

L, NUMBER 1  
SPRING 2025

**GERMAN STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER**

2025

# WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2025 EDITION OF THE GSA NEWSLETTER!

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear German Studies Community,

I very much look forward to serving as your president over the next two years. It is fabulous to be part of such a stimulating, diverse, transnational and interdisciplinary organization. In difficult times, it is nice to have a consistent and reliable community on which to rely for regular exchange, re-examinations of the past, analyses of the present, and imaginations of the future.

For me one of my biggest commitments will include continuing to make the German Studies Association into an organization that works hard to welcome new members, and that pushes the cutting edge. We want to be in an association that persists in strengthening collaboration and exchange.

We will continue to take institutional transformation and questions of liberation seriously. Innovation will be essential to our cause as will maintaining a vibrant understanding of the fact that we must continue to grow in new ways.

We will work multi modally, celebrating the arts, the sciences, historical, linguistic, literary, audio-visual, and other approaches while also attending to concerns about the climate and the systematic vulnerabilities of particular members.

We will also attend to our financial health and sustainability, which will mean broadening our culture of giving. Please see our new donation button and give!

In these times, we need to rely on each other more than ever to offer support and build each other up. I look forward to working with you.

My best,

Damani Partrige  
GSA President





# MEET THE GSA

## PRESIDENT DAMANI PARTRIDGE

I am currently a Professor of Anthropology and Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan (U of M). I also have a formal affiliation with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Until this past year, I served as the vice chair of the University of Michigan Faculty Senate and the chair of the Ann Arbor Film Festival's Board of Directors.

My research and writing center on questions of citizenship, anti-citizenship, noncitizen politics, urban futures, decoloniality, sexuality, post-Cold War “freedom,” Holocaust memorialization, African-American occupation, Global Blackness, the culture and politics of “fair trade,” and the Obama moment in Berlin. I have also made and worked on documentaries for private and public broadcasters in the United States, Canada, and Germany, and currently direct the Filming Future Cities Project in Detroit, Berlin, and Philadelphia (see [filmingfuturecities.org](http://filmingfuturecities.org)). Our collective installation ([see here](#)), “Filming the Future of Detroit and Philadelphia: Protecting Community!,” just opened in Detroit at the Hellenic Museum this spring. My first book, *Hypersexuality and Headscarves: Race, Sex, and Citizenship in the New Germany*, was published in the New Anthropologies of Europe series with Indiana University Press in 2012. My most recent book, *Blackness as a Universal Claim: Holocaust Heritage, Noncitizen Politics, and Black Power in Berlin* was published with the University of California Press in 2023.



# MEET THE GSA

## VICE PRESIDENT TODD HERZOG

I am a Professor of German and Media Studies at the University of Cincinnati, where I direct the Niehoff Center for Film and Media Studies and the bachelor's program in Digital Media. My research and teaching range from the aesthetics of surveillance to the history of early animation studios. I am currently working on projects on Vienna's Prater, the image of America in German-Jewish writing, and the visual turn in criminal investigation during the Weimar Republic.

I attended my first Annual Convention of the German Studies Association in 2001 and have returned nearly every year since. Over the years, I have participated in more than 30 panels and spent a decade as co-chair of the Law and Legal Cultures Network. However, it wasn't until my election to the Executive Board in 2020 that I truly came to appreciate the conscientiousness and thoughtfulness with which the GSA is managed. That is why, despite promising myself I wouldn't take on any new administrative roles, I found myself saying 'Sure!' when asked to stand for Vice President. I am honored to serve in this role, excited to be working with the leadership team, and eager to contribute to the continued growth of our organization. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any ideas for the GSA or questions I may be able to assist with—I look forward to hearing from you!

# MEET THE GSA

## TREASURER DAVID MEOLA

Greetings to all! I am honored to have been selected as your next Treasurer (through 2029). I look forward to helping our flagship organization support scholarship and success across the wide expanse of German studies. I will work with the executive council, executive board, finance committee, and members to foster more transparency and responsiveness, be steady during economic uncertainty, and provide more services to our membership, especially those in more vulnerable occupational situations. I have had the fortune to work with many GSA members over the years, and look forward to working with many more of you in the coming years.

For those who don't know me, I come to academia from a different path, having spent five years after my undergraduate education at UNC-Chapel Hill working in corporate finance, international language education, and as an English instructor in Germany. After my hiatus from learning, I completed a Master of Arts in European Studies and a Doctorate in History at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

I have worked for the past ten years as a tenure-track/tenured professor at the University of South Alabama, where I hold the Fanny & Bert Meisler Chair in History & Jewish Studies. Since 2000, I have also taught one course per year in Jewish studies at the University of British Columbia–Okanagan in the Department of Literature & World Languages. I am very involved in numerous organizations: I am Co-President of the Mobile Area Jewish Federation, member of the boards for both the Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education and the Mobile Christian-Jewish Dialogue, gubernatorial appointee on the Alabama Holocaust Commission, and Treasurer for the Southern Jewish Historical Society.

My research focuses on the Jewish minority during the pre-1848 period. My first book, *"We Will Never Yield": Jews, the German Press, and the Fight for Inclusion in the 1840s* (Indiana Univ. Press, 2023), looks at Jewish agency and how Jews used and argued in the local German press about issues that mattered to them—emancipation and religious reform. My current project interrogates the "fraternal spaces" that Jews and Christians occupied in Mannheim and Heidelberg, focusing on relationships among Jews and Christians that were foundational to building the Vormärz liberal and democratic movements in the Grand Duchy of Baden.



# MEET THE GSA

## OPERATIONS DIRECTOR JOSH SEALE

A Germanist by training, I am honored to follow in the footsteps of Jen Jenkins and Benita Blessing as the GSA's latest Operations Director. I am deeply grateful to them for the legacy (including detailed notes) they have left behind in this role and their immediate offers of support. As the GSA's first (non-freelancing) employee, I already seem to be unintentionally breaking a few OD traditions—and not only the short-lived tradition of OD nominal alliteration. For example, though I completed a PhD in German at Georgetown University in 2020, I am not a professor. Instead, I have fashioned my “alt-ac” path through a number of German-speaking institutions in Washington, DC: namely, the Goethe-Institut, the German Historical Institute, and the Embassy of Austria. I have also somewhat recently begun attending law school on a part-time basis in the evenings at UDC Law.

In terms of my intellectual interests, my research has centered around memory's long shadow in Germany and Austria and duelling conceptions of Heimat, belonging, victimhood, perpetration, responsibility, and guilt. These days, however, I am less focused on research and academic writing and more on developing the hard skills (like coding) to serve the GSA better. In the coming months, I'm looking forward to working with our fantastic Executive Director Margaret Menninger and excellent Treasurer David Meola to roll out new tools to make GSA members' lives easier: whether that is simply in terms of joining the GSA, or making a donation to us, or participating in elections, etc. Please feel free to reach out anytime and let me know if you have an idea that you think would make the GSA better—I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

# LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

Greetings to all of you! I am asking for your help in supporting the initiatives of the German Studies Association. Given our precarious financial times, the instability around the current federal administration and its potentially destructive effects on our pocketbooks, and the more general attack on education, I am appealing to those who have means to support continuing scholarship in our field. We have numerous avenues through which you can give, including donating to our prestigious prizes (Barclay Book Prize, Radomír Luža Prize, and Sybil Milton Prize). You can see more about those and other [donation opportunities here](#).

However, I would like you to consider giving directly to the Conference Community Fund, which goes directly to our colleagues and students who need financial assistance to attend our yearly conference. As costs for the conference and travel to the conference have increased, supporting others is more important than ever so they may join us in scholarship and conviviality. Every dollar you give goes directly to those who apply and are awarded funds.

Please consider donating TODAY to the Conference Community Fund and make a significant impact to our colleagues, students, and friends. Please go to our website at: <https://www.thegsa.org/donate>.

Thank you,  
*David Meola*



# GSA BOARD ELECTIONS

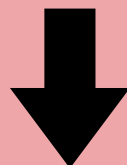
Voting will run from May 15 to June 15, 2025.

All current members of the German Studies Association are strongly encouraged to vote. Information and ballots will be sent to GSA members via email.

Visit the [GSA website](#) for details.



Candidate bios



# GERMANISTIK BOARD CANDIDATES

## Qinna Shen

Qinna Shen received her Ph.D. in German from Yale and is Associate Professor and Chair of German at Bryn Mawr College. Her research focuses on 20th-century German culture, visual studies, and Asian German Studies. She is the author of *The Politics of Magic: DEFA Fairy-Tale Films* (2015) and the co-edited volume *Beyond Alterity: German Encounters with Modern East Asia* (Spektrum series, 2014). Her second co-edited volume *Charting Asian German Film History: Imagination, Collaboration, and Diasporic Representation* and her second monograph *Jiny Lan and the Art of Subversion: Chinese-German Culture and Politics through a Feminist Lens* are both forthcoming in 2025 with Camden House. She is on the editorial board of German Studies Review. Her GSA service includes the Program Committee (2017–2020); DAAD/GSA Article Prize Committee (Chair, 2021); Seminar Committee (Chair, 2023 and 2024). She is co-editor of the GSR's 2026 issue marking the GSA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Her service to the field is driven by her commitment to teaching, scholarship, and collaborating with scholars at all stages of their careers. If elected, she will draw on her experiences in diverse academic and cultural settings to listen, advise and advocate for German Studies in the changing landscape of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Holly Yanacek

I am an Associate Professor of German at James Madison University, where I have a secondary appointment as a Research Development Associate for the College of Arts & Letters. I earned my Ph.D. in German Studies from the University of Pittsburgh in 2016. My research focuses on 19th- to 21st-century German literature, emotion studies, gender studies, care ethics, animal studies, and posthumanism. I co-edited two volumes—*Animals, Machines, and AI* (DeGruyter, 2021) and *Keywords for Today* (Oxford UP, 2018)—and my monograph, *Rethinking Feeling: On the Renegotiation of Emotions in German Novels at the Fin de Siècle*, is under contract with Bloomsbury. My research has been supported by Fulbright, the German Historical Institute, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Since 2013, I have participated in the annual conference and served the GSA in the following roles: Graduate Student Essay Prize Committee (2017-2018), Emotion Studies Network Coordinator (2018-2022), and Program Committee (2025). If elected to the Executive Board, I will work to ensure that colleagues from all institution types and career stages feel heard, represented, and welcomed within the GSA. I would draw on my passion for interdisciplinary research, collaboration, and mentoring to support the diverse needs of our membership.



# HISTORY BOARD CANDIDATES

## Astrid M. Eckert

I teach modern German and European history at Emory University in Atlanta. My education was a German-American co-production, with degrees from the University of Michigan (MA 1995) and the Free University Berlin (MA 1997, PhD 2003). My first position was as a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., before transferring to Atlanta in 2006. My most recent book on the inter-German border (West Germany and the Iron Curtain, OUP 2019) moved me from political and cultural contemporary history into environmental history, which is now my focus. I gave my first paper at the GSA in San Diego in 2002; Gerhard L. Weinberg chaired the panel at the time. Since then, I've come to regard the GSA as my 'home' society, and I attend whenever possible. I've tried to contribute to its mission by convening panels, offering commentaries, serving on the DAAD Book Prize Committee, the Archives Committee, the Program Committee, and the Nominating Committee. Together with Priscilla Layne, I conceived and launched the Emerging Scholars Workshop (ESW) as the first GSA event dedicated exclusively to graduate students. Supporting emerging scholars continues to be one of my priorities.

## Will Gray

Since 2004 I have been teaching European and international history at Purdue University in my home state of Indiana. My article and book publications focus on German history in a European and global context, featuring such topics as the Deutsche Mark, European integration, Ostpolitik, military exports, and nuclear proliferation. My current book project examines German engagement in Brazil in the 20th century, approaching the capitalist entanglements of trade and investments against the backdrop of military dictatorship, human rights abuses, and environmental devastation. In 2015 I was honored to receive the DAAD Prize for German and European History from the AICGS (now the American-German Institute). At the GSA I served for several years on the Archives Committee, and in 2014-15 on the DAAD Book Prize committee. Many years ago (2004-8) I was an editor for the H-German listserv. As a lifetime GSA member, attending nearly every year since 2000, I've always appreciated the broad humanistic approach in evidence at each conference, having first come to German history through film, literature, and music. If elected, I would help strategize the GSA's response to public hostility toward professional scholarship, by encouraging more outward-facing activities and emphasizing the plurality of voices within academia.

# SOCIAL SCIENCES BOARD CANDIDATES

## Deborah Ascher Barnstone

I am Professor and Head of Architecture at The University of Sydney. I am both a licensed architect as well as an art and architecture historian, which means that my scholarship straddles traditional research and professional practice, interrogating the origins of modernism and the relationships between art, architecture, and culture. I have published widely most recently, *The Color of Modernism: Paints, Pigments and the Transformation of Modern Architecture in 1920s Germany* in 2022 with Bloomsbury Academic. Passionate about German art and architecture, I have been involved in promoting German Studies scholarship for many years in the US, Germany, and Australia. As inaugural co-chair of the GSA Visual Culture Network with Tom Haakenson, I organized numerous GSA sessions, hosted the first networking cocktail parties, and then founded an ongoing scholarly book series now with Bloomsbury Academic, *Visual Culture in German Contexts*. Almost every year, I lead a study abroad architectural design studio in Berlin that combines an art history topic with design hosted at German academic institutions as a way of expanding the reach of German Studies. I particularly enjoy creative challenges and would welcome working on the GSA Board to further extend the reach of our disciplines nationally and internationally.

## Kira Thurman

I am an Associate Professor of History, German Studies, and Musicology at the University of Michigan, with affiliations with AfroAmerican and African Studies. My first book, *Singing like Germans: Black Musicians in the Land of Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms*, was supported by awards from Fulbright, the American Academy in Berlin, IFK, and the Institute for Advanced Study, and won seven awards including the GSA's DAAD Book Prize (History/Social Sciences). It was named one of NPR's favorite books of 2021. My new research examines the intertwining histories of disco and decolonization in the late 20th century. As an interdisciplinary scholar and cultural historian, I have loved being a member of the GSA since I attended my first conference as a graduate student in 2010. I have been a co-organizer of the Music and Sound Studies Network, a facilitator for an Emerging Scholars Workshop, and organizer of many panels and roundtables. If elected, I will support the board's ongoing efforts to meet the needs of a broad range of constituents. I am committed to mentoring the next generation of Germanists, supporting our interdisciplinary networks, amplifying new or often unheard voices, and finding solutions to the very real challenges ahead for our fields.

# INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Dear members and friends of the GSA,

The GSA Executive Council is aware of the way that current decisions taken by the U.S. administration affect and may continue to affect international travel. Please know that the GSA is working with other learned societies affiliated with the ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) to develop some best practices regarding travel both into and from the United States. We ask for your patience while we complete this task in what continues to be a rapidly changing landscape. If any GSA member has immediate concerns about their physical safety when traveling to the U.S., please contact me directly ([director@thegsa.org](mailto:director@thegsa.org)).

Unfortunately, pivoting to a hybrid conference is not a financially feasible option for the organization. What works in small numbers at universities does not scale up to a conference of our size held in a hotel, where everything from the meeting rooms, to the screens and projectors, to the internet is a separately contracted commodity. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me directly if you would like to learn more about the logistical details such meetings entail.

We encourage you to come to present your work and to support your North American counterparts if at all possible. Learned societies such as the GSA can only flourish with the active presence of *all* their members.

With my profound regrets for the current reality, but my best wishes, nonetheless,

*Margaret Menninger, Executive Director*

# CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENT FORM

Planning a reception or other special event for GSA 2025 in Arlington, VA? Please let us know by completing this form for your event no later than **June 15, 2025**:

New Special Event Form: <https://forms.gle/xpjpePUvvur6tiVw5>

## DAAD AA USA ANNUAL LECTURE

The DAAD Alumni Association USA awarded Professor Nancy P. Nenno (and GSA Interdisciplinary Network Committee Co-Chair) its Excellence Award for International Education in 2024. Professor Nenno will give a lecture entitled “Positioning Black German Studies in the German Studies Curriculum in US Higher Education” on May 8, 2025.

[Register here](#) to attend Professor Nenno’s talk at 8:00 PM EDT on May 8th.



## ADA ROOM RESERVATIONS

Please let us know if you need an ADA accessible hotel room at the [2025 GSA conference in Arlington, VA](#), as soon as possible by completing this form:

ADA Room Reservation Form: <https://forms.gle/xpjpePUvvur6tiVw5>



# MAX KADE BERLIN FELLOWS

## Max Kade Berlin Postdoc Fellows

**Sara Friedman**, University of California, Berkeley, History, Oct 1, 2025-July 31, 2026.  
Dissertation revision: Through Cinema to Justice: Sex Education and Politics in the  
German Revolution New project: The Tierheim Berlin, 1841-2002

**Peter Sproule**, Queen's University, Art History, Oct 1, 2025-Sept 30, 2026 Dissertation  
revision: Masculine Fashion Culture in Post-war West Germany: Reconstructing the  
'Ideal Man' through Illustration

## FU Berlin Postdoc Fellows

**Benjamin Brisson**, Univ. of California, Irvine, Political Science, April 1, 2026-March 31,  
2027 Dissertation revision: Road to Serfdom, Path to Barbarism: Common Ground in  
Austrian and Frankfurt School Critiques of Fascist Authority

**Josef Nothmann**, University of Pennsylvania, History, Oct 1, 2025-Sept 30, 2026  
Dissertation revision: Grain Futures, Jewish Merchants, and the Rise and Decline of the  
Berlin Produce Exchange, 1840s to 1930

**Robyn Taylor-Neu**, Univ. of California, Berkeley, Anthropology, Oct 1, 2025-Sept 30, 2026  
New project: Arts of Displacement: Reanimating (im)migration through fabular  
documentary practice

## Kerstin Leitner Berlin Dissertation Fellows

**Lanyang Zhang**, Sun-Yat-Sen Univ., German Literature, Oct 1, 2025-Sept 30, 2026  
Materialität, Stimme und Telekommunikation. Das Telefon(ieren) in der deutschen  
Literatur von 1880 bis 1990

**Xuan Zhao**, South West Jiatong Univ., Comparative Literature, Oct 1, 2025-Sept 30, 2026  
Studien zu Franz Kuhns Übersetzungen klassischer chinesischer Literatur

# BERLIN FELLOWS (CONT.)

## FU Berlin Dissertation Fellows

**Lina Alam**, University of Michigan, Art History, Oct 1, 2025-July 31, 2026 Reality Has to Begin: The Documentary Turn in Contemporary Art

**Luci Cook**, Univ. of Michigan, Germanic Languages and Literatures, Oct 1, 2025-July 31, 2026 Vietnam in the German Imaginary: Transcultural Representation and Collaboration in Literature and Film, 1963-1983

**Gökcan Demirkazik**, Univ. of California, Los Angeles, Art History, April 1, 2026-March 31, 2027 A Vanishing Act? Sigmar Polke and Abstraction's 'Others', 1964–1989

**Nathan Low**, Yale University, History, Oct 1, 2025-July 31, 2026 Enlightenment at the "End of History": the transformation of Critical Theory and liberal democracy's cosmopolitan moment, 1970-2008

**Katharin Tai**, MIT, Political Science, Oct 1, 2025-Aug 31, 2026 The Paper Ghost in the High-Tech Machine: How Bureaucracies limit, shape and enable Digital Control

**Marina Vulinovic**, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago, Literary Studies, Oct 1, 2025-Sept 30, 2026 The Grammar of Nationality: Rethinking Art's Autonomy in Anglophone and German Modernism


**Cassandra Winkelman**, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, Literary Studies, Oct 1, 2025-Sept 30, 2026 Dancing Towards but Never Beyond: Narratives Propelled by Movement towards and at Physical and Mental Borders in GDR and Post-GDR Literature

# GSA CONFERENCE COMMUNITY FUND




## FUNDRAISING CALL

Help Support our GSA Community through the GSA Conference Community Fund. The Conference Community Fund is the GSA's only funding source for North American travel.



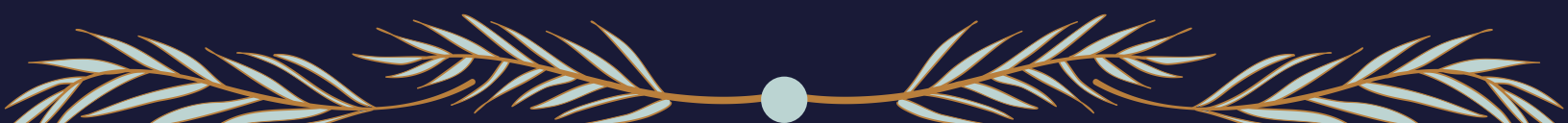
These grants are funded by you,  
our members.



The GSA Conference Community Fund seeks to support precariously employed and contingent faculty – including lecturers, adjuncts, non tenure-track colleagues, tenured faculty without research funding, and visiting faculty – as well as recent PhDs who are presenting at the annual GSA conference.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE GSA CONFERENCE COMMUNITY  
FUND AND OUR GSA COLLEAGUES TODAY!**

<https://www.thegsa.org/donate>



# GET INVOLVED

## Support the GSA

The Association is grateful for financial support. It relies on member dues and donations to cover its operational costs, Book Prizes, and The Conference Community Fund.

## Volunteer with the GSA

Committees, Elected Positions, Conference Moderators/Commentators

# SHARE YOUR NEWS

Do you have publication news or event announcements to share?

Let us know!

Please use this form to submit details

Contact: *media@thegsa.org*

# CALL FOR RECENT DISSERTATIONS IN GERMAN STUDIES



Help us spread the word about recent dissertations in the field(s) of German studies!

Please submit relevant information on this Google Form, either for your own dissertation or on e.g. an advisee's behalf: <https://forms.gle/g3K4PGZcxiPm55Rw7>



# GSA BOOK PRIZES & CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

## **Graduate Student Essay Prize**

This prize is awarded to the best unpublished, article-length manuscript written by a graduate student. Deadline for nominations and submissions: **15 May 2025**.

## **David Barclay Book Prize**

This prize is awarded to the best monograph on the social, cultural, economic, political, or labor history of nineteenth-century and twentieth-century Germany or Central Europe. Deadline for nominations and submissions: **30 May 2025**.

## **DAAD/GSA Prize for the Best Book in History and Social Sciences**

Deadline for nominations and submissions: **31 May 2025**.

## **Radomír Luža Prize**

This prize is awarded for outstanding work in the field of Austrian and/or Czechoslovak history in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century with a special focus on Austrian/Czechoslovak Studies in the World War II Era.

Deadline for nominations and submissions: **15 August 2025**.

Please note: Information about the DAAD/GSA Prize for the Best Book in Literature and Cultural Studies and the Sybil Halpern Milton Book Prize will be forthcoming.

# IN MEMORIAM: EVAN BURR BUKEY (1940-2024)

It is with great regret that we announce the death of a WAGS and GSA pioneer, Professor Evan Burr Bukey, on 24 November 2024. A native of Cincinnati, Evan was an undergraduate at Ohio Wesleyan University and received a PhD in history from The Ohio State University, where he studied with Andreas Dorpalen. Thereafter, he spent his career in the History Department at the University of Arkansas. Evan was a very distinguished scholar of German and especially Austrian history, and was one of the founders of the Western Association for German Studies (WAGS), predecessor of the GSA, in 1976. The next year, Evan delivered a paper on “The Nazi Party in Linz, 1919-1940” at the very first WAGS conference in Tempe, Arizona, a presentation that anticipated his later, highly regarded book, *Hitler’s Hometown*. As the attached Nachruf from the University of Arkansas points out, Evan was a brilliant classroom teacher, an amiable and sharp-witted colleague, and an engaged scholar throughout his life. His last book, *Juvenile Crime and Dissent in Nazi Vienna 1938-1945*, appeared in 2019. His contributions to the profession and to the GSA were remarkable, and he will be greatly missed.

A eulogy from the University of Arkansas follows:

<https://news.uark.edu/articles/72999/remembering-evan-bukey-professor-of-history>.

*David E. Barclay*  
*Kalamazoo College*

## IN MEMORIAM: THOMAS A. BRADY, JR (1937-2025)

Thomas A. Brady, Jr., the Peder Sather Professor Emeritus of History at the University of California-Berkeley, passed away at home on March 7, 2025, at the age of 87. Tom was one of the leading scholars of late medieval and early modern German histories, but his appetite for historical knowledge was omnivorous. I was his first doctoral student at the University of Oregon. He was an ideal mentor, demanding and critical when he needed to be, but always punctuating those demands and critiques with a smile that showed his confidence that I could meet his demands in my research and respond effectively to his critiques of my writing. From my first seminar paper on Savonarola for his Italian Renaissance History seminar, that dynamic remained the essence of our intellectual relationship for over forty years. But for all of Tom's students, our relationship was never simply intellectual. Tom and Kathy (Katherine Gingrich Brady) were a team as scholars and mentors. They opened their home to their students, and we became the "Brady Bunch," as those of us who broke bread with them refer to ourselves. They knitted us together as an extended family. We have lost our spiritual and intellectual father, and we grieve with our spiritual and intellectual mother. Many of you reading this know that their parental affection and intellectual support extended beyond their own students to many other young scholars. The American Historical Association (Nancy Lyman Roelker Mentorship Award, 2004) and the Sixteenth Century Society (the inaugural Anne Lake Prescott Prize, 2023) recognized their contributions in supporting early-career scholars.

Tom was born in Columbia, Missouri on November 23, 1937. In 1959, he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame, and then served in the navy. He began his graduate studies at Columbia University and received his Ph.D. in 1968 from the University of Chicago. Tom joined the history faculty at the University of Oregon in 1967 and in 1987 was appointed President's Distinguished Professor of the Humanities with an endowed chair. In 1991, he accepted a call to join the history faculty at the University of California, Berkeley. In 2001, the respect that Tom had earned among his colleagues for his scholarship and teaching led to his being awarded the Peder Sather Professorship of History. Tom retired from full-time teaching in 2006, but he remained fully engaged as scholar and mentor as long as he could.

## IN MEMORIAM: THOMAS A. BRADY, JR (1937-2025), CONT.

Tom's deep commitment to archival research was shared by Kathy, and they worked collaboratively on his research projects. His first monograph, *Ruling Class, Regime and Reformation at Strasbourg, 1520-1555* (1978) appeared at a point in time when the methods of Social History had come to challenge established confessionalized paradigms within Reformation studies. I will discuss the book's historiographical impact below. Tom's command of late medieval and sixteenth-century southwestern German historical sources informed his next three books: *Turning Swiss: Cities and Empire, 1450-1550* (1985); *Protestant Politics: Jacob Sturm (1489-1553) and the German Reformation* (1995); and *The Politics of the German Reformation* (1996). In 2009, he shared the insights of nearly a half century of research in his brilliant synthesis, *German Histories in the Age of Reformation, 1400-1650*. Moreover, through dozens of articles and edited book chapters, as co-translator with Erik Midelfort of Peter Blickle's works, and as co-editor with Heiko Oberman and James Tracy of the two-volume *Handbook of European History 1400-1600: Late Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation* (1994-95), Tom contributed to our historical knowledge in myriad ways. Throughout, from archival research, through analysis and interpretation, to drafts, revisions, and copy editing, Kathy was his constant collaborator. Tom received many honors and awards including IREX, Fulbright, Guggenheim, and National Humanities Center fellowships. He twice held Alexander von Humboldt Fellowships and was a Fellow of the Historisches Kolleg in Munich. In 2003, Tom was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Recounting Tom's long and productive career suggests the cumulative impact of his intellectual, pedagogical, and historical engagement. Each article, essay, and book challenged the community of scholars to rethink assumptions and triggered debate. For example, published in 1978, *Ruling Class, Regime, and Reformation* was an ambitious application of historical sociology to the markedly conservative and still confessionalized field of German Reformation studies.



## IN MEMORIAM: THOMAS A. BRADY, JR (1937-2025), CONT.

Meticulously built on the prosopographical analysis of 105 men who served in Strasbourg's highest political offices, Tom painstakingly reconstructs their careers, marital ties, investments and economic interests, which allows him to define them as a "ruling class," that dominated Strasbourg's civic regime. Reference to "class" led one reviewer to complain that Tom hoped to call up Marx as "the exclusive, clanking ghost of Christmas past, come to turn Reformation historians from their rigidly dogmatic present." For another, this "angry and dogmatic book" was at the center of the controversy that "threatens to destroy the working relationship between ecclesiastical and political historians achieved in the 1960s" by advocating "a more secular, economic, and urban historical approach" to German Reformation history. Indeed, Strasbourg's religious reformers play peripheral roles in Tom's account. Strasbourg's regime weathers two religio-political crises, the Peasants' War of 1524-25 and their defeat in the Smalkaldic War of 1547-48. The second crisis nearly brings down the regime as many members renounce citizenship and retire to their rural estates, only to return once the crisis has passed. Religious commitments motivate many individuals, but preserving control over the city guides confessional decision-making for the regime's central leader: Jacob Sturm. In short, Tom's "micro-study" offered a new analytical standard for interpreting the Reformation in other sixteenth-century German speaking cities. Etienne François in his review in *Annales* recognized the book's true impact: "Solidly crafted and clearly structured, with perfect mastery of his subject matter, written in elegant and clear prose and often marked with humor, Th(omas) Brady's book stands out above all for its intellectual qualities. There is no doubt that the certainty of his method, the novelty of his conclusions and the scope of its perspectives will quickly make this a reference work for the history of Strasbourg...and even for the Reformation." As a way to commemorate Tom and honor Kathy, I invite all of you to consider (re)reading one of his books or essays.

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