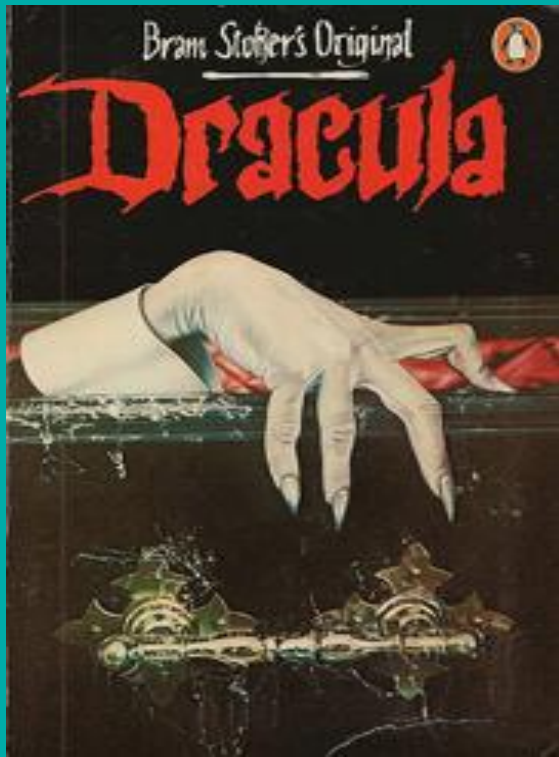


# Dr. Katarina Gephardt

Kennesaw State University, USA



**The Face in the Mirror:**  
*Bram Stoker's Dracula and  
British Travelers in Central  
and Eastern Europe*

**When:** April 18, 2013 @ 10:00 am

**Where:** Room 162

All are cordially invited!

## About the Guest Speaker: **Dr. Katarina Gephardt**

Dr. Gephardt is an associate professor of English at the Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia, USA. She obtained her Ph.D. from the Ohio State University. Her research interests include the nineteenth-century British literature and travel writing. She has authored “*Hybrid Gardens: Travel and the Nationalization of Taste in Ann Radcliffe’s Continental Landscapes*” and “*The Enchanted Garden’ or ‘the Red Flag’: Eastern Europe in Late Nineteenth-Century British Travel Writing*.” She recently completed a manuscript titled *Imagining the Continent: European Peripheries in British Travel Narratives, 1789-1914*. The manuscript is under review at the Ohio State University Press.



### Abstract

*Dr. Gephardt’s public lecture “**The Face in the Mirror: Bram Stoker’s Dracula and British Travelers in Central and Eastern Europe**” will situate Bram Stoker’s Dracula (1897) in the context of late nineteenth-century British travel writing on Central and Eastern Europe. She argues that the British observers adapted colonial discourse in their confrontation with the people and cultures of the region, which seemed alternately familiar and alien. The lecture will demonstrate how in constructing his Gothic Eastern Europe, Stoker shows a particular awareness of the mirroring of Britain’s challenges in travelers’ accounts of Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire. Like the British Empire, these Eastern European powers faced the threat of devolution among their subject nations. For example, Stoker was inspired by the travel writers’ parallels between the Hungarians and the Irish in his conception of the vampire as a fictional threat to the British Empire. The lecture will also briefly discuss the afterlife of Stoker’s influential image of Central and Eastern Europe in the present, when the inherited polarization of Europe continues to pose obstacles to European integration.*