University of California, Berkeley
Department of German

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"The Crisis in the Humanities"
A discussion with Prof. Chad Wellmon (University of Virginia)
and Prof. Karen Feldman (UC Berkeley)

Thursday, April 28, 2022, 5pm282 Dwinelle Hall

Please join the **Department of German** for a discussion of "the crisis in the humanities" with **Prof. Chad Wellmon** (University of Virginia) and **Prof. Karen Feldman** (UC Berkeley). Wellmon is co-author of the new book ***Permanent Crisis: The Humanities in a Disenchanted Age*** (University of Chicago Press, 2021), and earned his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley's Department of German.

As discussed in a recent Townsend Center Book Chat, *Permanent Crisis* argues that, from its very inception, the modern humanities made crisis a core of its project. The humanities thus remain a space in which scholars frame their work as a unique resource for resolving crises of meaning and value. Using a critical, historical perspective, building on ideas from Max Weber and Friedrich Nietzsche, and also Helen Small and Danielle Allen, *Permanent Crisis* moves beyond the usual hand-wringing into clearer, more effective thinking about the fate of the humanities.

This event is an opportunity for free-ranging discussion of how we think of and defend the humanities. Karen Feldman will open with a summary of the book's argument, and raise questions to Chad Wellmon. All are free to join in with questions about the book, or about the future of the humanities, or about our own perspectives on these issues.