

Acknowledgments

This study is a revised version of my habilitation thesis. The initial idea for the study came to me while I was reading Paul Auster's *The Brooklyn Follies* (2005). Reading this book made me think about the power of humor that sustained my family and me over a long and intangible ›time‹.

I am grateful to a number of people who helped me in the process of writing this publication. I would particularly like to thank my mentor and chair of my habilitation committee, Ute Fendler, for her great backing in all phases of the habilitation process, her open-mindedness, and sharp-eyed and astute yet always sensitive and constructive critique. For his attentive and helpful advice, I would like to thank Robert Debusman. I am also indebted to Gabriele Paule for her invaluable professional support. Without their commitment, this publication might never have been written. I thank Florian Klaeger for the exchanges, the support, and the critical points he raised, and Eva Kimminich for agreeing to be part of this journey and accompanying this process in uncomplicated ways. I am grateful to Achim Geisenhanslüke for his encouragement, the awesome, and unfinished dialogues, and his humor, and I would also like to thank Nicole Waller for her always competent advice, which would often include a much needed ›survival kit‹.

A habilitation fellowship and funding from the Bavarian Gender Equality Grant for Women Academics were instrumental in the successful completion of this study. My student assistants, Alexandra Leschinsky and Franziska Ahlstich, contributed a great deal to the compilation of the bibliography. Thanks to them! I am thankful to Sina Nicola-jew for helping with a significant part of the formatting of the manuscript, and Johanna Ellsworth for her thorough copyediting. Thanks also to the Internal Funding Pool of the University of Bayreuth for sponsoring the editorial work.

Christine Wichmann at transcript publishing provided invaluable support during the publication process. I thank her for her open-mindedness and constructive responsiveness.

The open access edition of this study was kindly provided by the Open Access Monograph Fund of the University of Bayreuth and the *Fachinformationsdienst Allgemeine und Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft (FID AVL)* at the University Library Johann Christian Senckenberg, Goethe University Frankfurt.

I am very grateful to some very special people in my extended family (& my friends) – for all their continued love, support, and care, which was there and effective, whether we were in touch or not, and regardless of the incredibly vast space and narrow time, *and lost time*, between us. For many, myriad, forms of support, I am grateful to Abbas Poya, this very special *mensch*. And to my children, Elias and Noah. I thank them for their patience with me and my incomprehension, and for knowing that it is the sparkle in their eyes ...All shortcomings, needless to say, are of course mine.