

Prof. Catriona MacLeod (U Chicago) CMPL
Guest Lecture on Paper Cuts in the 19th
Century.

Monday April 24, 2023, 3-4pm in SC G046
(refreshments before the talk Kaffeestunde
in SC Staaks Lounge 2-3pm)

- Abstract of her talk:
- How are scissors connected with writing in German Romanticism? One of the Early Romantic Fragments offers a profile of Friedrich Schlegel as a genial cutter of silhouettes, embedding the materiality of paper within a conceptual discourse of fragments. However, scissors and papercuts have generally been relegated to the margins of Romanticism. My talk will highlight what I see as the critical potency of paper and scissors via a brother and sister who both theorized and crafted papercuts: Karl Varnhagen von Ense and Rosa Maria Assing. It also identifies a tension between what Varnhagen von Ense describes as an ephemeral and “fluttering” salon art, and what emerges in his writing as an occult, violent practice directed against women.



Professor Catriona
MacLeod is distinguished
Professor
“Frank Curtis Springer and
Gertrude Melchior Springer
Professor” at U Chicago and
her guest lecture April 24,
3-4pm in SC 046 s
sponsored by the
Comparative Literature
Program at Purdue
University in West Lafayette

She is specialized in German
and Comparative Literature,
Aesthetics, and the Visual
Arts and President of the
Goethe Society

