**Apocalyptic narratives**

Call for Papers  
2017 Graduate Conference  
April, 28th 2017  
German Department  
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

The apocalypse is a common trope in literature and film. Known environments change drastically and irreversibly and threaten one's existence. Whether the apocalypse affects the entire world, a nation state or just one individual, the future in those scenarios is always uncertain and ominous. Apocalyptic narratives tell stories about radical transformations, revealing the very essence of human nature. Those transformations lead the way into worlds of complete destruction (modern scenarios), as well as into divine kingdoms (eschatology).

Talking about the apocalypse poses a fundamental challenge, as the narrators imagine the unimaginable: the end of what constitutes reality. The fictional works are often directly related to their historic settings. Whether it was the year without a summer (1816) or the threat of the cold war, literature and film became the means for envisioning one's demise in face of a real-life challenge. The graduate students of the German department invite you to an interdisciplinary discussion around the theme of “Apocalyptic narratives” on April, 28th 2017.

We welcome proposals from different disciplines. Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- Apocalypse in film and literature.
- Apocalyptic motifs (e.g. Zombies, spread of viral infections, natural catastrophes).
- Social, political and cultural phenomena that relate to a radical transformation and disruption.
- Anthropocentric notions of Apocalypse.
- Stylistic representations of Apocalypse in literature and film.

Papers will be 20 minutes in length. Please submit your abstract to anna.mayer@rutgers.edu and janine.wahrendorf@rutgers.edu by February 28th. Abstract should be 300 words long. Suggestions for panels are welcomed.