

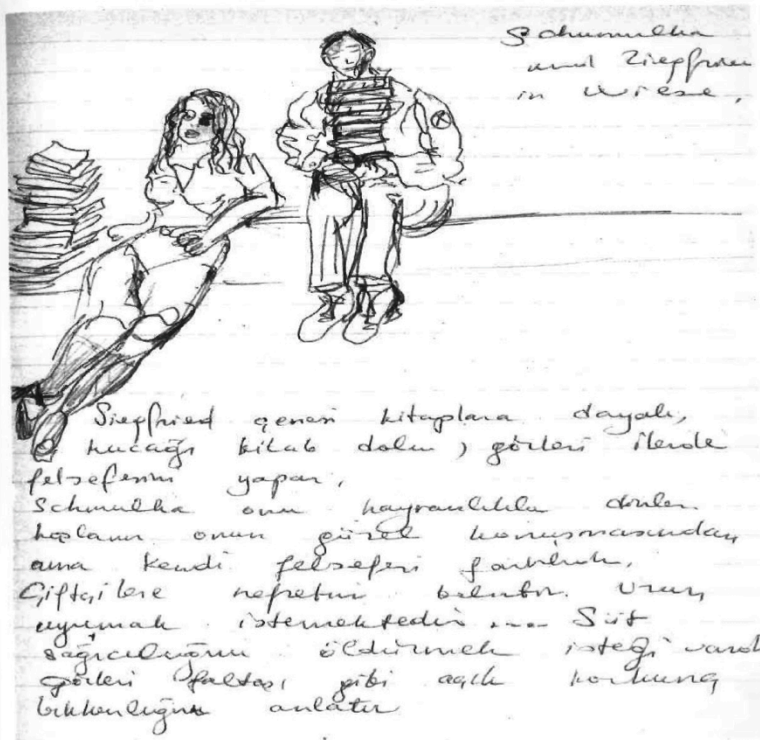
Bellini Colloquium

Thursday 27 February at 3:30 in Washington 315

Jennifer Gully

Visiting Assistant Professor in
German Studies

Figures of Translation



Emine Sevgi Özdamar's trilogy *Sonne auf halbem Weg* (2003) spans the author's life from her birth in Turkey to her early adulthood in Germany, from dictatorships and military crackdowns to the divided city of Berlin, and from the Turkish and Arabic of her first years in Istanbul to the German she later learns as a young guest worker and performance artist. This talk will briefly outline the tensions within the trilogy, focusing primarily on the stark contrast in rhetorical style between the first and third installments. I argue that the form the last novel takes, a novel from which any trace of linguistic otherness has been deleted and that in its straightforward prose invites categorizations as reportage or documentary of migrant life, is deceptive. Attending to the language of the text will, however, return us to the prosaic sphere of German politics in the first decade of the new millennium.