

L, NUMBER 2
SUMMER 2025

**GERMAN STUDIES
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

2025

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER 2025 EDITION OF THE GSA NEWSLETTER!

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Members of the GSA,

I hope that you are all enjoying a productive and enjoyable summer. I know that the past six months have created new uncertainties for many of you as they have for the GSA's leadership and staff.

For those of you traveling to GSA 2025 in Arlington from outside the U.S., you may need to fill out additional paperwork. Because these requirements seem to be changing all the time, please contact your local U.S. consulate for the most up-to-date information. If you don't have friends or family in the US to name as contacts, you may name me as the contact person for the ESTA application (phone number +1 737-274-8692). The address at the conference hotel is 1700 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202. I can also provide a letter of invitation from the GSA if needed. If you request one, please remember to include your institutional affiliation, address, your roles at the GSA conference (paper presenter, moderator, commentator, seminar participant, etc.), and the titles of your panels, papers, and/or seminars in which you will participate.

A number of you have written to ask why the GSA simply doesn't make it an option to present virtually. I realize that this seems an elementary solution for each individual, but it just isn't feasible on the scale of a conference this large. The amount of labor involved in preparing a large hybrid conference at short notice is beyond our means. The GSA has one employee (I am still a faculty member at my university). Moreover, the cost of such a change is prohibitive. There are three levels of expense (apart from labor): contracting for the infrastructure to hold a hybrid event; paying for the expanded internet capacity on-site that would be needed; and then, if sufficient numbers of members would choose to participate remotely rather than in person, facing the prospect of leaving the minimum number of hotel rooms we have contracted to fill for the event unfilled, which would leave the GSA responsible for paying for those (empty) rooms out of our funds.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

My rough estimate is that this would more than double the cost of running the conference and thus require a significant increase in the registration fees.

For example, the costs for a smaller-than-usual conference in 2024 (plus a hurricane) came to roughly \$250,000. Registration fees did not completely cover that sum, and the difference had to come out of the association's reserves.

These are the reasons we plan to try to carry on with an in-person event as planned. I hope as many of you as possible will attend. That said, your physical safety is crucial. Josh and I will work with all members on their individual circumstances if the situation causes them to cancel their participation.

As a scholar of nineteenth-century civil society and voluntary associations, it is an odd feeling to suddenly realize that my work is relevant, but here we are. As the Verein-GSA plans to convene, I look forward to welcoming you to Virginia. Our collective commitment to scholarship and to spending time with each other sustains our shared belief in the importance of the humanities and the free exchange of ideas.

Ich freue mich auf unser Wiedersehen.
Margaret

GSA Executive Director
director@thegsa.org



GSA BOARD ELECTIONS RESULTS

Voting ran from May 15 to June 15, 2025.

Turnout reached 40% of eligible voters with about 640 ballots cast. Please contact us if you are interested in a more detailed breakdown of results.

Congratulations to the winners!

Incoming GSA Board Members

terms begin 1/1/2026

Germanistik Board Member (3 years):

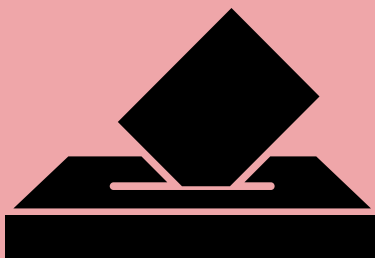
Qinna Shen (Bryn Mawr College)

History Board Member (3 years):

Astrid M. Eckert (Emory University)

Social Sciences / Society Board Member (3 years):

Kira Thurman (University of Michigan)



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>

GSA 2025 MENTORING INITIATIVES

Given the success of last year's program, the Mentoring Award and Initiatives Committee will offer 1:1 mentoring sessions again at this year's GSA Conference in Arlington, VA. These sessions are for mentoring at all career stages. Possible topics include: the job market (academic jobs and careers alongside and beyond academia), early career concerns, mid-career concerns, publishing, transitioning from a faculty to an administrative role. Mentors and mentees may use the following forms to sign up for 30-minute time slots on Friday and Saturday from 9am–5pm and on Sunday from 9am–11am.

Sign-up deadline: August 15, 2025

Link to Google Form for Mentors to Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/mhCaKSk5kcSezfaUA>

Link to Google Form for Mentees to Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/Vv5Cbmhprkesewk7>

The mentoring committee is pleased to report that over 60 PhD students, recent graduates, and faculty mentors participated in its first virtual workshop on navigating the academic job search. The ninety-minute workshop addressed job outlooks, types of faculty positions and institutions, how to read a job announcement, basic elements of the job application, process and calendar (what happens when, from the announcement to the offer), and preparing for other types of jobs inside and outside of the university. Panelists included **Elizabeth Loentz** (Germanic Studies, University of Illinois Chicago), **Catriona MacLeod** (Germanic Studies, University of Chicago), **David Meola** (History, University of South Alabama), **Christine Rinne** (German, University of South Alabama), **Liz Schoppelrei** (German Studies, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University).

In response to feedback from attendees, the committee plans to offer a virtual workshop in Spring 2026 on advice for early career academics. This workshop will discuss topics such as how to stay active in a one-year position, how to thrive at different types of institutions (from teaching heavy to R1), service expectations, how to transition from a non-academic job to an early academic career path, and how to chart a path to promotion and/or tenure. For questions, please contact committee chair **Elizabeth Loentz** (loentz@uic.edu).

GSA 2025 ARTS NIGHT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Join us for GSA Arts Night on Thursday evening, September 25! Inspired by “First Night” celebrations on December 31st in many cities, this will be our eleventh annual Arts Night, celebrating the creative, performing, and literary arts as an important part of German studies. Arts Night events are free and open to the public and will be held Thursday, September 25, 2025, 6:30–10:10pm, Grand Salon B and National Landing 1-4. We have several long-term programmers returning with film and literature events, and some exciting new contributors as well. And this year brings us back to the location of our very first Arts Night in 2015 in Arlington!



Schedule Overview

7:00-9:00 PM, Grand Salon B
Game Night!

6:30-8:45 PM, National Landing 1
Sonnensucher screening (*Sun Seekers*, dir. Konrad Wolf, 1958, 115 min, English subtitles)

8:50-10:10 PM, National Landing 1
Das Haus screening (*The House*, dir. Thomas Heise, camera Peter Badel, 1984, 56 min, English subtitles)

7:00-8:00 PM, National Landing 2
Ivie wie Ivie (Precious Ivy) Filmmaker Meet & Greet and Screening

8:00-8:55 PM, National Landing 3
Reading and discussion with novelist Franz Friedrich

8:00-10:00 PM, National Landing 4
The Legend of the Vagabond Queen of Lagos Screening and Discussion (co-sponsored by the Black Diaspora Studies Interdisciplinary Network)

See next page for more information about the scheduled events!

GSA 2025 ARTS NIGHT (CONT.)

7:00-9:00 PM, Grand Salon B

Game Night!

- The ad hoc Arts Night games sub-committee (Jeremy Best, Alex Hogue, Lauren Stokes, Evan Torner) will bring a range of their favorite short board, card, and role-playing games to share. Games dealing with German history, language, and/or culture will be highlighted. Local game designer Kathryn Hymes ([Thorny Games](#)) will also be in attendance to discuss the art of game design, as well as join us at the table. Cash bar available.
- For a list of games that we plan to bring or to learn what kinds of games you can bring to play and discuss, go to bit.ly/4lgFQPM.

6:30-8:45 PM, National Landing 1

Konrad Wolf Centennial: A Celebration

Sonnensucher screening (*Sun Seekers*, dir. Konrad Wolf, 1958, 115 min, English subtitles)

- Introduced by Seán Allan, *University of St Andrews*
- Stream *Konrad Wolf's Early Films* from September 29 to October 5, 2025! Find the streaming link: umass.edu/defa

8:50-10:10 PM, National Landing 1

The Documentary Filmmaker Thomas Heise, Co-sponsored by the DEFA Film Library

Das Haus screening (*The House*, dir. Thomas Heise, camera Peter Badel, 1984, 56 min, English subtitles)

- Introduced by Danny Pinto, *University of Chicago*
- Q&A to follow with Directory of Photography Peter Badel and Mariana Ivanova, *DEFA Film Library at UMass Amherst*

GSA 2025 ARTS NIGHT (CONT.)

7:00-8:00 PM, National Landing 2

***Ivie wie Ivie (Precious Ivy)* Filmmaker Meet & Greet and Screening**

Co-sponsored by the Goethe-Institut and the German Film Office

- The Goethe-Institut and the German Film Office will highlight the 2021 film *Ivie wie Ivie (Precious Ivy)* in a meet & greet with director Sarah Blaßkiewitz and lead actor Haley Louise Jones, including a short presentation with excerpts from the film.
- This program is organized in tandem with a free screening of ***Ivie wie Ivie* at the nearby Alamo Drafthouse Cinema (1660 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202, under 5 minutes from the conference hotel on foot)** on Saturday, September 27, 2 pm. The screening will be followed by a live Q&A with director Sarah Blaßkiewitz and actor Haley Louise Jones.
- ***Ivie wie Ivie* (Precious Ivy, dir. Sarah Blaßkiewitz, 2021 104 mins, with English subtitles)**

8:00-8:55 PM, National Landing 3

Reading and discussion with novelist Franz Friedrich

- Co-sponsored by the DAAD New York with support from the Deutsches Haus at NYU
- Moderated by: Regine Strätling, *Université de Montréal*

8:00-10:00 PM, National Landing 4

***The Legend of the Vagabond Queen of Lagos* Screening and Discussion (co-sponsored by the Black Diaspora Studies Interdisciplinary Network)**

- *The Legend of the Vagabond Queen of Lagos* (Bisola Akinmuyiwa, Elijah Atinkpo, Matthew Cerf, Megan Chapman et al, 101 mins., with English subtitles)
- This screening is an invitation to Germanists working on contemporary transnational social issues to address the critical issue of housing displacement, which defines the future of many people and of the planet. For more information and to pre-register with the screening organizers please visit [this page](#).

CONFERENCE MEAL SPEAKERS

FRIDAY, 26 September (12:15 PM – 1:30 PM)

LUNCHEON (Arlington Salon 3)

“Food for Thought”: Annual Showcase Event (organized by Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*)

Introduction: Todd Herzog, GSA Vice-President, *University of Cincinnati*

The presenters are, in alphabetical order:

- **Molly Harrabin**, Early Career Fellow, *University of Warwick*
- **Nina Morais**, Assistant Professor of German, *Rhodes College*
- **Paige Newhouse**, Ph.D. Candidate in History, *University of Michigan*
- **Peter Ogunniran**, Assistant Professor of German, *Williams College*
- **Maryann Piel**, Visiting Assistant Professor of German, *College of Charleston*
- **Hazel Rhodes**, Postdoctoral Associate, *University of Minnesota*
- **Erin Ritchie**, Ph.D. Candidate in Germanic Studies, *University of Illinois Chicago*
- **Qingyang Freya Zhou**, Ph.D. Candidate in German and Film Studies, *University of California, Berkeley*

CONFERENCE MEAL SPEAKERS (CONT.)

FRIDAY, 26 September (7:30 PM – 9:30 PM)

ANNUAL BANQUET OF THE ASSOCIATION (Arlington Salon 3)

****Announcement of DAAD/GSA Book and Article Prize Awards, the Prize for the Best Essay in German Studies by a Graduate Student, the David Barclay Book Prize, the Radomír Luža Prize, and the Sybil Halpern Milton Book Prize****

Featured Speaker:

Dr. Marina Henke, *Centre for International Security, Hertie School / Helmut Schmidt Distinguished Visiting Professor, Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University* (sponsored by the DAAD)

Moderated by Dr. Jan Lüdert, Head of Programs, *Deutsches Wissenschafts- und Innovationshaus (DWIH) New York*



SATURDAY, 27 September (12:15 PM – 1:30 PM)

LUNCHEON (Arlington Salon 3)

Featured Speaker: **Theodora Bauer**

Introduction: Todd Herzog, GSA Vice President, *University of Cincinnati*

GSA CONFERENCE ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES

These guidelines have been developed by the GSA Accessibility Task Force as part of the association's commitment to improving conference accessibility. They include small things all of us can do to make the conferences spaces for equitable and active engagement for all body minds. Below you find Accessibility Guidelines to be used by conference panelists, participants, and organizers. Implementing these guidelines will help to break down existing power imbalances and lessen barriers that are burdensome to disabled people but invisible for most able-bodied and able-minded participants.

1. Conference Accessibility Etiquette

- Elevators might be strained during peak times. If you are physically able to take the stairs, consider doing so to increase access to the elevator for people who need it.
- If there is a limited number of chairs available during a reception or similar, consider the needs of other people before occupying them. When making hotel reservations, do not reserve an accessible room unless you need it.

2. Panel Accessibility

a. Panel Planning and Presentations

- Panel organizers should encourage panel participants to provide 5 large print copies of their talk. (If presenters would like their copies back after the talk-panel, they should indicate where to return these handouts and papers)
- If the participants intend to use handouts, make 5 large print copies available and avoid printing handouts on colored paper.
- If possible, the panel participants should discuss what presentation style is most comfortable for everyone before the beginning of the panel (podium or seated at table).
- Presenters should speak loudly and clearly, at a pace that allows the audience to follow the presented arguments.
- If a microphone is available, presenters should always use the microphone.
- Ensure that the question and answer period is accessible. If there is a microphone for questioners, make sure they use it. Otherwise, repeat the questions, so everyone can hear them.

GSA CONFERENCE ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES (CONT.)

- Keep the aisles clear, so that audience members with mobility devices can navigate it.
- Some people read lips, so the audience should have a direct and clear view of the speaker's mouth and face.

b. Electronic Accessibility

- If using a presentation software (Power Point, Google Slides, or similar), use Alternative Text (content) and Captions (purpose) which help more of your audience access your presentation. (Instructions for alt text in [Power Point](#) and [Google Slides](#); instructions for subtitles in [Power Point](#), and [Google Slides](#)).
- Use color combinations that are high contrast and that can be distinguished by those who are colorblind.
- Keep your design simple.
- Minimize the amount of text on slides. When you advance a slide, pause to let people read it before saying anything.
- Read the text on the slide to make sure audience members who are visually impaired can follow along.
- Audio presentations should also be described.
- If presenters show images, they should verbally describe them.
- If presenters show quotations, they should be numbered and presenters should make 5 large-print handouts with those quotations available to the audience.

3. Rooms are set up in advance of the conference so all of these guidelines are met. We ask for your cooperation in maintaining this setup.

- A table from where presenters can speak should be available, even if there is a podium in the room.
- Rows should be set up with enough space to accommodate audience members with mobility devices. Please do not change this room setup.

FIND YOUR PEOPLE!

As we work with JHUP to put the finishing touches on the conference program, you can find a list of conference participants at the link below. We will update the list as reasonable and indicate when updates have been made at the top of the document. The current list does not reflect cancellations after July 13:

2025 GSA Participant List

GERMAN-LANGUAGE FILM RESOURCE



Telescope Film is a resource for finding international film online. It offers a database of over 700,000 titles and one-click access to nearly 270 streaming services, as well as curation to help users discover new film and video content from around the world. The site is free to use.

Telescope also offers dedicated pages for film and TV from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland that showcase narrative features, documentaries, animation, shorts, and series. It also provides access to a database of more than 30,000 German films and co-productions, with information about streaming availability in the US.

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>

OUR FAVORITE THINGS IN DC 2025

Courtesy of Lorna McCarron (Georgetown University),
GSA Board Graduate Student Representative



Eat Ethiopian food! DC has the world's largest Ethiopian community outside of Africa, so the area has fantastic Ethiopian restaurants. My favorite is Chercher on 9th Street NW (accessible from the conference hotel by taking the yellow line from Crystal City to Mt Vernon Sq).



For those wanting to grab food closer to the conference hotel, I would recommend heading to National Landing Water Park. This outdoor food court is located less than a 10min walk from the conference hotel and features great options for a quick meal: Falafel inc has lighter meals like falafel sandwiches and bowls around the \$5 mark or try Call Your Mother—a DC bagel staple. In addition, there are a number of more formal restaurants at National Landing, for those who prefer full-service restaurants.



As of summer 2025, you no longer need a SmarTrip card to ride the metro. You can now use your contactless credit or debit card at the turnstile. If you plan to ride the bus (either the ART in Arlington or the WMATA buses in DC), however, you will still need a SmarTrip card, which can be purchased at any metro station, or to pay in cash.

OUR FAVORITE THINGS IN DC 2025 (CONT.)

Courtesy of Lorna McCarron (Georgetown University),
GSA Board Graduate Student Representative



Of all the classic tourist sights (Arlington Cemetery, the White House, the Smithsonian museums, the Capitol, Library of Congress, etc), I thoroughly recommend visiting the monuments on the National Mall. From the conference hotel, you can access the area by taking the blue line metro from Crystal City to Smithsonian. I find the best time to wander around the monuments is in the evening, it will allow you to avoid the crowds and see the monuments illuminated.



If you fancy grabbing some fresh air without straying too far from the conference hotel, you can check out Mount Vernon Trail. The 18-mile multi-use trail connects Arlington to George Washington's estate Mount Vernon. A 30min walk from the conference hotel, you can follow the trail from National Landing north to Gravelly Point. Gravelly Point is a green area, popular for picnics, where you can sit out and watch planes fly right overhead as they come in to land at Ronald Reagan National Airport.



Center for German
and European Studies

FIRST BOOK PRIZE

CFA: CGES BOOK PRIZE

The Center for German and European Studies at the University of Minnesota is announcing a new book prize in the field of German and European Studies and invites assistant professors coming up for promotion to apply!

Award winners will receive: domestic travel to UMN Twin Cities, hotel accommodation, a honorarium of \$600, most importantly, the opportunity to give a talk on their book and to conduct a workshop with graduate students.

Eligibility: assistant professors coming up for promotion with their first book in the humanities and social sciences in the field of German and European Studies.

Please submit a CV, the book title and synopsis, date of publication and publisher and a brief abstract (max. 300 words) explaining the intervention your book makes to cges@umn.edu. Please submit as one PDF.

Submission Deadline: **November 15th** (for on-campus visits in 2026)

Maximum three prizes awarded per-calendar year.

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>



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