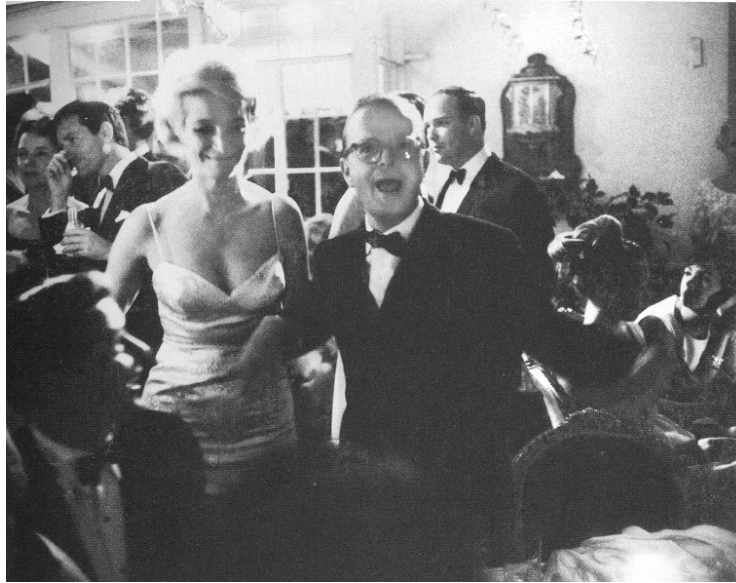


# **“That Kind of Party”: Literary Euphoria and the Narratives of Celebration**

*Presented by the Departments of German and English, the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences,  
the Program in Cultural Studies, and the European Union Center of Excellence/European Studies Center*



**Dr. Eckhart Nickel**

**Wednesday, January 22**

**5:00pm**

**CL 602 (Humanities Center)**

**Abstract:** To read a good book is like going to a great party. You are aesthetically entertained, meet new and interesting people and, in an ideal world, witness some real human drama fueled by the side effects of euphoria and excess. When transformed into literature, parties are one of the most challenging topics of writing. In the autonomous zone of celebration, world apart from daily life and routines, a writer, just like any other guest, has to survey multitudes of synchronized social action to stay on top of things. His task: to enjoy himself and please the reader at the same time while being ahead of the crowd. Therefore the feast in literature can be read as a playground to show narrative skills at work. The lecture will discuss the stylistic and strategic approach towards parties in a few central texts of 20th century literature from Thomas Mann to F. Scott Fitzgerald. For further information, contact Dr. Stefan Bronner at [sab206@pitt.edu](mailto:sab206@pitt.edu).

Eckhart Nickel (PhD) studied art history and literature in Heidelberg and New York. He worked, amongst others, for ARTE television in Strasbourg, Architectural Digest and Süddeutsche Zeitung in Munich as well as publishing the literary quarterly DER FREUND together with Christian Kracht out of Kathmandu. Amongst his publications are “Flaneur”, a study of Thomas Bernhard and dandyism, the travel almanac “Ferien für immer” (with Kracht), the participation of the pop-literary quintet “Tristesse Royale,” a collection of short stories “Was ich davon halte,” and a book on the artist restaurant “Paris Bar” in Berlin. Nickel co-organized the Clemens Brentano fellowship for literature in Heidelberg and was teaching text and fashion at the AMD academy in Munich. His latest essay is “Semantische Jagden: Zum Abenteuer bei Ernst Jünger,” published by Alexander Pschera (Hg.) in “Bunter Staub.”