

Prof. Dr. **John T. Hamilton**, Harvard University, USA

John T. Hamilton is the William R. Kenan Professor of German and Comparative Literature at Harvard University, where he is also affiliated with the Classics and Music departments. Prior teaching includes positions at the University of California-Santa Cruz (Classics) and New York University (German/Comparative Literature), with visiting fellowships at the University of Bristol, the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, the ETH-Zürich, the Zentrum für Literaturforschung-Berlin, and the Hamburg Institute for Advanced Study, as well as a steady schedule of invited lectures in the United States and Europe. His research spans an array of fields and topics, including German and French literary history, Greek and Latin philology, Classical Reception, hermeneutic theory, Music and Literature, and conceptual history. Much of his work is concerned with the embedded metaphors, images, and semantic fields that inform and irradiate written discourse, often in ways that evade full authorial control. Philology and etymology thus serve as particularly fruitful modes of investigation, not to anchor usage to a purportedly original or conclusive meaning but rather to disclose trajectories of sense that would otherwise remain latent—to trigger unexpected encounters and compel a dynamic confrontation of horizons of expectation. Multiple vectors meet and provisionally come to a halt in any discursive instance. Hamilton's research intends to open those present moments to precedent usages, not without an eye on possible developments to come.