

Volume XLVI, Number 3 Winter 2021

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Mark Your Calendars!

46th Annual German Studies Association Conference

Houston, TX

30 December 2021: applications due for Emerging Scholars Workshop

24 January: seminar topic proposals due

15 March: seminar participation applications due

28 March: all paper, panel, and roundtable proposals due

15-18 September 2022: See you at [#thegsa2022](#)

For more information, see the [GSA website!](#)



Dear GSA Friends and Members,

I hope this communication finds you, your families, and your loved ones safe and well during these trying times. The enduring global pandemic continues to challenge the GSA and just about every other academic organization – and non-academic ones, too.

We continue to struggle to find the right balance between in-person and virtual gatherings as we consider various competing demands, including those related to public health; the association's contractual obligations to future hotels (dating back several years); attendees' limited financial resources for travel and accommodations; the precarity of German Studies employment in higher education, particularly for the younger generation of scholars; the weight of carbon footprints on a fragile earth; our international members' priorities, as well as those of our partner organizations and sponsors across Europe and the USA; and the human need to gather face-to-face to make, maintain, and develop our professional connections and friendships.

These competing demands require careful and extensive conversations. The GSA governance structure has started to focus during these past pandemic months to include as many voices as possible in discussions about the future of our organization in a changing world. Drawing on your feedback, we committed to an “in-person+virtual” conference for #thegsa2021 last October which combined careful negotiations with the Indianapolis hotel, protected us from financial penalties, and preserved the GSA's endowment. We expanded and continue to expand the number of committees that give

voice to the diverse and vital constituencies of the GSA; and we have launched a new GSA webinar series.

Now, as we turn to #thegsa2022 in Houston, we also ask you all to consider expanding your commitment to our organization's future paths by volunteering to serve not just on committees but in working groups that will seek comprehensive and inclusive membership input to chart the main “pillars” of our association's new Strategic Plan. I'm looking forward to working with you to help build a cohesive and bold vision for the GSA that better connects us across our multiple disciplines and fields. We are more than just an association: we are a community of teachers and scholars who seek to make a meaningful difference in people's lives. Come help us articulate the new global impact for our German Studies scholarship.

*Kind regards,
Janet Ward*

German Studies Association President (2021 and 2022)

Brammer Presidential Professor of History,
University of Oklahoma

Senior Associate Vice President of Research
and Partnerships

<https://www.ou.edu/cas/history/people/faculty/janet-ward>

Support the GSA and its members by donating to one of many worthwhile initiatives, such as the Barclay Book Prize, the GSA Endowment Fund, or The GSA Community Fund.

Click [here](#) to donate today!

Dear GSA Friends and Members,

As my first year as Executive Director draws to a close, I first want to thank all of you for your generosity of spirit. The last year was not easy by any means, but many of you have made it better with your support and encouragement.

It is my profound wish that this coming year be one when we will not simply be reacting to crises but will have the time and space to spend on the GSA itself.

Board and several of the committees, particularly CLEAT, all see this as a moment to subject the “house” we call the GSA to some clear-eyed consideration checking, if you will, the foundations, the plumbing, the wiring, and the roof. I don’t think the house of the GSA is falling down, but, as a lifetime veteran of living in old buildings, they are always a project, and I think we need to spend some time on the kinds of improvements that are invisible when done well.

The GSA relies a lot on the **institutional memory** of those who have previously volunteered, but the tendency to lean on “doing what we have always done” leaves us vulnerable should the “traditional” way of doing things replicate inequalities and

**Deadlines
for the
46th Annual GSA Conference!**

Houston, TX Sept. 15-18 2022

30 December (2021): applications due for Emerging Scholars Workshop

24 January (2022): seminar topic proposals due

15 March: seminar participation applications due

28 March: all paper, panel, and roundtable proposals due

As the association gets close to its fiftieth anniversary, we should all take a moment and celebrate how much the association has grown, not only in size and reach, but in other ways as well. But milestones are also a good opportunity for reevaluation. As President Ward mentioned at our recent Town Hall meeting, she and I as well as the

unintentionally shut off opportunities for new voices and ideas. My hope is that any improvements will create a more welcoming, accessible, and comfortable home for us all.

That said, all structural repairs require a bit of adjustment and

I'd like to take the rest of this letter to acquaint you with some of the most important for you all in the coming year. As has been mentioned in earlier emails, we have switched our conference submission interface to Open Water. We are also adjusting our submission schedule to begin after the New Year. As you will have seen, the calls for participation in the **Emerging Scholars Workshop**, the call for seminar topics, and the calls for papers have all gone out in recent weeks (and are replicated in this newsletter) with very different deadlines than have been the case in earlier years. We plan to open the submission interface for seminar topic proposals on 10 January 2022 with a deadline of 24 January. Applications for participation in seminars will be due by 15 March. Finally, the new deadline for panel, roundtable, and individual submissions will be 28 March 2022. We will be adding additional personnel to the Program Committee in the areas with the greatest number of submissions to accommodate this new review schedule. We hope to have the conference program set by the middle of May.

The entire new schedule will be available on the 2022 Conference website along with submission guidelines and other information. We will of course be reminding all of you of the new deadlines -- new schedules require some adjustment time. It is our hope that this new schedule will give everyone a bit more time to finish the 2021 semester before starting to worry about the fall of 2022.

Finally, please be on the lookout for announcements for "Office Hours" for the Executive Director starting in January 2022. These will be virtual meetings designed to accommodate as many time zones as practicable and I look forward to speaking with you about whatever topic you may choose.

It only remains for me to wish you all a happy, healthy, and serene 2022,

Margaret E. Menninger
Executive Director

Herzlichen Glückwunsch!

The GSA is delighted to offer hearty congratulations to all members who completed their dissertations in any area of German (including Austrian, German, Swiss, and German diasporic) Studies (in any discipline or interdisciplinary) during 2019 and 2020.

A list of these dissertations, with abstracts, is now available on our website:

[Dissertations in German Studies](#)

Upon completion of your dissertation in 2021 and 2022 (or if your 2019/2020 dissertation has been omitted from our current list!), please notify us via this new Google Form:

[Dissertations in German Studies Survey](#)

Call for Applicants: GSA Emerging Scholars Workshop (ESW) “New Pathways for Black German Studies”

We are excited to issue this call for the Emerging Scholars Workshop (ESW) to be hosted for the third time at the 46th German Studies Association Conference in Houston, Texas from September 15-18, 2022. This workshop is exclusively for graduate students.

The Emerging Scholars Workshop (ESW) will run parallel to the established seminars and in addition to regular conference sessions and roundtable. Over the past decade or so, graduate programs across the country have contracted. Fewer graduate students now encounter fewer regular graduate courses that have often also become more general in content in order to produce satisfactory enrollment. As a result, much of the specialized but crucial field training has moved into one-on-one tutorials and directed readings. The new Emerging Scholars Workshop seeks to give the up-and-coming cohort of scholars access to the leading faculty in their field, increase the advice and mentoring they receive, and allow them to come together for sustained professional conversations. The goal is to enable the next generation of Germanists and Historians to produce their best possible work, be competitive across fields, and contribute to the vitality, relevance, and productivity of our field at large.

There will be one ESW session taught by two

instructors:

“New Pathways for Black German Studies,” facilitated by Priscilla Layne (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Kira Thurman (University of Michigan)

This seminar is designed for graduate students at any level interested in historical and cultural approaches to Black German Studies. The purpose of the seminar is to support graduate students’ research. As a collective we will ask, how has the

field changed since the publication of texts like Tina Campt’s *Other Germans* (2005) and May Ayim, Katharina

ESW application due: December 30, 2021 11:59 pm EST

Send application to:

Astrid M. Eckert, Emory University aeckert@emory.edu

and

Priscilla D. Layne, UNC-Chapel Hill playne@email.unc.edu

Oguntoye and Dagmar Schultz’s edited volume *Farbe bekennen?* (1986). What new methodologies and theories have been introduced to further the study of the Black German community? What gaps exist in our knowledge? How do we best work as allies to the Black German community in a way that empowers and amplifies their voices? Our discussions will include, but are not limited to topics such as subjectivity, positionality, intersectionality and aesthetics. We will ask ourselves not only what are the best ways to study Black German culture and history, but how does one do so ethically? Some advance reading will be required. During the summer, you will receive some short readings that will serve as a common

ground for the seminar. One month prior to the seminar you are required to submit a positionality statement (250 words) and a 1-3 page (double spaced) response to the readings which will

Quick facts:

- Open to all graduate students
- Meets Friday through Sunday, 8:00–10am
- Must be present at all 3 meetings
- ESW participants cannot present another paper at GSA, but
- ESW participants can be part of a roundtable or moderate a panel

both be shared with the other participants. Your response paper can gladly include thoughts and questions about Black German texts and topics tangential to the readings.

Students from all disciplines within German Studies (literature, history, cultural studies, art history, musicology, anthropology, Queer Studies, architectural history, political science, sociology, and others) are invited to apply to a workshop of their choosing.

The workshops will convene parallel to the regular seminars, Friday through Sunday, 8:00-10am. Participants must commit to participate in all three workshop meetings. Please note that workshop participants will not be allowed to submit a paper in a regular panel session. However, they may take on one additional role in the conference independent of their role in a workshop – as a moderator of another session or as a participant in a roundtable. ESW participation counts as full GSA conference participation and may be listed on a CV accordingly.

The ESW is open to students enrolled in a graduate program. To be considered, students need to submit a well-crafted cover letter (2 pages max.) in which they introduce themselves and their scholarly interests. Entry-level graduate students should introduce their research focus and likely MA-thesis or dissertation plans. Advanced graduate students should address their dissertation projects. The letter should also outline their interest in the subject of this year's workshop.

The deadline for the submission of the application letter is Thursday, December 30, 2021 by 11:59 pm EST. Please email your letter to both Astrid M. Eckert and Priscilla D. Layne. Late applications will not be considered.

Following the submission of applications, the ESW Committee, in conjunction with the workshop leaders, will select the participants. Applicants will be notified of the Committee's decisions by January 4, 2022. Students who cannot be accommodated this time will still have the opportunity to apply to one of the regular GSA seminars or sessions.

The ESW Committee consists of:

Astrid M. Eckert, Emory University
aeckert@emory.edu

Priscilla D. Layne, UNC-Chapel Hill
playne@email.unc.edu

Please direct inquiries to both ESW Committee members.

We are looking forward to receiving your application!

Call for Seminar Proposals

The 46th German Studies Association Conference in Houston, Texas, from September 15 to September 18, 2022 will continue to host a **series of seminars** in addition to conference sessions and roundtables.

Seminars meet for all three days of the conference. They explore **new avenues of academic exchange** and foster extended discussion, rigorous intellectual debate, and intensified networking. Seminars are typically proposed and led by two to three conveners (in special cases, there may be four conveners) and must consist of a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 participants, including the conveners themselves.

Seminars must be open to applications from interested participants, and conveners are expected to make every effort to aim for broad diversity and include scholars from different disciplines and at different career stages, **including graduate students**. Seminars may enable extended discussion of a recent academic publication; the exploration of a promising new research topic; engagement with pre-circulated papers; an opportunity to debate the work of scholars with different approaches; or the in-depth discussion of a political or public policy issue, novel, film, poem, musical piece, painting, or other artwork. Conveners are strongly encouraged to structure their seminars around **creative and engaging forms of intellectual exchange**; lengthy individual presentations are discouraged as they imitate “traditional” panels and may hamper discussion, collaboration, and innovative thinking. We hope that the work of seminars will eventually be disseminated to the broader community of scholars, for example, future GSA panel or roundtable, in an edited volume, or in the creation of a research group.

To **apply** to convene a seminar, GSA members should submit a proposal through the online portal by **11:59 pm EST on January 24, 2022**. The portal will open in early January, and you will be able to find the link on the conference website. Please note that because this is a new system, it will require a current 2022 GSA membership to access. The proposal should include the following items:

- **Title of Proposed Seminar;**
- **Convener Information:** names, ranks, institutional affiliations, email addresses;
- **Seminar Description:** a 150-word description of the seminar’s subject, which will eventually be used in the call for participants and the final program;
- **Format Description:** a 50-word description of the seminar’s format, which will appear in the call for participants, etc.;
- **Goals & Procedures:** a 200-word statement of seminar goals and procedures;
- **DEI Statement** (if appropriate): a 50-word statement where seminar proposals may add information about any DEI components to the seminar that are not covered in the above descriptions;
- **Audio/Visual:** indicate whether your seminar will require a projector and/or sound (note that we might not be able to accommodate all requests, especially for sound, so please request it only if absolutely necessary); and
- **Auditors:** indicate whether you will open the seminar to auditors (6 maximum) should space allow.

The Committee will review seminar proposals and post a list of approved seminars and their topics on the GSA website by February 25, 2022. **Conveners may then enlist participants to join the seminar.** A

Seminars:

meet for 3 days / 10-20 participants / applications due January 24, 2022 /

call for auditors (who may observe but who are not considered formal participants) will be issued later in the year, once the final conference program has been published.

Please note the following guidelines and additional information regarding seminars:

- You must be a current member of the GSA to submit a proposal.
- Seminar conveners must come from different institutions; where there are more than two conveners, no more than two may come from the same institution.
- In order to facilitate extended discussion, seminar conveners and participants are required to participate **in all three seminar meetings**.
- Seminar participants, including conveners, will not be allowed to submit a paper in a regular panel session. However, they may take on one additional role in the conference independent of their role in a seminar – as moderator or commentator on another session or as a participant in a roundtable.

Although the GSA does accept proposals from conveners who have directed a seminar during the past two consecutive years, the GSA's Seminar Committee **gives preference to newcomers** and thus encourages the rotation of seminar conveners in similarly-themed seminars. We further recommend that conveners contact the coordinators of the Interdisciplinary Network Committee to connect with GSA Interdisciplinary Networks close to their topic:

- Heather Mathews (hmathews@plu.edu) and
- Jonathan Skolnik (jskolnik@german.umass.edu).

Seminar conveners will have the opportunity to **propose a cluster of pieces** representing the work of the seminar for publication in *Konturen*, a peer-reviewed, online, open-access journal of international and interdisciplinary German Studies. Please note: although the portal for applications for publication in *Konturen* will only open after the conference is over, conveners may address their interest in this project in their seminar description.

To access the OpenWater system to submit your proposal, use the same username and password as you use to log into your GSA profile at <https://thegsa.org/members/profile>. If your password needs to be reset, please contact Ms. Ursula Sykes (jrnlcirc@press.jhu.edu) at Johns Hopkins University Press. If technical questions or problems arise with the submission interface itself, please contact the GSA Operations Director, Dr. Benita Blessing (operations@thegsa.org).

The GSA Seminar Committee consists of:

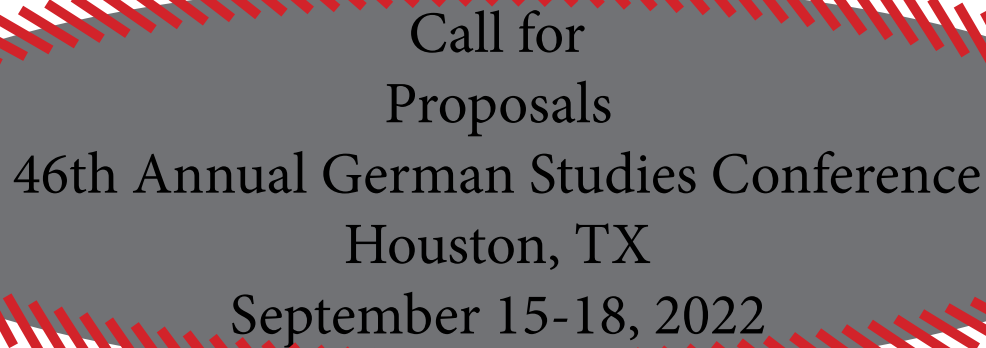
Elizabeth Drummond
Loyola Marymount University
elizabeth.drummond@lmu.edu (chair)

Richard Langston
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
relangst@email.unc.edu

Qinna Shen
Bryn Mawr College
qshen@brynmawr.edu

Please get in touch with any of us if you have any questions about the seminars or proposal process.

Thank you for your support of the GSA's seminar program!



Call for
Proposals
46th Annual German Studies Conference
Houston, TX
September 15-18, 2022

The German Studies Association (GSA) will hold its 46th Annual Conference from **15-18 September** at the Hilton Americas Hotel in Houston, TX.

The Program Committee cordially invites proposals on any aspect of DACHL (German, Austrian, Swiss, Liechtenstein) studies, including (but not limited to) history, Germanistik, film, art history, political science, anthropology, musicology, religious studies, sociology, and cultural studies. Proposals for entire sessions, for interdisciplinary presentations, and for series of panels are strongly encouraged (though we discourage thematic series of more than four panels). Individual paper proposals are also welcome. The call for seminar proposals has been distributed separately.

Please see the GSA website for information about the submission process for 'traditional' papers, sessions, and roundtables, which will open on 10 January 2022. The deadline for proposals is later this year than has been usual. It has been moved back to **Monday, 28 March**.

Please note that all proposed presenters must be members of the German Studies Association. Information on membership is available on the GSA website (www.thegsa.org). This is particularly important because we are using a new submission system.

In order to avoid complications later, the Program Committee would like to reiterate two extremely important guidelines here (the full list of guidelines is available on the GSA website):

- No individual at the GSA conference may give more than one paper or appear on the program in more than two separate roles. (Participating in a seminar counts as delivering a paper.)
- If a paper proposal requires high quality sound equipment, that justification must be made in detail at the time of submission.

For more information, visit the [GSA website](http://www.thegsa.org), where previous conference programs can be found, as well as the new submission schedule and a detailed list of submission guidelines at <https://thegsaorg/conference/submission-guidelines> or contact members of the [2022 Program Committee](#).

Meet the New *German Studies Review* Team!

Dear GSA members,

Please allow me to introduce the new editorial team of [German Studies Review](#). I am Katharina Gerstenberger, professor of German studies at the University of Utah and editor of GSR. This past September I took over from Sabine Hake, who served in this role for ten years. **Thank you, Sabine!** The new book review editors are Britta Kallin (bkallin@gatech.edu), Georgia Tech, for Literature and Culture, and Michael (Mac) Mackenzie (mackenzie@grinnell.edu), Grinnell College, for Art History, History, Political Science. *Thank you to the previous book review editors, Maria Stehle and Greg Moore.* The new team is assisted by Talita Wiener-Osman (u0480504@utah.edu), University of Utah, and Elizabeth McNeill (emcneill@umich.edu), University of Michigan.



German Studies Review serves the GSA membership and appears three times a year. The journal publishes a broad range of articles in German studies, including history, art history, literature, film, culture, political science, and musicology. The journal reflects the research interests of GSA members across our disciplines and research methodologies. Publishing your work in GSR is a great opportunity to help shape the scholarly conversations in the GSA and beyond.

A conference presentation can be a good start toward an article in the Associations' journal.

GSR follows a double-blind peer-review process to assure high quality. We are committed to responding to submissions in a timely fashion. On average, it takes three to four months for an initial decision to be made.

I encourage you to submit your work to *German Studies Review* and look forward to reading your work. Feel free to contact me with any questions you might have about the submission and review process.

Best wishes,

Katharina Gerstenberger
katharina.gerstenberger@utah.edu

[Read the GSR online with your GSA membership ID and password!](#)

Congratulations to Our Prize Winners

2021 Inaugural winner of the David Barclay Book Prize:

Heidi J.S. Tworek, *News from Germany: The Competition to Control World Communications, 1900-1945* (Harvard University Press, 2019)

2021 Prize Committee: Joyce Marie Mushaben (Georgetown University; Committee Chair), Barbara McCloskey (University of Pittsburgh), and Thomas Weber (University of Aberdeen).

Laudatio:

Impeccably written, Heidi Tworek's book, *The News From Germany*, describes the many ups, downs and historical twists shaping one nation's efforts to engage with other major powers, actively competing to control and shape news gathering, as well as its global dissemination between 1900 and 1945. Beginning with the rise of Reuters in Britain, the French Havas news agency and, later, the US-based Associated Press, she reveals the profound impact of technological innovation on the power of dominant states not only to control their own images abroad but also to adapt constantly to changing rules of the game,

resulting in new forms of "information warfare."

As a latecomer, Germany is torn between the pulls of private enterprise, ideological competition (e.g., between Bernhard Wolff and Alfred Hugenberg) and a need for massive subsidies, opening the door to state influence. Actors seeking to control Germany's communication with and about the world range from Kaiser Wilhelm to Telefunken, the Post Office, the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, the Army and the Navy; its investments in wireless transmission stations run literally from Mexico City and Nauen, to Shanghai and Java. Drawing on an extraordinary array of technical, national, and international archival sources, Tworek's account pulls together media studies, geography, the science of communications and political history, testifying to the global nature of news production dating back a century. She provides "behind the scenes" accounts, highlighting flashpoints conditioned by World War I, a troubled Weimar Republic and the descent into dictatorship under propaganda-savvy Nazi officials.

News from Germany is sure to generate further excavations

of national and international media landscapes, and the serious challenges they pose to contemporary democracy. The book holds major implications for scholarship on the digital monopolization of news formation and dissemination by both private and state agents. Historians have long relied on newspapers as core research sources with little thought to the underlying power of political institutions and profit-seeking networks in generating the information found there. As Tworek eloquently demonstrates, "News was never neutral. And its production never uncontested" (p. 7).

2021 Honorable Mention, David Barclay Book Prize:

Andrew Demshuk: *Bowling for Communism: Urban Ingenuity at the End of East Germany* (Cornell University Press, 2020)

Laudatio:

Andrew Demshuk's work, *Bowling for Communism: Urban Ingenuity at the End of East Germany*, begins with the author's chance encounter with "a forlorn neon sign and bowling ball-shaped fountain" (p. ix) on the outskirts of Leipzig, all that remained

of an extraordinary community effort to resuscitate local pride between 1987 and 1989. The story that follows refutes a two-fold stereotype of the GDR as a land in which local SED officials mindlessly complied with orders from party bosses in Berlin, while alienated citizens watched passively as their hometowns “became dystopian oceans of decay punctuated by modernist boxes” (p. 3).

This particular case of “urban ingenuity” centers on a two-year effort, grounded in cooperation among party officials desperate to regain citizen affections, a new generation of educated “planning elites” concerned with historical preservation, and local residents willing to provide 40,050 hours of “volunteer labor” to rescue the city they loved. Using western designs and technologies, materials pilfered from other state construction projects, and funds surreptitiously generated by creative, off-book “city budgeting” measures, the Bowling Palace offered diverse entertainment venues and quality cafes -- with friendly waiters!! -- rendering it at least indirectly responsible for the spirit of possibility and renewal that drove thousands of

Leipzigers onto the streets in late 1989.

Looking beyond Berlin, Demshuk focuses our attention on the profound connection between architectural preservation, local identity, urban planning and political consciousness, the combined effects of which generated seismic forces for national change and ultimately transformed the world order in 1989. Like so many other East German projects from below, this one fell victim to “the tyranny of capitalist investors” after the fall of the Wall, whose pursuit of self-interested profits led to bankruptcy; the actions of westerner “privatizers” eviscerated this monumental urban renewal campaign, turning the Bowling Palace into just another architectural ruin. There are many more local GDR histories of this kind that can and should be told.

Winner of the DAAD/GSA Book Prize for the Best Book in Literature / Cultural Studies:

Alys X. George, *The Naked Truth: Viennese Modernism and the Body* (University of Chicago Press, 2020)

2021 Prize Committee: Chun-jie Zhang (University of California Davis; Committee Chair), Tobias Boes (University of Notre Dame), and Kira Thurman (University of Michigan).

Laudatio:

With a firm grounding in literary and cultural history and an exquisite sensitivity toward the multifarious richness within Viennese modernism, Alys George, in *The Naked Truth: Viennese Modernism and the Body* (2020), elaborates the essentiality of the human body in literature, visual arts, and performing arts in a broad network. Challenging the well-established notion of homo psychologicus in Carl Schorske’s Pulitzer-Prize winning classic *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture* (1979), George carefully demonstrates that the body, or *homo physiologicus*, functions as the materialist foundation and registers sociocultural practices of Viennese modernism in its moments of crisis.

In writing a cultural history of the bodies of the African Ashantis, pregnant women, dead corpse, and dancers, George provides her readers unprecedented insights in re-

viewing fin-de-siècle Vienna and guides us on a wondrous journey through museums, gardens, dissecting rooms, theater stages, dance floors, writers' studies, filming sites, painter's studios, and newspaper archives. The book impresses through its meticulous research across multiple disciplines: not just literature, art history, film studies, and dance, but also medical history, anthropology, and gender studies. George offers persuasive close readings across a wide variety of genres and media that always remain attentive to the individual voices she studies, even as she places them within the larger chorus that made up the intellectual culture of their time.

Notably, George thoroughly traces the representation of the body in the defamed "human zoo" exhibits around 1900 and argues that the writer Peter Altenberg as well as the Viennese audience, as newspaper reports documented, projected their desire and longing for a healthy body and an idealized lifestyle onto the African Ashanti. George also pays sustained attention to the role that women's self-expression played in a culture that has often been

defined as male dominated. If Freud infamously asked, "What does a woman want?", then this book answers: "sovereignty over her body, and over her bodily self-expression, just like a man does." Furthermore, George diverges from the well-trodden path of interpreting literature and culture from a perspective of some contemporary theories. Rather she profoundly shows that the historical discourse around 1900 already contains theoretical positions such as the understanding of network by Robert Musil. She thus uses a theory within its historical context to illuminate the naked truth of the body in Viennese modernism. It is historical study at its best.

At the end of the book, George eruditely gestures toward the further development of the discourse of the body in literature and art after the modernist period. Combining both canonical works and less-known materials, George's finely crafted cultural history opens new channels in the study of a well-established theme in German Studies and enriches the discussion about quintessential issues that have fundamentally shaped the modern experience of be-

ing human, including the very foundation of our existence: our body.

2021 Honorable Mention, 2021 DAAD/GSA Book Prize for the Best Book in Literature / Cultural Studies:

Tiffany N. Florvil, *Mobilizing Black Germany: Afro-German Women and the Making of a Transnational Movement* (University of Illinois Press, 2020)

Laudatio:

Tiffany Florvil's groundbreaking book, *Mobilizing Black Germany: Afro-German Women and the Making of a Transnational Movement*, brings together the fields of German Studies, Black Studies, and queer and feminist studies to brilliantly recreate a vibrant movement of Black feminist and queer activism that produced the Afro-German movement of the 1980s and 1990s. Standing firmly at the center of Black German Studies, *Mobilizing Black Germany* illustrates a rich and complex tapestry of cultural activity that is uniquely Black and German. Her book offers a model for how to write scholarship that places people of color at the center of Ger-

man history and culture.

Florvil's work is particularly striking for its commitment to uncovering the everyday lives and extraordinary cultural output of Black Germans, whom she calls "quotidian intellectuals." Florvil effectively demonstrates how a group of mostly middle-class and lower-middle-class Black Germans "used their intellectualism and internationalism to acquire power and unsettle the late postwar German hegemony while offering new ways of being, feeling, and knowing." Their work as activists, intellectuals, mothers, poets, and artists in founding organizations such as ISD (Initiativ Schwarze Deutsche) and ADEFRA (Afrodeutsche Frauen) was fundamental to challenging white hegemonies and transforming Black lives in Germany.

Above all, Florvil's methodologies deserve the highest applause. To uncover the cultural work of Black Germans, Florvil turned to sources not housed in traditional archives. Florvil often sat in the kitchens and living rooms of Black Germans to examine their private collections and personal papers in order to make sense of how the Afro-German

movement was both political and cultural. Florvil uncovered a wealth of Black German media as a result: magazines such as *afro look*, *Afrekete*, and *Onkel Tom's Faust* offer a wealth of information to scholars in the future invested in analyzing Black cultural activity in Germany. In so doing, Florvil demonstrates how magazines such as *Afrekete* found their cultural and visual inspiration from Black lesbian magazines in the United States even while they advertised in mainstream German lesbian and women's magazines in the 1980s and 90s.

In the wake of an ongoing global BLM movement that took place not only in Ferguson or Minneapolis but also in Berlin, Munich, and Vienna, Florvil's scholarship comes at the perfect time. Her book, *Mobilizing Black Germany*, is rewarding because it reveals to us all of the wonderfully rich and beautiful ways in which Germany belongs to a global Black diasporic experience.

2021 Winner of the DAAD/GSA Book Prize for the Best Book in History / Social Sciences:

Thomas M. Lekan, *Our Gigantic Zoo: A German Quest to Save the Serenge-*

ti (Oxford University Press, 2020)

2021 Prize Committee: Benjamin Marschke (Humboldt State University; Committee Chair), Jörg Echternkamp (Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, and Center for Military History and Social Sciences of the German Army), and Astrid M. Eckert (Emory University).

Laudatio:

Thomas Lekan's book takes the reader on a transnational journey from the ruins of Frankfurt's bombed-out zoo to the savannas of East Africa. At the center of Lekan's study stands Bernhard Grzimek (1909-87), a household name in Germany for his long-running television show, *Ein Platz für Tiere* (1956-87, the German equivalent of Marlin Perkins' *Wild Kingdom*), and his Oscar-winning documentary, *Serengeti darf nicht sterben* (1959). As Frankfurt's first postwar zoo director, the charismatic Grzimek, turned the city's animal park into an instrument of conservation, an endeavor that eventually led him to the homeland of many of the zoo's popular mammals. There, in former German East Africa, he single-mindedly pursued his quest to carve out a "gi-

gantic zoo” by pushing local politicians and international nature conservation agencies into creating a national park, the Serengeti. What was lauded by the contemporary West German public as a noble and selfless endeavor is expertly contextualized by Lekan as a project that collided head-on with the needs and desires of newly independent African states and became entangled with the political tensions of decolonization and the Cold War. This is the work of a Germanist “going global,” a book that stands out as a post-war German history but represents our academic discipline equally well in the fields of environmental and African history.

As Lekan demonstrates, Grzimek had established his academic credentials as a veterinarian scientist and made his career when the biological sciences were pervaded with eugenic thinking. Alongside the vast majority of (West) Germans, Grzimek rehabilitated himself as a “good German” after the war. Behind his avuncular image, however, lay a “notoriously cantankerous personality” (7) and someone who sought to deny his role during National Socialism and his disdain for his fellow

human beings through select “good deeds,” such as the adoption of a black Besatzungskind.

One of the many strengths of this book is that Lekan pays particular attention to the unreflected ideological baggage that Grzimek injected into his postwar activities when he mused, for instance, about the limits of the savanna’s “carrying capacity” for the herds of cattle and goats tended by local Maasai as well as the alleged dangers of unchecked fertility among Africans. By advocating for the removal of the Maasai herders from the savanna, Grzimek peddled a particular vision of nature protection that Lekan aptly calls “fortress conservation.” It called for the “evacuation” of humans (Africans) from wildlife habitat. This vision betrayed not only a disregard for autochthonous environmental sovereignty but was also premised on a profound misunderstanding of the savanna’s ecology; far from being a wilderness, the East African grasslands had long been cultural landscapes precisely because of the presence of the nomadic Maasai. As Lekan shows, Grzimek’s (mis-)understanding of East African nature was shaped by

misanthropy, malthusianism, eugenics, and declensionist anti-modernism.

Lekan explores other telling blindspots in Grzimek’s approach to conservation in Africa, namely the many colonial legacies that the German zookeeper chose to overlook, an approach he shared with the leadership of the international nature conservation agencies with whom he collaborated. Grzimek and his son Michael flew their famous zebra-striped airplane over Tanganyika (formerly Deutsch-Ostafrika). Absent in their considerations of the ecology of the region were the colonial origins of big game reserves, founded for the pleasure of European colonizers and their enthusiasm for trophy hunting. Grzimek pretended that nature conservation was apolitical, and he saw himself as an “honest broker,” even if his activism meant collaborating with unsavory politicians like Idi Amin.

Despite the focus on Grzimek, however, the book should not be mistaken for a biography. The significance and timeliness of *Our Gigantic Zoo* lies in how it incorporates German contemporary history with environmental and co-

lonial history by placing Grzimek's activism on behalf of the Serengeti in the broader historical context of the first-world conservation and environmental movements: The book highlights their origins in colonialism and racism, and erstwhile NSDAP member Grzimek is emblematic of "avocado" environmentalism: green on the outside, brown on the inside. It problematizes these movements' insistence that Africa's wildlife was a "world heritage" whose preservation exceeded the competence and therefore trumped the sovereignty of (newly independent) African governments. It also highlights the inability of these international "green networks" to back up their demands with financial support; ultimately, Tanzania became stuck with the cost of protecting the "world heritage" that external conservationists sought to protect, because the tourism revenue that Grzimek had promised never materialized on a scale required to finance the park.

Lekan tells a fascinating, ambivalent, and highly relevant story. Grzimek's legacy of raising funds and awareness for African wildlife is unsurpassed, however, Lekan com-

plicates the cozy image of Grzimek among those who watched his TV shows by highlighting the problematic origins and many unintentional consequences of the activism of this "charismatic megascientist." What is more, his study is an impressive example of how a variety of new material systematically organized by a transnational perspective can make a valuable contribution to modern German history.

**Honorable Mention for the DAAD/
GSA Book Prize for the Best Book in
History / Social Sciences:**

John P.R. Eicher, *Exiled Among Nations: German and Mennonite Mythologies in a Transnational Age* (Cambridge University Press, 2020)

Laudatio:

John P.R. Eicher's *Exiled Among Nations* surprises readers with its broad scope, innovative approach, and irresistible appeal. In tracing the trials and tribulations of two communities of Germanophone Mennonites who migrated from Russia to ultimately settle in Paraguay in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this

book presents an in-depth investigation of cultural, national, religious, ethnic, and racial identity. One group voluntarily departed Imperial Russia in the 1870s, settled in Canada, and then left Canada in the 1920s to put down roots in Paraguay as the "Mennon Colony." The other group was forced out of the Soviet Union in the 1920s, briefly took refuge in Germany and China, and then alighted in Paraguay as the "Fernheim Colony." Though the two colonies abutted each other, they remained separate, both in administration and worldview. *Exiled Among Nations* is an exemplary work at the nexus of German studies and global history, not only tracing its research subjects over three continents, but also focusing upon and problematizing their self-identification and ascription as "German" during a time of hypernationalism.

Eicher has not only painstakingly researched the complex stories of these two meandering groups, but also presents an innovative method of understanding their self-identities and group cohesion by examining the "mythologies" that informed their world-

views. Both migrating Mennonite groups interpreted their collective experiences, current situations, and broader world events in light of biblical stories, especially in terms of salvation, Babylonian captivity, or deliverance to a promised land.

Exiled Among Nations shows how, against the backdrop of the rise of National Socialism in Germany and the coming of the Second World War in Europe, the Mennonites' multiple intersecting identities precipitated a crisis. For the members of the Menno Colony, who had chosen freely to move to Paraguay, it was at least a temporary and temporal promised land. They sought to pretend that international politics were irrelevant to their lives and stymied the attempts of government agents who sought to pigeonhole them as "Germans" (who would support Nazi Germany) or as "Mennonites" (who would align with their fellow co-religionists in North America). Even as these Auslandsdeutsche studiously maintained their German cultural identity, they rejected any ties with the government in Germany, and even as they held to their religious convictions, they rejected any allegiance to Can-

ada (equated with Babylon), from whence they had come, or the USA, which sought to unite Mennonites worldwide. For the refugees in the Fernheim Colony, Paraguay was their Sinai, and the Nazi conquest of eastern Europe and Russia inspired the hope that they might find a new promised land there. At least some of them embraced völkisch ideology and claimed "Aryan" bloodlines, and they actively sought to regain German citizenship and repatriation to Europe for their group. For them the defeat of Germany, the dashing of their hopes for deliverance, and the uncertainty of their future was yet another trauma, which led to tensions and violence among them. Eicher also places these two groups in the larger context of German emigrants in Latin America, a group which was generally misunderstood by the regime in Germany (which sought their support), and the Allies' governments (who believed Nazi propaganda that Auslandsdeutsche were potential fifth columnists).

Exiled Among Nations' wide topical, temporal, and geographic scope and theoretical sophistication are especially impressive because the book remains relatively brief (<300

pages), and it is Eicher's first monograph (his revised dissertation). It deserves a readership far beyond those interested in the history of Mennonites.

Winner of the DAAD/GSA Best Article Prize:

Margareta Ingrid Christian, "Telluric Poetics: The City and Its Natural Histories in Thomas Kling's Poem 'Manhattan Mundraum,'" *German Studies Review* 43.3 (2020): pp. 571-92.

2021 Prize Committee: Qina Shen (Bryn Mawr College; Committee Chair), Pieter Judson (European University Institute), and Lorie Vanचना (University of Kansas).

Laudatio:

Thomas Kling (1957-2005), a towering figure in German postwar poetry, is perhaps himself largely responsible for his own obscurity today. His poetry is idiosyncratic, absurd, compact, thus for most readers alienating and incomprehensible. Professor Margareta Ingrid Christian laudably tackles Kling's difficult work and deftly reveals the brilliance and ingenuity of his poetry. In Kling's "Manhattan Mundraum,"

Manhattan is spatialized as “a cavernous mouth” or “a paleontological forest,” and its skyscrapers are “teeth” or “fossilized trees.” Kling thus depicts the geophysical city in anatomical and paleopoetic metaphor. Through his innovative and multivalent poetic vehicle called Sprachkörper, the geological, the biological, and the archeological converge. Christian explores the linguistic corporeality and material language employed in Kling’s poem, and makes fascinating juxtapositions between language and earth, etymology and paleography, as well as philology and nature. Christian provides illuminating and intriguing readings, pointing out semantic multivalences of words and Kling’s ambitious representation of the city as body and the city as text. Christian compares Kling’s depiction of geophysical burrows of the New York subway system, for example, to the folds of a human brain and to the subtexts or “undertexts” of the poem. Readers can feel both Kling’s and Christian’s joy in encoding and decoding, respectively, words such as Mund (implicitly also Mündung) and Zunge (implicitly also Landzunge). Mund and Zunge, for example, could further form a nexus with Kling’s poetry readings which he calls Sprachinstallationen, complementing the visual quality of his texts with an acoustic di-

mension. In the end, Christian discovers the pathos in Kling’s apparently unfeeling, unapproachable poetry. He is in fact a Sprachekstatiker. Moreover, his linguistic erudition exudes what Christian calls a “linguistic intemperance,” which makes Kling’s work both vexing and appealing.

Christian’s original approach resembles that of a geologist who penetrates the semantic, textual, and cultural strata of Kling’s telluric poetics. She is also an archeologist, as she excavates memories from New York’s past and present and word-treasures from Kling’s poem, as well as a biologist, as she dissects Kling’s corporeal language, with Klingian incisiveness and ease. Christian’s essay also displays impressive scholarly breadth and draws on Benn, Goethe, Stifter, Celan, Sebald, and Kafka when discussing Kling’s intellectual interlocutors. Christian embraces the unwieldy text of Kling, peeling away its semantic and cultural layers—no small task—thus making sense of its seeming nonsense and rendering inaccessible poetry accessible. This prize-winning article also successfully brings together culture and nature, Geistes- and Naturwissenschaft, as well as Germany and America. Congratulations, Dr. Christian!

The GSA Prize for the Best Essay in German Studies by a Graduate Student:

Philip Decker, Princeton University: “Wagner in Moscow, Glinka in Berlin: An Exchange of Operas during the Molotov-Ribbentrop Years”

2021 Prize Committee: A. Dana Weber (Florida State University; Committee Chair), Eric Kurlander (Stetson University), and Ervin Malakaj (University of British Columbia).

Laudatio:

Philip Decker was awarded the 2021 GSA Prize for the Best Essay by a Graduate Student for “Wagner in Moscow, Glinka in Berlin: An Exchange of Operas during the Molotov-Ribbentrop Years.” The essay concerns the brief period of rapprochement between the USSR and Nazi Germany 1939-1941. Decker brings this era to life through an innovative examination of a set of opera performances that call into question received understandings about the cultural transfer between the two countries at that time. The essay expands existing historiography by means of a nuanced cross-medial analysis of the productions’ complex political, artistic, and social contexts. It considers their emergence and reception and

thereby uncovers how those involved found value in the cultural exchanges surrounding the productions and were genuinely invested in these exchanges. “Wagner in Moscow, Glinka in Berlin: An Exchange of Operas during the Molotov-Ribbentrop Years” challenges views that consider the period’s German-Russian relations as fundamentally insincere and self-interested. On the contrary, as Decker demonstrates, cultural exchanges—no matter how politically controlled—generated open-ended artistic outcomes not entirely subject to political lockstep. Decker’s command of big-picture historiography, which the essay carefully brings in conversation with individual artistic practices, impressed the committee. As did the author’s ingenuity and sophistication in developing the analysis that eloquently brings together transnational expertise and methodology to examine a complicated and controversial historical topic.

2021 Honorable Mention, German Studies Association Graduate Student Essay Prize:

Kimberly Cheng, New York University: “The Trial

of Lam See-Woh: Chinese Men and German Women in Hamburg, 1933–1947”

Laudatio:

Kimberly Cheng was awarded an Honorable Mention for the 2021 GSA Prize for the Best Essay by a Graduate Student with the submission “The Trial of Lam See-Woh: Chinese Men and German Women in Hamburg, 1933–1947.” This essay offers important insights about the history of racialization of Chinese men in Germany during the Nazi era and the first years after its end. It does so by carefully reconstructing the turbulent relationship between a Chinese man and a German woman by drawing on various official documents. The submission persuasively offers what would be an urgent study detailing the complexities attending interracial relationality that complicates assumptions about citizenship, gender, and race during this period. The committee was impressed with the meticulous archival work and contextualization of the documents.

2021 Winner of the Sybil Halpern Milton Memorial Book Prize:

Lukasz Krzyzanowski,

Ghost Citizens: Jewish Return to a Postwar City (Harvard University Press, 2020, translated by Madeline G. Levine)

2021 Prize Committee: Doris L. Bergen (University of Toronto; Committee Chair), Neil Gregor (University of Southampton), and Todd Presner (University of California Los Angeles).

Laudatio:

The 2021 Sybil Halpern Milton Memorial Book Prize has been awarded to Professor Lukasz Krzyzanowski (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw) for *Ghost Citizens: Jewish Return to a Postwar City*, translated by Madeline G. Levine (Harvard University Press, 2020). *Ghost Citizens: Jewish Return to a Postwar City* is a bold, honest, and extremely important book. Drawing on an extraordinary collection of Jewish Committee documents from 1945-1950, plus archives in five countries, haunting photographs, and original interviews, Krzyzanowski analyzes the lived experience of Jewish Holocaust survivors in the Polish city of Radom. Every aspect of postwar existence was marked by Nazism and the Holocaust, he shows, and

the distance between Christian Poles, and the small and increasingly closed community of Jews became a chasm. Krzyzanowski brilliantly develops the concept of “ghost citizens” and grounds it in specific archival moments that are all

knowledge of the city and its people informs his study in significant ways. Originally published in Polish, this book brings into the light issues that remain controversial and timely for Poles, Germans, and anyone who cares about how people live

social, cultural, economic, political or labor history of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Germany or Central Europe. The submission deadline for this prize is **31 March, 2022**, although earlier submissions are welcomed. For further up-to-date information on committee membership as well as nomination and submission procedures, check the [GSA website](#) after 20 December. Nominations and applications may be submitted for both the Barclay Book Prize and another GSA Book Prize in the same year, although no submission may receive more than one award.

**Thank you to our
Prize Committee
members**

the more powerful because he lets the difficult material speak for itself. He focuses on familiar themes – violence, communal life, and restitution of property – yet his innovative approach, a blend of everyday, social, legal, and local histories with close attention to material culture and deep respect for his subjects as historical actors, reveals interconnections that cut across the many stories that could be told and keeps us reading and reflecting.

Krzyzanowski navigates very sensitive terrain, and he does not make any easy polemical moves. He situates himself in the narrative to powerful effect; Krzyzanowski grew up in Radom, and his intimate

on after destruction. Beautifully translated by Madeline Levine, *Ghost Citizens* is a tour de force of historical scholarship and a profound and deeply humane book.

In 2022 the GSA will again make a number

of awards to be presented during the annual conference. We hope that as many members as possible will extend nominations and submissions.

For the second year, in 2022 the GSA will award the **David Barclay Book Prize** for the best monograph (in English or German) published in 2021 on the

**2022 Prize
Competitions
Announced**

In 2022 the **DAAD/ GSA Book Prize for the Best Book in History and Social Science** will be awarded to the best book in those fields published in 2021. The submission deadline for this prize is **31 March, 2022**, although earlier submissions are welcomed. For further up-to-date information on committee membership as well as nomination and submission procedures, check the [GSA website](#) after 20 December.

In 2022 the **DAAD/GSA Book Prize for the Best Book in Germanistik or Cultural Studies** will be awarded to the best book in those fields published in 2021. The submission deadline for this prize is **31 March, 2022**, although earlier submissions are welcomed. For further up-to-date information on committee membership as well as nomination and submission procedures, check the [GSA website](#) after 20 December.

The **DAAD/GSA Article Prize** will be awarded in 2022 for the best article in Germanistik or cultural studies that appeared in the German Studies Review in 2021. The submission deadline for this prize is **31 March, 2022**, although earlier submissions are welcomed. For further up-to-date information on committee membership as well as nomination and submission procedures, check the [GSA website](#) after 20 December.

The prize for the **Best Essay in German Studies by a Graduate Student** will again be awarded in 2022. Papers should be 6,000-

9,000 words in length. The winner is intended to be published in the German Studies Review. The submission deadline for this prize is **31 March, 2022**, although earlier submissions are welcomed. For further up-to-date information on committee membership as well as nomination and submission procedures, check the [GSA website](#) after 20 December.

Opportunities to Become Involved: Call for GSA Committee Volunteers

As GSA President, I'm delighted to invite you to volunteer to serve our association in a variety of capacities in the coming years.

We offer a wide range of possibilities: from elected positions on the Executive Board to appointed roles on the Program Committee, on our other standing committees, and in the interdisciplinary networks. We always seek a pool of moderators and commentators for panels at our annual conference, and in 2022 we will develop new working groups that will help determine focus areas for our upcoming Strategic Plan.

If you wish to be considered for one of these opportunities and can put in the time

and effort to serve, please sign up!

You may express your interest in one or more positions (and/or nominate another GSA member) by navigating to this short form: <https://forms.gle/jjioJ4YJadiJo7Ax9>.

Needless to say, we will not be able to act on all (self-) nominations, but we deeply appreciate your suggested contributions so that we can continue to expand the number of members who serve the GSA now and in the future. We will renew this call for volunteers on a regular basis.

If you have questions about deepening your commitment to the GSA in ways that will best suit your own interests and professional development, please do not hesitate to email me (president@thegsa.org) and/or our Executive Director Margaret Menninger (director@thegsa.org).

On behalf of the GSA Executive Council and Executive Board, I thank you for your willingness to provide valuable service that sustains and improves our association.

Sincerely,

Janet Ward, GSA President

GSA Archives Committee Report 2021: Aktuelles aus deutschen Archiven

Gliederung:

- 1.) Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln
- 2.) Bundesarchiv
- 3.) GSA Archives Committee¹

1) Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln

Seit dem Einsturz des Historischen Archivs der Stadt Köln vor über zwölf Jahren wurde regelmäßig im Archives Committee Report über den Sachstand berichtet. Dies wird nun voraussichtlich der letzte Bericht sein, denn der Neubau hat gute Fortschritte gemacht und der Bezug steht bevor.²

Das neue Archivgebäude befindet sich mit einer Gesamtfläche von etwa 22.000 m² am Eifelwall im Südosten der Kölner Innenstadt und damit in unmittelbarer Nähe zur Universität. Dort werden in den nächsten Wochen alle Abteilungen des Kölner Stadtarchivs und alles Archivgut zusammengeführt. Bereits jetzt sind Leitung und große Teile von Verwaltung und archivischen Sachgebieten am Eifelwall eingezogen. Genutzt wird der Neubau gemeinsam mit dem Rheinischen Bildarchiv, einer städtischen Dienststelle, die eine umfangreiche Bildersammlung zur Kunstgeschichte, etliche fotografische Sammlungen und einen eigenen Betrieb zur Erstellung hochwertiger fotografischer Reproduktionen unterhält. Dieser Archivzweckbau verfügt über eine innovative technische Ausstattung, die optimale Bedingungen für die Lagerung, Bearbeitung und Nutzung von Archivgut bietet. Während für die Mitarbeitenden die Zweckmäßigkeit der Räumlichkeiten und die möglichst weitgehende Schonung des fragilen Materials bei

der Planung im Mittelpunkt stand, sind die für die Öffentlichkeit zugänglichen Bereiche im Erdgeschoss und im ersten Obergeschoss darauf angelegt, den Aufenthalt angenehm werden zu lassen. Hier befinden sich unter anderem ein Ausstellungsraum, der klimatisch und hinsichtlich der erreichbaren Lichtverhältnisse auch gehobenen Ansprüchen genügt, und ein Lesesaal, der ausreichende Platzreserven und alle Möglichkeiten zum gleichzeitigen digitalen und analogen Arbeiten bietet. Ein Seminarraum, ein größerer Veranstaltungsraum mit Cateringmöglichkeit und ein teilbarer Raum für Gruppenarbeiten vervollständigen diesen Bereich.

Das Gebäude selbst ist markant: Der Magazinkubus, jener von den Architekten immer wieder als „Schatzhaus“ bezeichnete Kern des Gebäudes, wurde vom Maß des im Kölner Stadtarchiv verwendeten Archivkartons aus geplant. Von diesem Stülpedeckelkarton mit der Grundfläche eines Foliobandes und einer Höhe von 12 cm, vor knapp zehn Jahren als „rheinischer Archivkarton“ entwickelt, können nun auf sieben Etagen rechnerisch mehr als 45.000 Stück eingelagert werden. Das entspricht rund 50 lfd. km kartoniertem Archivgut. Zu diesen Magazinen kommen noch Flächen mit Planschränken und Spezialregalen für einige hunderttausend Karten, Pläne und Plakate sowie für die gut 60.000 Urkunden des Archivs.

Die bereits jetzt weitgehend arbeitsteilig organisierten Prozesse im Kölner Stadtarchiv werden mit dem Umzug in den Neubau noch einer Revision unterzogen. Ziel ist die voll-

1 The Archives Committee consists of Jennifer Rodgers, Malgorzata Swider, Gehard Wineberg, Meike Werner, and Rainer Hering (chair).

2 Diese Ausführungen basieren auf einem Bericht von Dr. Ulrich Fischer vom Historischen Archiv der Stadt Köln vom 24. Juni 2021. Er stellte auch die Fotos zur Verfügung.

ständige und medienbruchfreie Digitalisierung aller Abläufe, und zwar sowohl für die Wiederherstellung des im Einsturz beschädigten Archivguts als auch für die Bearbeitung neu übernommenen Materials.



Im letztjährigen Bericht wurde auf den Abschluss der Schadenersatzverhandlungen zwischen Stadt Köln und der Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Unternehmen des Stadtbahnbaus eingegangen. Diese ist inzwischen durch Zahlung der Unternehmen an Stadt und Kölner Verkehrsbetriebe abgewickelt. Politik und Verwaltungsspitze haben dies zum Anlass genommen, die bilanzielle Regelung der weiteren Wiederherstellungsarbeiten am Archivgut neu zu fassen. Zu diesem Zweck wurden die zu erwartenden Kosten für alle weiteren Konservierungs-, Restaurierungs- und Identifizierungsarbeiten neu kalkuliert. Die ermittelte Summe wurde in eine Rückstellung überführt, von der jährlich die angefallenen Personal- und

Sachkosten abgezogen werden. Die Höhe der Rückstellung wie auch die Tatbestände ihrer Inanspruchnahme werden regelmäßig überprüft, um so immer aktuelle Daten zu haben, vor allem aber auf Änderungen in Technik und Verfahren angemessen reagieren zu können. Die gute Na-

chricht für das Archiv ist in jedem Fall, dass die weitere Wiederherstellung hiermit budgetär abgesichert ist.

Mehr als 1,25 Mio. Verzeichnungseinheiten wurden bislang beschrieben und stehen damit grundsätzlich für Recherche und Benutzung zur Verfügung. Aber es gibt auch Bestandszuwächse: So hat der bedeutende Kölner Architekt Paul Böhm wie schon sein Vater und sein Großvater die Überlieferung seines

Büros an das Stadtarchiv abgegeben. Neu übernommen wurde der Altbestand des Amtes für Vermessung und Kataster, was nicht nur den Zulauf von vielen wichtigen historischen Karten bedeutet, sondern auch einen Zuwachs an Digitalisaten.

Bald nach der Einweihung des Neubaus wird im Rahmen einer großen Ausstellung das Problemfeld des „Gedächtnisses“ angerissen. Unter dem Titel „Vergiss es! Nicht. Vom Erinnern und Vergessenwerden. Eine Ausstellung des Historischen Archivs der Stadt Köln“ untersucht das Archiv die Frage der Selektivität von Erinnerung, der Identitätsstiftung durch gemeinsame Erinnerung, von der Rolle des Archivs als „Stadtgedächtnis“ bis

zum Verwischen der Erinnerung durch neurologische Prozesse des Vergessens oder der Demenz. Die Ausstellung wird mit einem umfangreichen Vortragsprogramm vom 19. Oktober bis ins Frühjahr 2022 laufen.

Bundesländern. Der Zugang zu diesen Akten erfolgt weiterhin nach dem Stasi-Unterlagen-Gesetz.

Digitalisierung

In der ersten Januarhälfte 2021 konnte die 100.000.



2.) Bundesarchiv

Das Stasi-Unterlagen-Archiv wird Teil des Bundesarchivs

Mit dem 17. Juni 2021 ging die Verantwortung für das Stasi-Unterlagen-Archiv auf das Bundesarchiv über. Zu den aktuell ca. 930 Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeitern des Bundesarchivs werden mehr als 1350 Kolleginnen und Kollegen der Stasi-Unterlagen-Behörde in Berlin und den Außenstellen hinzukommen. Die Menge des Schriftguts, das beim Bundesarchiv aufbewahrt wird, wird um ca. 110 km auf über 540 km anwachsen. Die Stasi-Akten verbleiben in Berlin und den östlichen

digitalisierte Akte online im Recherchesystem invenio zur Verfügung gestellt werden. Damit sind aktuell mehr als 20 Millionen einzelne Seiten online recherchierbar. Digitalisierungsschwerpunkte im Bereich Schriftgut liegen im Bundesarchiv aktuell bei Quellen zur Militär- und zur Kolonialgeschichte sowie bei Quellen zur Weimarer Republik, die über das Portal „Weimar – Die erste deutsche Demokratie“ zugänglich gemacht werden. So wurde der Bestand R 1601 Reichsministerium für die besetzten Gebiete vollständig digitalisiert. Das Reichsministerium wurde 1923 errichtet, um Verwaltungsaufgaben in den in Folge des Versailler Vertrages von alliierten Truppen besetzten Gebi-

eten an Rhein und Ruhr wahrzunehmen. Mit dem Ende der Rheinlandbesetzung 1930 wurde es aufgelöst.



In den kommenden Jahren wird ein Schwerpunkt auf zentralen zivilen und militärischen Unterlagen der deutschen Geschichte bis 1945 liegen. Daneben wird die benutzungsgesteuerte Digitalisierung als Digitalisierung-on-Demand-Dienst (DoD) weiter ausgebaut werden. Ein weiterer wichtiger Bestandteil wird in den nächsten Jahren die Digitalisierung von Akten zur Wiedergutmachung von nationalsozialistischem Unrecht und deren Bereitstellung in einem Onlineportal sein. Damit unterstützt das Bundesarchiv ein ambitioniertes Vorhaben des für Wiedergutmachung und Entschädigung zuständigen Bundesministeriums der Finanzen.

Zusätzlich zu dieser inhaltlichen Fokussierung bleibt die Digitalisierung als Mittel der Bestandserhaltung ein weiterer wichtiger Baustein. Hier werden in den kommenden Jahren vor allem die

Bestände der Abteilung Personenbezogene Auskünfte (PA), der ehemaligen Deutschen Dienststelle, mit den dort verwahrten umfangreichen Karteien digital zu sichern sein, um Verluste aus konservatorischen Gründen zu verhindern. Gleichzeitig

sollen damit perspektivisch die Recherchezeiten deutlich reduziert werden.

Gedenkbuch „Opfer der Verfolgung der Juden unter der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft in Deutschland 1933–1945“

Die Online-Version des Gedenkbuchs „Opfer der Verfolgung der Juden unter der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft in Deutschland 1933–1945“ wurde überarbeitet und ist jetzt in neuem Layout und mit neuen Funktionen verfügbar. Dort werden jüdische Opfer der Shoah aus Deutschland namentlich aufgeführt, die zwischen 1933 und 1945 ihren Wohnsitz im Deutschen Reich hatten. Die Gruppe der hier zusammengetragenen „jüdischen Opfer“ umfasst die Personen, die aufgrund der nationalsozialistischen

Rassenideologie als Jüdinnen und Juden verfolgt wurden, ungeachtet ihrer tatsächlichen Staats- und Religionsangehörigkeit. Der geografische Bezugsrahmen ist das Deutsche Reich in den Grenzen vom 31. Dezember 1937, das heißt vor der Annexion Österreichs und des Sudetenlands sowie ohne die Gebietseroberungen im Zuge des Zweiten Weltkriegs. Wohnsitznahmen infolge von Zwangsumsiedlungen bleiben außerhalb der Betrachtung.

Ausgehend von der Initiative der israelischen Gedenkstätte Yad Vashem begannen die Länder und Gemeinden der Bundesrepublik Deutschland im Jahr 1960 damit, Quellen zur ehemaligen jüdischen Bevölkerung zusammenzustellen. Diese sollten die Grundlage für ein Gedenkbuch für die Opfer der Shoah bilden. Die Bundesregierung beauftragte das Bundesarchiv mit der Koordination der Recherche für ein solches Gedenkbuch. Dessen erste Auflage erschien 1986 unter dem Titel „Opfer der Verfolgung der Juden unter der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft in Deutschland 1933-1945“ und verzeichnete ungefähr 128.000 Namen. Das zweibändige Werk war in enger Zusammenarbeit mit dem Internationalen Suchdienst des Roten Kreuzes (ITS) in Bad Arolsen entstanden und beruhte im Wesentlichen auf den in den heutigen Arolsen Archives vorhandenen Quellen.

Die zweite Auflage des Gedenkbuchs konnte unter völlig veränderten politischen Rahmenbedingungen erarbeitet werden. Durch den Fall der Mauer und des „Eisernen Vorhangs“ standen deutlich mehr Quellen zur Verfügung, die ausgewertet werden und in das Werk einfließen konnten. Diese nunmehr vier Bände umfassende Auflage erschien im Jahr 2006 und verzeichnete die Namen von 149.625 Todesopfern der nationalsozialistischen Judenverfolgung.

Seit dem Jahr 2007 bietet das Bundesarchiv eine

Online-Version des Gedenkbuchs auf seiner Internetseite an. Die Arbeit am Gedenkbuch ist bis heute nicht abgeschlossen, sondern wird kontinuierlich als eigenes Aufgabengebiet fortgesetzt. Nach wie vor ist das Bundesarchiv zum einen um die Vervollständigung und zum anderen um die Pflege und Aktualisierung der Daten durch Erschließung bisher noch nicht berücksichtigter Quellen bemüht. Die Publikation einer weiteren gedruckten Auflage ist nicht beabsichtigt.

Im online verfügbaren Gedenkbuch „Opfer der Verfolgung der Juden unter der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft in Deutschland 1933-1945“ kann mittels einer Suchmaske gezielt nach Personen recherchiert werden. In der zugrunde liegenden Datenbank werden personenbezogene Daten sowie nach Möglichkeit Daten über einzelne Stationen der Verfolgung dokumentiert.

Angeboten wird eine einfache „Namensuche“, mit der im Gedenkbuch nach Personennamen gesucht werden kann und, für komplexere Recherchen, eine „Erweiterte Suche“. Dort lassen sich beispielsweise alle Personen mit einem bestimmten Geburtsort auslesen. In der „Erweiterten Suche“ können Suchwörter und Daten kombiniert werden. Damit lassen sich etwa alle im Gedenkbuch dokumentierten Personen ermitteln, die mit einem bestimmten Transport deportiert wurden.

In der neuen Version des Gedenkbuchs besteht unter anderem die Möglichkeit, Ergebnislisten einer Recherche als csv-Datei mit den Datenfeldern Nachname, Vorname, Geburtsort und Geburtsdatum exportieren zu können.

Neu verfasst oder überarbeitet wurden im Online-Gedenkbuch weiterführende Informationen zur Entstehung des Gedenkbuchs, zur Verfolgung und Ermordung der jüdischen Bevölkerung im Deutschen Reich 1933-1945 und zur Abschiebung polnischer Juden aus dem Deutschen Reich

1938/39. Wie bisher wird eine chronologische Auflistung der Deportationen aus dem Deutschen Reich (hier einschließlich Österreichs, des Protektorats Böhmen und Mähren und der sudetendeutschen Gebiete), aus Belgien, Frankreich, Luxemburg und den Niederlanden bereitgestellt.

3.) Grundsätzlich steht das Archives Committee für Fragen, Probleme und Hinweise zum Archivwesen im deutschsprachigen Bereich zur Verfügung. Auch Anregungen und Vorschläge für Veranstaltungen auf GSA-Konferenzen werden gern entgegengenommen. Sofern Mitglieder Erfahrungen mit der Anwendung der Informationsfreiheitsgesetze in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland haben, wird um Rückmeldung gebeten.

Rainer Hering, Landesarchiv Schleswig-Holstein, Prinzenpalais, 24837 Schleswig, Germany (rainer.hering@la.landsh.de)

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In Memorium

Thomas Arthur Baylis (1937-2020)

Tom first visited Berlin in 1958, before the construction of the Berlin Wall. He returned to that city many times for the next fifty years. Berlin became the cultural and intellectual center of his life. There he conducted much of his research and met scholars, among them East as well as West Berliners, who became colleagues and friends. His first book, *The Technical Intelligentsia and the East German Elite: Legitimacy and Social Change in Mature Communism* (University of California Press, 1974, recently reissued in the “Voices Revived” series), traces the development of the cooperative and at times embattled relationship between technical expertise and the Communist party of the new German Democratic Republic (GDR). This topic, he noted, required a supple comparative methodology to identify “the weight to be assigned new ideological pronouncements, the relative importance of technological innovation and organizational inertia, the impact of formal norms on informal behavior.” All of these factors and more, he added, “can seldom be measured so well from outside a society as from within it” (xvii). His goal in this first book was to do just that by gathering and sifting material from different sources, including the limited statistical information that was available at that time, along with interviews and anecdotal reports. He identified repeated shifts in relations between Communist leadership and the managers and workers who were essential to the economic success of the GDR but not necessarily attentive to Communist party goals and protocols. As scholars began to recognize that the GDR constituted a legitimate field of inquiry, Tom Baylis and Henry Krusch founded the GDR Studies Association, one of several research ventures that examined the role of the GDR in the geopolitics of post-war Europe.

In his second book, *Governing by Committee: Collegial Leadership in Advanced Societies* (Albany: State University of New York, 1989), Tom argued that collegial leadership remains as much aspiration as outcome in the sixteen advanced Western and Communist states whose forms of governance he compares. Collegial decision making, he explains, may take place behind the facade of a single great (or infamous) leader. Alternatively, collegial and democratic governing bodies may mask or enable monocratic tendencies in nations and corporations. Archie Brown, Emeritus Professor of Politics, University of Oxford and Emeritus Fellow of St Antony’s College, Oxford, remarks that “among specialists on Communist politics, especially those who worked on East Germany, Tom Baylis was highly regarded. It was, however, his comparative study devoting more space to Western countries than to states under Communist rule which I regard as his finest work. *Governing by Committee* is, moreover, a book no less relevant today than when it was published more than thirty years ago.”

His third book, *The West and Eastern Europe: Economic Statecraft and Political Change*, 1994, written with the support of the Twentieth-Century Fund, assessed political and economic frictions and relations between the West and Eastern Europe after the collapse of the USSR. Published when Western economic policies toward the former Eastern Communist countries were entrenched in Cold War rhetoric and policy, the book argues that Western foreign policy would do well to become less preoccupied with identifying east European markets for Western goods and more committed to offering targeted financial support and expertise that might assist modernization across the economies of eastern Europe.

At the time of his death, Tom had completed another book manuscript, provisionally titled “Changing Elites and Transforming Institutions,” which examines political leadership in Eastern Europe from 1990 into the early 2000’s. Returning, as he had throughout his career, to Max Weber’s perhaps over-confident assertion that charismatic leaders would disappear in modern society, Tom identified recent crises in leadership that have produced populist and charismatic leaders who have imperilled democratic forms of governance. In his last months, he worried that the rise of populism and neo-corporatism had weakened the hold of democratic principles in the West.

Collegial Leadership was Tom’s favorite of his books. Although he might not have put it this way, I think this preference conveys his personal as well as scholarly disposition. He listened to others’ claims when he might have insisted on his own considerable grasp of comparative politics as a global set of problems and choices. Colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic recall Tom’s interest in scholars at all levels of their careers. Henry Krisch, Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science, University of Connecticut, describes him as others saw him: “Tom was, for me, much more than a valuable colleague. He guided and encouraged me selflessly and to my great benefit.” Gert-Joachim Glaeßner, Professor Emeritus of Political Science and German Politics at Humboldt University, Berlin, notes that Tom “did not insist in having the right answers but helped me to put the right questions in search for a reliable answer in a calm, decent and kind way, with a very specific personal wit.” A. James McAdams, William M. Scholl Professor of International Affairs at the University of Notre Dame, who was a graduate student when he met Tom, recalled that he “was actually interested in what I had to say. And, yes, it was all about collegiality. Meeting Tom gave me the kind of boost I needed to think that I could make my own contributions.” Ann L. Phillips, Senior Advisor at the United States Institute of Peace

in Washington, DC, remarks that Tom’s “intellectual integrity stood out during the period following the fall of the Berlin Wall and unification when many GDR scholars in the US and West Germany suddenly became one-dimensional critics of East Germany. Not Tom. He remained always the principled scholar and a cherished colleague.”

Other friends and colleagues echo these recollections, among them Heinrich Bortfeldt, Ursula Hoffmann-Lange, Gero Neugebauer, Helga Welsh, Stephen Amberg, John Higley, Zoltan Barany, John Gunnell, Marc Silberman and Edward Friedman. On our last visit to Berlin in 2017, Tom did what he always did in that city. He went to concerts, looked at art, walked through the city’s neighborhoods and met old friends, as happy to be there as he had been on so many other visits. In friendship as in scholarship, Tom was there for the long haul, steady and clear eyed in his attention to how the political and social fabric of Europe and Berlin had changed from the post-war era to the present.

Theresa M. Kelley

Jost Hermand (1930–2021)

Jost Hermand, Vilas Research Professor Emeritus of German at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Honorary Professor of German at the Humboldt-Universität Berlin, died suddenly and unexpectedly on October 9, 2021 in Madison at the age of 91. Throughout his long and distinguished career as a scholar and teacher, he contributed *avant la lettre* to the transformation of Germanistik into German Studies, defining the field of cultural history with his pathbreaking, interdisciplinary studies on literature, drama, poetry, music and opera, art and architecture, Jewish studies, ecology, and popular culture. Born in 1930 in Berlin, he was forced into the Hitler Youth and, as he describes in his bestselling 1993 autobiography, was evacuated to Poland when Allied bombing

threatened Berlin (*Als Pimpf in Polen: Erweiterung Kinderlandverschickung, 1940-1945*, translated into English in 1997 as *A Hitler Youth in Poland*). Growing up with a language impediment, he was unable to find employment as a teacher despite his dissertation (summa cum laude) at the Universität Marburg. Instead one of his mentors, the art historian Richard Hamann, recruited him to (help) write the five-volume cultural history of the Kaiserreich, published by the Akademie der Künste in East Berlin, where he lived and conducted research for two years before he was expelled in 1957. Unemployable in West Germany during the height of the Cold War owing to his affiliation with the East German Akademie Verlag, his dissertation advisor, Friedrich Sengle, recommended him for an assistant professorship at the University of Wisconsin, which Hermand was offered and accepted, mutually sight-unseen. The rest is history. Hermand learned English (quickly, despite his stutter), revitalized the Department of German with strategic hires in the course of the 1960s, and put it on the map as one of the highest ranked and largest graduate programs in North America. Meanwhile he helped establish the International Brecht Society and its annual yearbook in the early 1970s, founded the annual Wisconsin Workshop that celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2017, co-edited the journal *Basis: Jahrbuch für Gegenwartsliteratur* for Suhrkamp Verlag, established a respected, interdisciplinary book series under the title “German Life and Civilization” at Peter Lang Publishing that continues today, authored over 65 monographs and co-authored an additional 10 volumes (Hermand’s 44-page publication list is available for download at his homepage: <https://gns.wisc.edu/staff/hermand-jost/>).

Hermand’s entire professional life was characterized by his sympathy for the downtrodden, probably the consequence of the horrible bullying he had experienced as a child in Nazi Germany. It is probably no coincidence that as a literary scholar,

Hermand was a passionate defender and interpreter of Heinrich Heine and Bertolt Brecht, undoubtedly his two favorite writers. He catalyzed interest in both of them through his work in the German- and English-speaking worlds, inspiring generations of students and colleagues to share his critical enthusiasm. Indeed, Hermand was an expert for precisely the authors and movements the Nazis despised. Later he turned his attention to and became personally acquainted with Brecht’s most important German heir, Heiner Müller, whose work he helped bring to the United States. A legendary teacher and lecturer, he was but an occasional contributor to the German Studies Association. His first conference attendance was in 1983 at the annual conference held in Madison, and thereafter he participated in at least six additional conferences.

One of Hermand’s late books features the title *Vorbilder: Partisanenprofessoren im geteilten Deutschland* (2014). If a second, posthumous edition of that book were to be published now, in the wake of the author’s death, the final chapter would have to be devoted to Jost Hermand himself, who was an exemplary role model and in every way a “partisan professor” in both a divided Germany and an all-too-divided United States. The world of German Studies has lost one of its most devoted and influential leaders.

See the announcement at the University of Wisconsin-Madison:

<https://gns.wisc.edu/2021/10/11/defining-the-discipline/>

See the Hermand Tribute of the International Brecht Society:

<https://e-cibs.org/tribute-to-jost-hermand/>

Stephen Brockmann, Carnegie Mellon University
Marc Silberman, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Eric D. Weitz (1953-2021)

Before I ever met Eric Weitz, I was a fan of his early work on German Communism. As a grad student in the early 1990s trying to find a way to write about Weimar politics that accounted for gender, the street-level workings of party propaganda, and cultures of daily life, Eric's work inspired me in deep and lasting ways. When I finally met him during my stint at Beloit College, we bonded over being a couple of East Coast fish out of water in the upper midwest. Though he was incredibly accomplished, he always treated me as an equal, from when I was a junior professor to our work in recent years at the CUNY Graduate Center. At the Grad Center, Eric left a huge impact on our Ph.D. students in the foundational first-year literature seminar on modern European historiography as well as his course on human rights. He demonstrated how the historian can maintain critical perspective without losing sight of the humanity of historical actors. As one of his students put it, he was a serious mensch.

In addition to his first-class monographs, Eric's *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy* has become the go-to textbook for many of us who teach Weimar Germany. Channeling the spirit of the flaneur for modern-day readers, the book takes us on a stroll through Berlin and its intersecting worlds of high and low, attentive to fine details and sweeping panoramas. My students have been so lucky to have such a smart, amiable guide into these pasts. Eric's keen intellect and indomitable humanity shine through in this and all his works. A serious mensch, indeed.

Julia Scheeringer, Queens College & CUNY Graduate Center

A more comprehensive obituary may be found here:

<https://mndaily.com/268428/news/former-history-professor-and-scholar-of-modern-europe-eric-weitz-dies-at-68/>