Here is a highly selective “photolog” sketching a long academic journey, with some sixty images spanning five decades (all private photos except where otherwise indicated; for a larger photo format, see https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7c0k27zls0scr4q/AADzK4mrwcpPw6C_urdT16rka?dl=0).

“Back in the summer of ‘68”: Repeated travels to England in the 1960s as a high school student ...



(London, summer 1968, aged 15)

... helped prepare the ground for Reingard Nischik's later choice to study British and American Literature at the University of Cologne (1971–1977):



(summer 1976, aged 23)



(Cologne, winter 1976–1977, aged 24)

Being a doctoral student (1977–1980), ...



(Cologne, July 1978, aged 25)

... partly at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver (Aug. 1978–Sept. 1979), resulted in a more determined outlook on life:



(Vancouver, April 1979, aged 26)

Yet distractions in “Beautiful British Columbia” were many (e.g., night skiing on Grouse Mountain and enjoying the city beaches):



(Vancouver, March 1979) (Vancouver, June 1979)

Editorial Beginnings: Back in Cologne, a few months before the oral doctoral exam, at an editorial meeting concerning the staff-student-edited English Seminar magazine *Caterpillar*:



(summer 1980, aged 27; left: Dr. Hilary Heltay)

Being a postdoc made life much more serious ...



(Cologne, Aug. 1981, aged 28)



(Cologne, June 1982, aged 29)

... but also brought with it further (and, eventually, many) professionally motivated travels to, and within, Canada and the United States ...



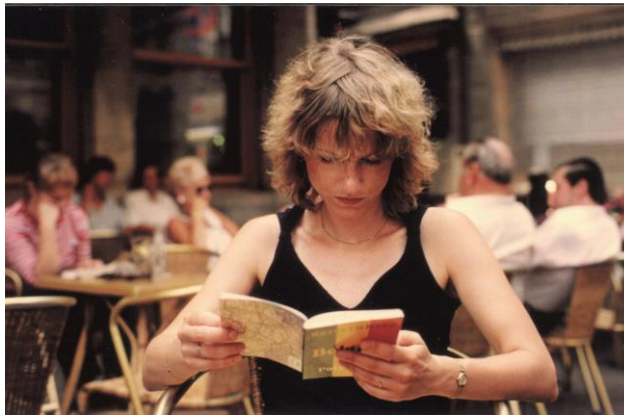
(University of Ottawa, Montreal, British Columbia, all July–Sept. 1981, aged 28)

... and also left some time for recreational travels, here to Amsterdam and vicinity:



(Holland, North Sea, Aug. –Sept. 1982, aged 29)

As breaks from two early concurrent book projects (1983–1985), one of them *Gaining Ground: European Critics on Canadian Literature* (co-ed. with Robert Kroetsch, publ. 1985), there were various vacations or trips ...



(Brussels, July 1983, aged 30)



(India, Agra, Taj Mahal, March 1984, aged 31)



(Swiss Alps, July 1984)



(Montreux, Lake Geneva, July 1984)

... as well as other relaxing activities:



*(Cologne, spring 1983, aged 30;
left: Dr. Barbara Hoffmann)*



(Cologne, summer 1983)



(Bonn, July 1983)



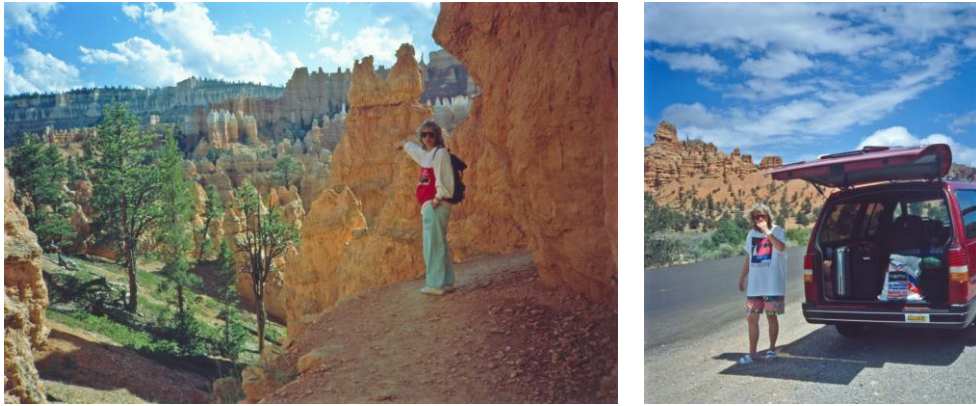
(Cologne, Dec. 1983)

Life became even more packed after Reingard Nischik was appointed professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Mainz in 1988 (while still working on her postdoctoral thesis [“Habilitation”] at the University of Cologne, finished one year later) at age 35, thereby becoming the youngest female professor in Germany at the time (only 3,2 % of all professors in Germany were female then):



(summer 1989, aged 36) (Dec. 1990, aged 38; left: Dr. Gabriele Metzler)

Traveling the American West in the term break of summer 1991, here in Utah:



(Bryce Canyon, Aug. –Sept. 1991, aged 39)

The first meeting (with many others to follow) with Margaret Atwood during a three-day conference in Grainau in the Bavarian Alps:



(Feb. 1992, aged 39; left: Margaret Atwood)

Happy to be tenured professor of North American Literature at the University of Freiburg (1992–1994)—here in Graz, Austria, on the occasion of the board meeting of the German Association for the Study of English (Deutscher Anglistenverband):



(Graz, March 1994, aged 41; left: Edgar W. Schneider, right: Heinz Kosok)

Even more happily celebrating the appointment as Chair of American Literature at the University of Konstanz in 1994 with another trip to Canada and the United States (here in British Columbia and in a restaurant in Vancouver):



(July–Aug. 1994, aged 41)

Another trip to the American West in the term break of summer 1997, here in a saloon in Tombstone, Arizona, and at The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico:



(Aug. –Sept. 1997, aged 44)

Conferences were many: here at a reception at the Space Symposium in Bonn:



(July 2000, aged 47; right: Sabine Sielke)

Traveling in the American East in the term break of summer 2000, here in Concord, Mass., at Walden Pond:



(Sept. 2000; left: a sculpture of Henry David Thoreau)

Surprise pre-presentation of the book *Margaret Atwood: Works and Impact* (Festschrift for Atwood, see below), after an Atwood reading in Boston, Mass., which was one stop on her book tour upon the publication of *The Blind Assassin*:



(Sept. 2000; right: Margaret Atwood)

Official book launch at the Frankfurt Book Fair of *Margaret Atwood: Works and Impact* (Festschrift for Atwood, ed. R.M. Nischik, Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2000):



(Oct. 2000; left: Margaret Atwood)



(Oct. 2000; left: Margaret Atwood, middle: Richard Barber, publisher Boydell & Brewer; photo: The Bookseller)

Minister of Science Peter Frankenberg awarding Reingard M. Nischik the State Award for Teaching Excellence (Landeslehrpreis) 2002:



(Jan. 20, 2003, aged 50; left: Peter Frankenberg)

The Landeslehrpreis award winner and the laudator immediately before the ceremony:



(Jan. 20, 2003; right: Caroline Rosenthal)

Another trip to Vancouver (here on Robson Street):



(Sept. 2003)

Trip to Vancouver and Toronto in October–November 2006, here in Toronto, Queen's Park:



(Nov. 11, 2006, aged 54)

Celebrating the publication of Nischik's edited volume *History of Literature in Canada*:



(Dec. 18, 2008; with team, from left: Georgiana Banita, Florian Freitag, Julia Sutter, Julia Breitbach, Reingard M. Nischik, Eva Gruber, Christina Kannenberg)

After a doctoral oral exam:



(July 2009, with examinee, co-examiners, and team, from left: Florian Freitag, Julia Breitbach, Barbara Giehmann, Emily Petermann, Carmen Otilia Teodorescu-Stadler (examinee), Reingard M. Nischik, Caroline Rosenthal, Beate Ochsner (both co-examiners), Anna Hoben, Christine Schneider)

As a keynote speaker at the *Canadian Literature* (journal) 50th Anniversary Gala at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver:



(Oct. 1, 2009; left: Linda Hutcheon, middle: Sherrill Grace)

Joining Margaret Atwood to form a conference panel at the University of Vienna, Austria:



(Oct. 17, 2009)

At the annual Canadianist conference in Grainau awaiting a talk, with eight of Nischik's (doctoral) students and postdocs:



(Feb. 2010; from left: Doris Eibl, Eva Gruber, Julia Breitbach, Anja Krüger, Christina Kannenberg, Florian Freitag, Julia Sutter, Emily Petermann, Reingard M. Nischik, Georgiana Banita)

Celebrating Margaret Atwood's Nelly-Sachs-Prize at the ceremony in Dortmund:



(March 20, 2011)

Introducing Linda Hutcheon before her 2013 Wolfgang-Iser-Lecture at the University of Konstanz:



(Sept. 18, 2013)

At a podium discussion with writer Judith Hermann and moderator Ulrike Sárkány (NDR Kultur) at the Herrenhäuser Nobelpreistage, Hannover, on the occasion of Alice Munro winning the Nobel Prize in Literature (event organized by the VW-Foundation):



(Dec. 9, 2013)

At a Young Scholars' Conference in Konstanz (with writer and critic Aritha van Herk and seven of Nischik's doctoral students):



(July 9, 2017; from left: Bianka Gengler, Orla Flock, Alena Schmidt-Wehrich, Ingrid Kaplitz, Aritha van Herk, Reingard M. Nischik, Eva Mendez, Rene Reichert, Bettina Mack)

In the summer of 2017 relaxing in the Italian Alps (yet taking “Canada” along, see cap):



(Aug. 2017, aged 64)

In Frankfurt with Margaret Atwood in 2017, celebrating her receipt of the Friedenspreis des deutschen Buchhandels (Peace Prize of the German Book Trade):



(Frankfurt, Oct. 15, 2017)

Meeting with the new Rector of the University of Konstanz in September 2018:



(Konstanz, Sept. 12, 2018, aged 65; left: Rector Prof. Dr. Kerstin Krieglstein)

Surveying, before discarding, all students' theses supervised by Professor Nischik at the Universities of Mainz, Freiburg, and Konstanz between 1991 and 2018:



(Sept. 27, 2018)

Festivities on the occasion of Nischik's 65th birthday and the presentation of a Festschrift to her (*Gained Ground: Perspectives on Canadian and Comparative North American Studies*, eds. Eva Gruber and Caroline Rosenthal, 2018):



(Konstanz, Oct. 29, 2018, with former students)



(Konstanz, Oct. 29, 2018; from left: Nadja Gernalzick/Uni Wien, Jutta Ernst/Uni Mainz, Volker Janitz/SWR 3, Reingard M. Nischik, Nicola Müntefering/SWR 3)



(Konstanz, Oct. 29, 2018; from left: Waltraut Liebl-Kopitzki, Aleida Assmann, Reingard M. Nischik, Siegmund Kopitzki)

Reingard M. Nischik after receiving her Festschrift:



(Konstanz, Oct. 29, 2018)

Celebrating with former doctoral students ...



(Konstanz, Oct. 29, 2018)

... and current doctoral students:



(Konstanz, Oct. 29, 2018)

After the final oral state exam:



(Oct. 31, 2018; with co-examiners, left: Dr. Annette Lang, right: Prof. Dr. Maribel Romero)

After a keynote lecture on the intersections of myth and gender:



(Kassel, June 27, 2019, aged 66)

After a doctoral exam (of Nischik's 22nd PhD student):



(Konstanz, July 4, 2019; left: co-examiner Prof. Dr. Aleida Assmann, middle: Eva Mendez)

Saying thank you and farewell to Nischik's long-time secretary, Christine Schneider (3rd from right):



(Konstanz, Dec. 11, 2019, with one former and five current doctoral students and their kids)



(from left: Christine Schneider, Prof. Dr. Reingard M. Nischik, Dr. Carmen Otilia Teodorescu-Stadler)

In London, UK at the time of the launch of Margaret Atwood's 17th novel, *The Testaments*:



(London, UK, Sept. 22, 2019)

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