



GERMAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

XLVIII, NUMBER 3 - WINTER 2023

2023

CONTENTS

Welcome to the Winter 2023 edition of the GSA Newsletter!

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[@GermanStudiesAssociation ~ LinkedIn](#)



[@theGSA.bsky.social ~ Bluesky](#)



[www.theGSA.org](#)

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear GSA Members and Friends,

It was energizing to see so many members at our conference in Montréal in October, sharing and vigorously discussing your work, catching up, and making future plans in numbers we haven't seen since before the pandemic. In my two years as vice president/president-elect and now my first as president, I have witnessed the depth of conviction of our membership and the tireless commitment many of you have made to sustaining our multi-generational association through unprecedented challenges. Your devotion to your German Studies research, the deeds and details that make both the GSA and the profession function, and supporting one another as a scholarly community is humbling and inspiring—all the more so given the vast inter- and multi-disciplinary breadth of German Studies and our diverse individual commitments to such a wide range of communities and parallel organizations, regionally within the United States and around the world.

My day-to-day association duties prove to me again and again that the GSA is so much more than our annual conference and the publication of our excellent thrice-yearly journal, *German Studies Review*. In that spirit, I encourage everyone to explore the “About” section of the GSA website to refresh your overview of the number of committees and activities that take place throughout the year and across physical and virtual spaces, as well as to recognize the scores of members and chairs who comprise and run them. If you are yourself inspired to get more involved or to suggest an initiative you don't see listed, please use this webform to register your interest or reach out to me directly at president@thegsa.org.

Getting involved could mean joining one of our twenty interdisciplinary networks, our journal and book series editorial boards, or dozen-plus standing and ad hoc committees, including the program committee that reviews submissions for conference presentations or sessions. Participation could also mean attending an online town hall, the annual in-person member meeting on the Thursday evening of the conference, or sending an email to an officer or board member to ask a question or share an idea. The creativity and concerns that come through those channels not only foster discussion, but they help shape the agenda for executive council and board meetings.

Highlights of recent association business can be found in the abbreviated board meeting minutes in the following pages. Plans for the coming year include: a thorough-going review of association's bylaws with an eye to an update to be approved by the general membership within two years; the expansion of our slate of awards to include a prize for exceptional mentoring; the establishment of a disability and accessibility task force; piloting a program for collaborative

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT.)

regional gatherings co-sponsored by the GSA and other allied entities; hosting an online event featuring the winners of the 2023 book, article, and essay prizes; providing online office hours with the president to discuss the GSA mission and governance structures; and transitioning the conference's undergraduate research panel from its pilot phase to a regular place on the program. None of this would come to life without the talent and resourcefulness of our part-time staff of highly regarded German Studies scholars, who also want to hear from and work with more of you!

As members, you can help shape the future of German Studies and GSA by participating in the upcoming elections in spring 2024. Each year, the GSA's nominating committee sends a slate of nominees to the secretary who distributes an electronic ballot via the newsletter and an announcement on the website. A simple majority of all votes is required for election. There will be positions open for: a graduate student representative to the board (for a term of two years, regardless of a change in status during the term); two at-large board members (one in the area of literature and cultural studies and one in history and social sciences, each broadly defined, for a term of three years); as well as a candidate for vice-president/president elect (this year from the area of literature and cultural studies broadly defined, who will serve as vice president for two years under now president-elect Damani Partridge and ascend to the presidency in 2027). If you are interested in nominating yourself or a colleague to be considered by the nominating committee for inclusion on the ballot, please reach out to the committee chair by the end of this calendar year. Nominations by petition are also possible. Per the bylaws, "Committee members should nominate scholars who are esteemed in their disciplines and have distinguished themselves in the past by their contributions to, and active participation in the Association. Normally, candidates nominated for Vice President will have served previously on the Board. ... Additional nominations may be made by members of the Association with nominating petitions signed by ten percent of the membership for each nominating petition and office. No member may sign more than one nominating petition for each office. The Nominating Committee shall include on the ballot individuals nominated by petition." And please remember to vote this spring!

We plan for the same spring newsletter where you will find the annual election ballot to also include a member survey. The survey is a first step in strategic planning, timed to coincide with the GSA's upcoming 50th anniversary in 2026. It will be designed by committee to seek inclusive input on an association mission statement and the main foci or pillars for the upcoming strategic plan. Specific sub-committees will be created around each pillar. Together, the committees will help set a comprehensive vision for merging our existing strengths with new signature initiatives and twenty-first century priorities. Reach out to me if you already know you want to be a part of the process; keep a lookout for newsletter and other announcements related to strategic planning in GSA emails and social media posts; and be sure to fill out the survey!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT.)

Lastly, for many of you, supporting the GSA might mean contributing to one of our dedicated funds or to the general support pool. Donations go to recognizing a given year's best books, articles, and essays; providing wider economic and structural access to the organization's activities; preserving and disseminating the history of the organization; and expanding those awards and activities into new realms under the board's leadership. Recognizing that overall engagement and participation are as valuable as the bottom line, our goal this year is to increase not only the amount we raise, but also the proportion of our membership who give. Even a gift in the amount of \$1 can make a difference in both those arenas. The donation portal can be found [here](#).

I am gratified that 2023 brought so many new members to the GSA. The area where we grew the most in terms of conference registration and attendance was in graduate student and contingent faculty numbers. That underscores how crucial it is that those of us in more secure positions and with access to resources carry our share while intentionally creating more room for the equal participation of those who historically have been harmed, excluded, marginalized, silenced, or discouraged in or around professional and learned societies. I look forward to continuing to find that kind of support in one another in the year ahead!

Sincerely,
Sara

Sara F. Hall
GSA President
Associate Professor of Germanic Studies, University of Illinois Chicago



CALL FOR RECENT DISSERTATIONS IN GERMAN STUDIES

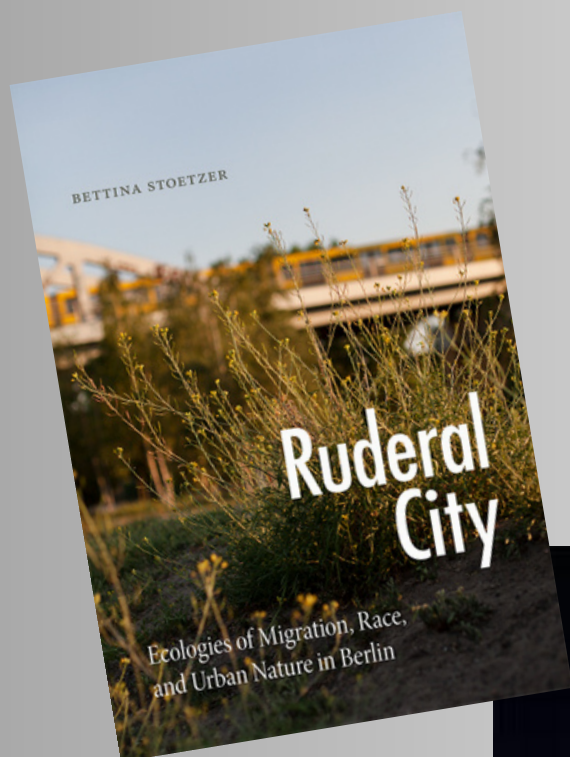


Help us spread the word about [recent dissertations](#) in the field(s) of German studies!

Please submit relevant information on this Google Form, either for your own dissertation or on e.g. an advisee's behalf:

<https://forms.gle/g3K4PGZcxiPm55Rw7>

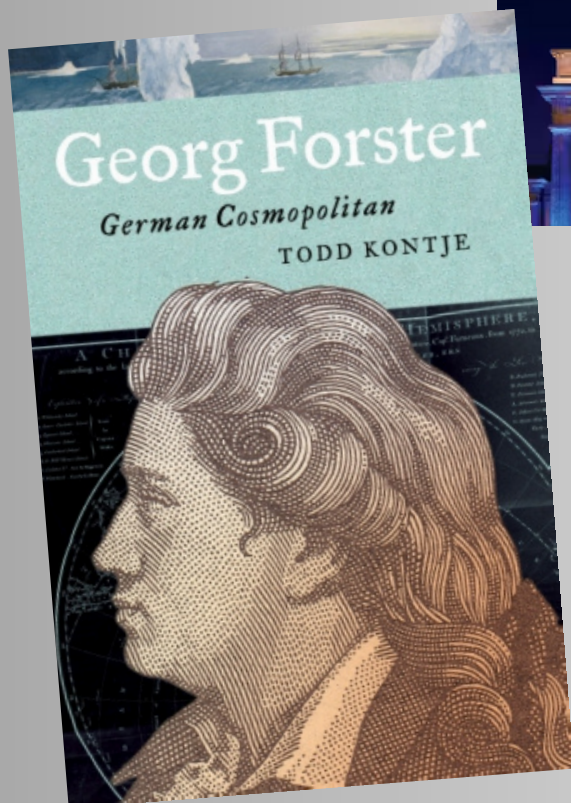
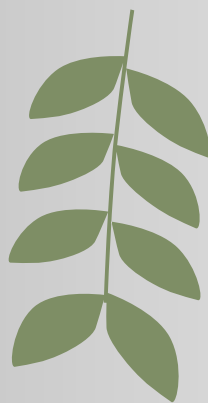
GSA 2023 BOOK PRIZE WINNERS



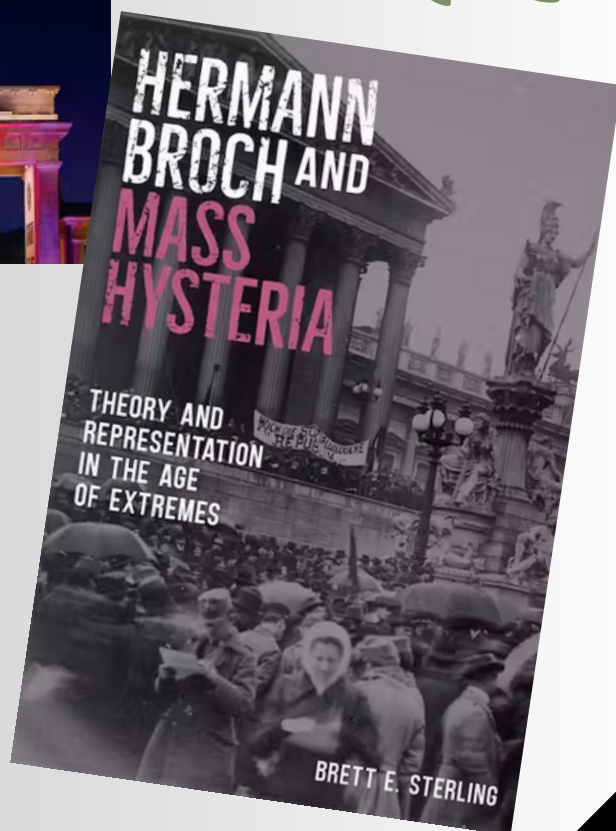
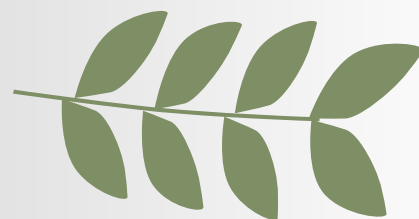
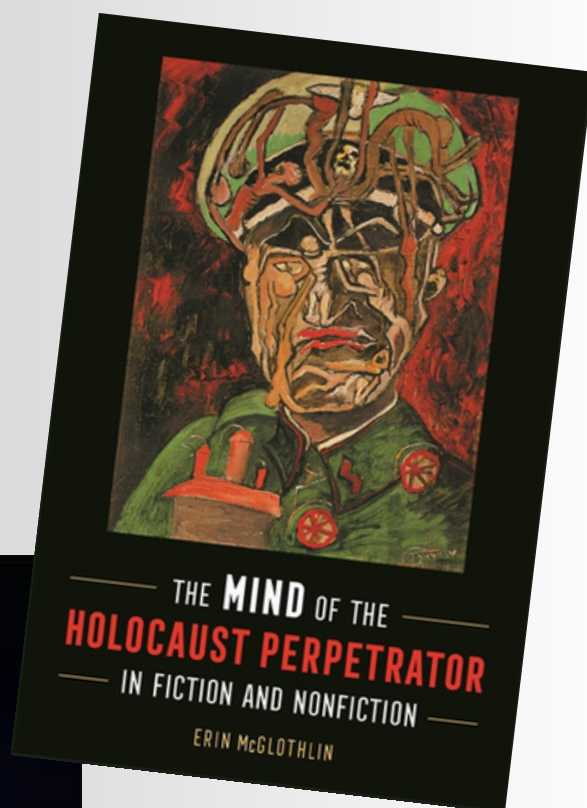
SAMUEL CLOWES HUNEKE

STATES OF LIBERATION

Gay Men between Dictatorship and
Democracy in Cold War Germany



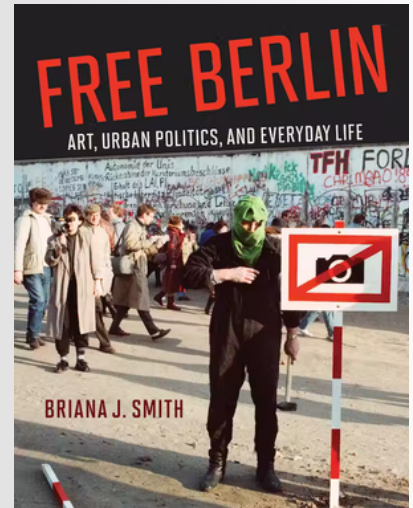
Click on the cover
images for prize
information and
winner *laudationes*



GSA 2023 PRIZE WINNERS CONTINUED

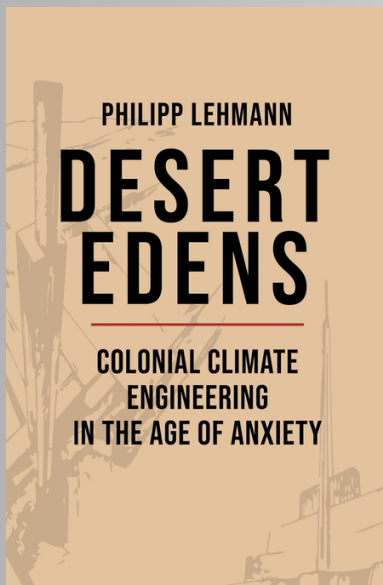
2023 Honorable Mention,
DAAD/GSA Book Prize for the Best Book in
Literature/Cultural Studies:

Briana Smith, *Free Berlin: Art, Urban Politics,
and Everyday Life*
(MIT Press, 2022)



2023 Honorable Mention,
DAAD/GSA Book Prize for the
Best Book in History/Social Sciences:

Philipp Lehmann, *Desert Edens:
Colonial Climate Engineering
in the Age of Anxiety*
(Princeton University Press, 2022)



2023 Winner of the DAAD/GSA Best Article Prize:
Yael Almog,
“Politics and Literary Capital
in Tomer Gardi's Broken German”
German Studies Review,
Vol. 45 Number 3, October 2022

2023 Winner of the GSA Prize for the
Best Essay in German Studies by a Graduate Student:

Christian Meyer (Oxford University),
“The Reception of Homoeroticism in the Works of Karl May:
A Case Study in the Intellectual History of Sexuality in Post-War
Germany”

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL 2023 PRIZE
RECIPIENTS!

INFORMATION FOR
NOMINATIONS FOR
2024 AWARDS WILL
BE POSTED TO THE
GSA WEBSITE
IN THE
NEW YEAR.

GSA 2023 PRIZE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The GSA thanks this year's prize committee members:

David Barclay Book Prize

Kenneth Ledford (Chair), Case Western Reserve University
Belinda Davis, Rutgers University
Corinna Treitel, Washington University in St. Louis

DAAD/GSA Prize for the Best Book in Literature and Cultural Studies

Jen William (Chair), Purdue University
Peter Chametzky, University of South Carolina
Elliott Schreiber, Vassar College

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

Annette F. Timm (Chair), University of Calgary
Jonathan Bach, The New School
Jason Coy, College of Charleston

Sybil Halpern Milton Memorial Book Prize

Thomas Kühne (Chair), Clark University
Daniel Magilow, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Thomas Pegelow-Kaplan, University of Colorado Boulder

GSA/DAAD Best Article Prize

Ari Joskowicz (Chair), Vanderbilt University
Joseph Perry, Georgia State University
Andrea Meyertholen, University of Kansas

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

Christopher Molnar (Chair), University of Michigan-Flint
Alice Weinreb, Loyola University Chicago
Kristie Foell, Bowling Green State University

Radomír Luža Prize for the Best Manuscript in

Austrian/Czechoslovak Studies in the World War II Era

Winfried Garscha, Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes
Andreas Kranebitter, Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes



GSA 2024 CONFERENCE

The Forty-Eighth Conference of the German Studies Association September 26–29, 2024 | Atlanta, Georgia

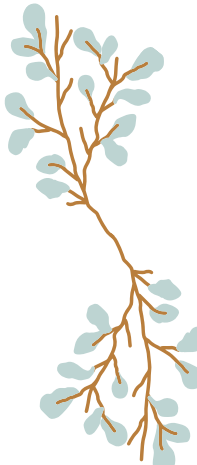
The German Studies Association's annual conference brings together over a thousand scholars to engage with research, teaching and public scholarship on German-speaking countries' diverse histories, cultures, languages, and politics in global contexts. We look forward to welcoming you in Atlanta next September!

We invite proposals for seminars, roundtables, (series of) panels, and individual papers. *Please note that seminar submissions run on a different deadlines schedule than other presentation formats.*

For information on submitting a proposal for a seminar, please consult our [call for seminar proposals](#). The deadline for submitting a seminar proposal is **January 16, 2024**. Approved seminars will be announced on the GSA website on **February 5, 2024**. Applications to participate in a seminar will be due on **February 23, 2024**.

For information on submitting a proposal for a roundtable, panel (series), or an individual paper, please consult our [call for non-seminar proposals](#). The deadline for submitting a proposal is **March 18, 2024**.

GSA 2024 SUBMISSION SCHEDULE



2 January

conference submission portal opens for all proposals

16 January (11:59pm PST)

seminar topic proposals due

5 February

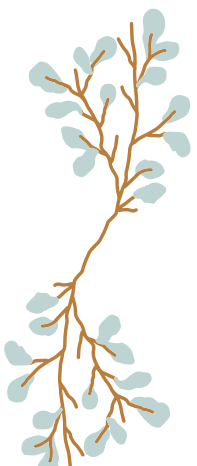
approved seminars announced on GSA website

23 February (11:59pm PST)

seminar participation applications due

18 March (11:59pm PDT)

all paper, panel, and roundtable proposals due



GSA 2024 CONFERENCE

CfA: Emerging Scholars Workshop 2024

"Global German Studies and the Politics of Belonging"
Deadline to apply: January 29, 2024

We are excited to issue this call for the next Emerging Scholars Workshop (ESW) to be hosted at the 48th German Studies Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 26–29, 2024. This workshop is only open to graduate students.

The ESW will run parallel to the established seminars, regular conference sessions, and roundtables. It will convene Friday through Sunday, 8am–10am. Participants must commit to participating in all three workshop meetings. For general conference information, see <https://www.thegsa.org/conference>.

Over the past decade or so, graduate programs across the country have contracted. Now, fewer graduate students encounter fewer regular graduate courses, which have also become more general in content to meet satisfactory enrollment. As a result, much of the specialized, yet crucial field training has moved into one-on-one tutorials and directed readings. The ESW gives an up-and-coming cohort of scholars access to leading faculty in their fields. It increases the advice and mentoring they receive and cultivates a sustained professional conversation. The goal is to enable the next generation of Germanists to produce their best possible work, be competitive across fields, and contribute to the vitality, relevance, and productivity of our fields at large.

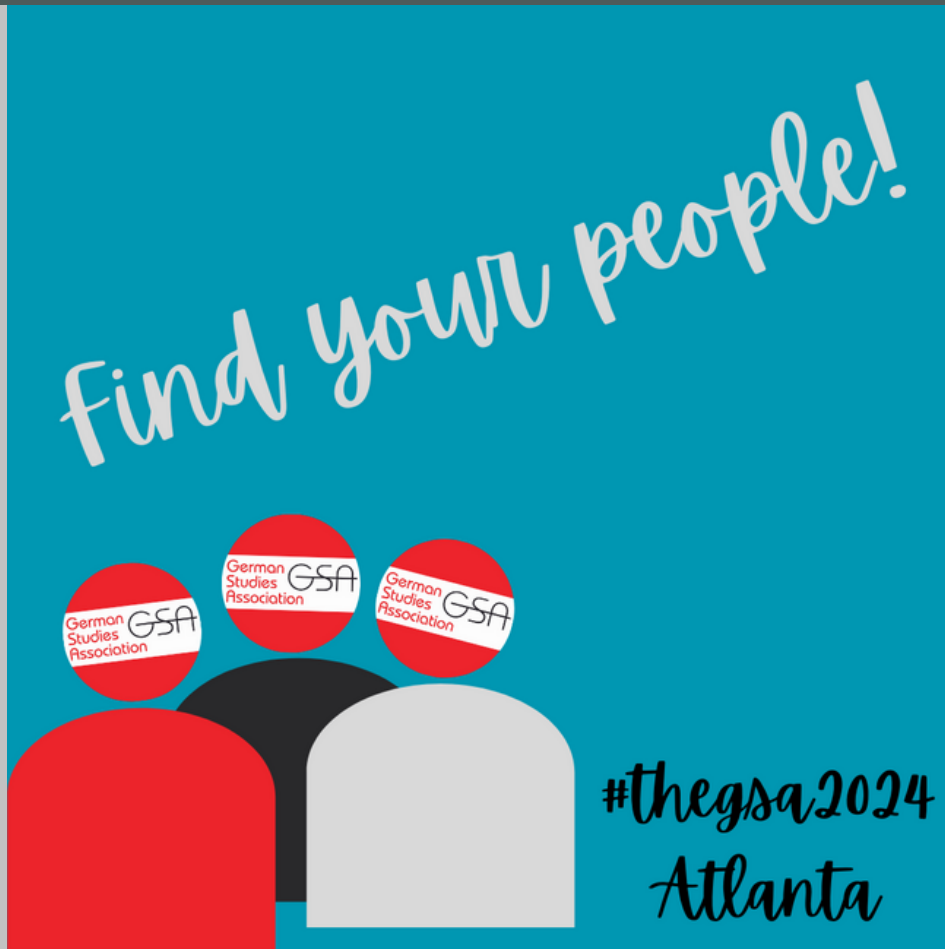
The topic of this year's workshop is **"Global German Studies and the Politics of Belonging."** It will be facilitated jointly by two faculty mentors:

- [Michelle Lynn Kahn](#), University of Richmond
- [David D. Kim](#), UCLA



[Click here to view the full ESW 2024 Call for Applications](#)

GSA 2024 CONFERENCE



FIND PARTICIPANTS FOR YOUR PANEL OR ROUNDTABLE!

Looking for participants to complete a roundtable or panel that you'd like to organize for GSA 2024? Hoping to find a roundtable or panel in need of your expertise?

Submit your information on [this form](#)!

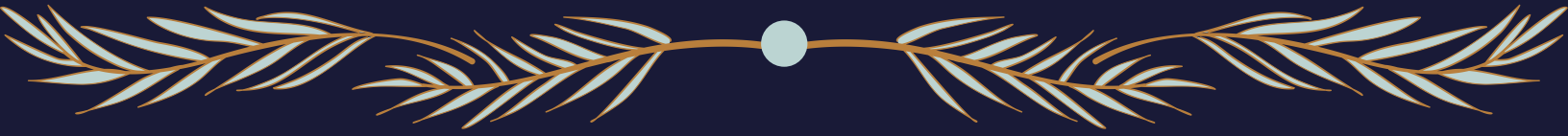
(Note: If you don't want to share your name and email on a public form, please consider an alternate method for finding collaborators.)

See who is currently seeking participants for a session, or looking to join a panel or roundtable, [here](#).

Want to amplify your search? Post on Bluesky, Facebook or Twitter and tag [@thegsa.bsky.social](#), [@thegsa](#) or [#thegsa2024](#)!

Don't forget that you'll need to be a current (for 2024) GSA member to be part of a submitted session. You can join/renew [here](#).

GSA CONFERENCE COMMUNITY FUND 2023



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.**

50% of your contribution will go to help offset membership dues and registration fees for colleagues in need in 2024, and the other 50% of your contribution will be used to grow the GSA Conference Community Fund for the years ahead.

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

<https://www.thegsa.org/members/contribute>



WELCOME TO NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



We welcome three incoming members of the GSA Executive Board, who begin their terms on January 1, 2024 ([click here](#) for election bios):

Germanistik

Faye Stewart (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)

History/Social Sciences, 20-21st century

Paul Lerner (University of Southern California)

History/Social Sciences, early modern-19th century

Denise Phillips (University of Tennessee at Knoxville)

A big thanks to our outgoing board members:

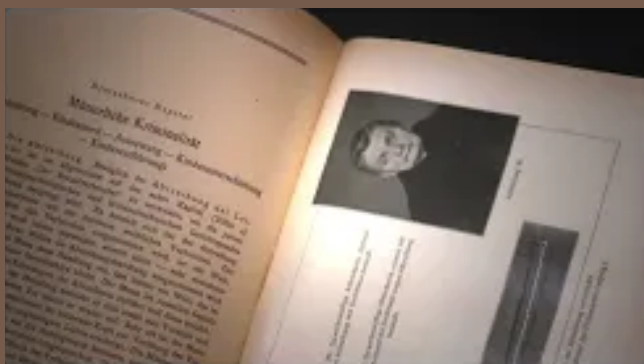
- Joanne Miyang Cho, William Patterson University
 - Ela Gezen, University of Massachusetts Amherst
 - Jonathan Zatlin, Boston University
- 

GSA 2023 FOOD FOR THOUGHT VIDEOS

On Friday, October 6th at GSA 2023 in Montréal, the GSA hosted its annual special plenary session titled “Food for Thought.” In an effort to diversify and expand lecture formats and invigorate the luncheon conversation, six colleagues were invited to participate in a series of rapid-fire, condensed, and accessible video presentations of their work. These presentations, designed to provide informative overviews, cover a wide range of disciplines represented within the Association. The organizers specifically sought out emerging and early career scholars, ranging from post-doctoral researchers to recently appointed assistant professors, to present their research.

The presenters were, in alphabetical order:

- **Karolina Hicke**, Visiting Assistant Professor, Swarthmore College
- **Amy Lynne Hill**, PhD Candidate, Vanderbilt University
- **Julie Keresztes**, Postdoctoral Fellow, American University & Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
- **Cynthia Porter**, Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University
- **Skye Shannon Savage**, PhD candidate, Columbia University
- **Brandy Wilcox**, Visiting Assistant Professor, Knox College



Watch the videos on the GSA YouTube channel [here!](#)

ANIL BHATTI IN MEMORIAM

Anil Bhatti (1944-2023), Professor Emeritus at the Centre of German Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi, passed away on October 11, 2023 in Delhi. He is remembered and missed by colleagues in India, Germany, and around the world as an institution builder, a brilliant and prolific scholar, and above all a generous colleague, teacher, and mentor to many generations of scholars within and outside of India.

Along with luminary historians such as Romilla Thapar, economists such as Amartya Sen and literary scholars such as Meenakshi Mukherjee, Anil Bhatti belonged to the group of intellectuals born at the cusp of Indian independence from two hundred years of British colonial rule. Combining their cosmopolitan spirit with sincere investment in a newly independent nation, Bhatti and his contemporaries turned post-colonial Indian universities into major centers of disciplinary training, but also discipline-transgressing thought and critique. Their contributions to fortify freedom of speech and responsible social action in the public spheres can never be underestimated.

Bhatti studied Germanistik, Political Science, and Philosophy at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich and wrote a dissertation on “Clemens Brentano und die Barocktradition” (published 1972). In 1971, he returned to India to work for the newly established Jawaharlal Nehru University, and became the founding pillar of the Center for German Studies (CGS), making modern German literary and cultural studies an important critical field in post-Independence India, and the CGS the leading center for international cultural exchange, dialogue and debate. After being promoted to the rank of Professor in 1983, Bhatti served as chair of CGS many times, and through his leadership and expertise became a much sought-after expert who served national-level committees dedicated to advancing Foreign Language Studies in India.

Bhatti’s publications are stunning on many counts: in their thematic breadth and intellectual depth. His early publications in the journal *Social Scientist* include topics such as “Logic, Dialectics, and Theory of Knowledge,” “Realism in



ANIL BHATTI IN MEMORIAM (CONT.)

Marxism,” as well as critical commentaries on books on India published in the German-speaking world. By the mid-1980s, a decade and a half into his career, Bhatti’s publications demonstrated a real effort in understanding the place of India in German thought and literature, but as a case study to understanding the very place of decolonized Asia vis-à-vis a post-colonial Europe. His volume, *Utopie, Projektion, Gegenbild: Indien in Deutschland* (1987) is remarkable for foreshadowing the identification of vantage points that would be celebrated as “postcolonial theory” in Anglo-American Academy in the 1990s.

But he was equally invested in thinking about Lukács with Hungarian scholars in Delhi (*The Lukács Papers*, 1985), writing on Heidegger, and exploring hitherto underrepresented areas of Indian history in connection with Europe. His edited volume *Jewish Exile in India 1933-1945* (1999) remains one of the foremost documents on both Indian and (German) Jewish histories. The contributors to this volume—from Germany and India—perform multi-faced examinations of a cataclysmic event in worldwide migration, which eventually led to major contributions of Jewish intellectuals, filmmakers, and composers to the cultural landscape of India. Remarkable about Bhatti’s contribution to the volume is his deep awareness of violence that marked the Second World War, the Holocaust, and the years surrounding India and Pakistan’s freedom through partition. This stream of Bhatti’s interventions would find extension throughout his later years, even after his “formal” retirement from JNU in 2009.

Bhatti’s service and his impact extended far beyond the classroom or his publications. From 1996 to 2001, he presided over the Institute for the Research and Promotion of Austrian and International Literary Processes in Vienna. He was the President of the Goethe Society of India from 1998 to 2012, and he received many prestigious awards, including the Jacob-und Wilhelm-Grimm-Prize of the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) in 2001, the Verdienstkreuz 1. Klasse des Verdienstordens der Bundesrepublik Deutschland in 2005, and the Österreichisches Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst 1. Klasse in 2011. He was a Fellow at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Kolleg of the University of Konstanz from 2010 to 2011. In 2011, he received the highest award



ANIL BHATTI IN MEMORIAM (CONT.)

for international scholars, the Humboldt-Forschungspreis from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He held visiting professorships in Kassel in 1991, in Graz in 2001 and 2009, in Vienna in 2002, and in Tübingen in 2006 and 2010. In 2021 Bhatti was conferred the honorary doctorate (Honoris Causa) by the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zurich.

Those who know him well also appreciate Bhatti's immense knowledge of modernist paintings and his contributions to discussions of modern Indian art. Through his lifelong friendship with the celebrated Indian painter and installation artist Vivan Sundaram (1943-2023), Bhatti was involved with the *Journal of Arts and Ideas*, edited by Sundaram and his wife. Bhatti was one of the main speakers when the Haus der Kunst in Munich exhibited *Umbrüche* (2018), the last and most comprehensive retrospective of Sundaram's work.

Bhatti's last Humboldt Fellowship was in Tübingen in 2022. True to his collaborative spirit, his last published volume was a co-edited collection *Ähnlichkeit: Ein kulturtheoretisches Paradigma* (2021) with Dorothea Kimmich, his host and collaborator. The volume makes a compelling case for reviving multiple rediscoveries of similarities among cultures, nations, and peoples, instead of a reductionist celebration, almost fetishization of difference. Here as well, without falling into vacuous phrasing or empty signs, Bhatti and Kimmich identify, and call upon the readers to engage with, the complexities of the term "similarity," beyond simply affinities or overlaps. The text is a befitting testimony to Bhatti, his generosity, his desire to stay curious and assist others with their curiosity beyond the narrowness of identity politics founded solely upon difference.

As a direct beneficiary of Bhatti's legacy, his enabling mentorship and support, decades after I had left JNU, I thank him today, along with many others, for leaving a rich legacy of thought, critique, and collaboration.

B. Venkat Mani

Professor of German and World Literatures; Race Ethnicity and Indigeneity
Senior Research Fellow, University of Wisconsin-Madison



2023 ARCHIVES REPORT

Rainer Hering, Landesarchiv Schleswig-Holstein

Aktuelles aus deutschen Archiven

Gliederung:

- 1) Bundesarchiv
- 2) Landesarchiv Niedersachsen
- 3) Landesarchiv Berlin
- 4) Brandenburgisches Landeshauptarchiv
- 5) Landesarchiv Nordrhein-Westfalen
- 6) Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach/Neckar
- 7) GSA Archives Committee

1.) Bundesarchiv

Die Unterlagen zur NS-Zeit gehören zu den besonders häufig genutzten Beständen des Bundesarchivs. Zuletzt gingen jährlich etwa 56.000 Anträge dazu ein, darunter rund 42.000 Anfragen personenbezogen, zum Beispiel zur Aufklärung der Familiengeschichte.

Das Bundesarchiv intensiviert daher die Digitalisierung zentraler Bestände aus der NS-Zeit. Einer der Schwerpunkte liegt auf Akten militärischer Herkunft, die im Anschluss größtenteils online zugänglich sein sollen. Möglich wird das durch zusätzliche Mittel des Deutschen Bundestages in Höhe von 13,5 Millionen Euro. Bundesarchiv-Präsident Michael Hollmann sagte: „Die Unterstützung des Deutschen Bundestages gibt uns einen weiteren Digitalisierungsschub. Indem wir wichtige Unterlagen aus der NS-Zeit schneller digital nutzbar machen, tragen wir zur immer wieder dringend notwendigen Aufklärung über diese finstersten Jahre der deutschen Geschichte bei. Zugleich erleichtern wir den Zugang für die Forschung und helfen Angehörigen, das Schicksal ihrer Familien besser aufzuklären.“

Zu den für die Digitalisierung vorgesehenen Beständen gehören zum Beispiel die der Wehrkreiskommandos, die Divisionsbestände der Wehrmacht sowie Luftbilder. Auch Lagekarten des Zweiten Weltkriegs sind darunter, etwa des Generalstabs des Heeres, die unter anderem der Nutzung im Führerhauptquartier dienten. Ihre Verarbeitung ist besonders anspruchsvoll: Es handelt sich um über 10.000 Karten mit Formaten bis zu 2 mal 3 Meter und Einzeichnungen von großer Detailtiefe.

[\(Click here to continue reading\)](#)

GSA INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Consider joining our roster of [GSA institutional members](#)!

Institutional memberships offer a means to publicize centers, institutes and departments that have a strong focus on German Studies, while also opening the door for graduate students and non-tenure track faculty. In these ways, your institutional membership will help sustain German Studies research, scholarship, teaching, and advocacy.

The benefits include:

- **Institutional membership:**

- Recognition in the biannual GSA newsletter, the annual conference program/app, and on the GSA website
- One 1/4-page advertisement in the *German Studies Review*

- **Graduate institutional membership** further includes:

- One 1/2-page ad in the *German Studies Review*
- **Six** complimentary 1-year GSA memberships for graduate students and/or non-tenure track/contingent faculty at your institution

 Register your institution online [here](#)! 

GSA INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

DAAD



austrian cultural forum
nyc

Thank you to our institutional and graduate institutional members!

- [AATG](#)
- [Austrian Cultural Forum New York](#)
- [Austrian Studies Association](#)
- [Brothers Grimm Society of North America](#)
- [Central European History Society](#)
- [Coalition of Women in German](#)
- [DAAD](#)
- [DEFA Film Library](#)
- [Landesarchiv Schleswig-Holstein](#)
- [Texas State University](#)
- [The University of Oklahoma](#)
- [University of Miami](#)
- [University of Michigan](#)



GSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, 5 OCTOBER 2023

GSA Annual Board Meeting, 47th Annual Conference
Thursday, October 5, 2023: 8.00am – 3.00pm EDT
Le Centre Sheraton Montreal Hotel–Montréal, Québec, Canada

Present: Monica Black, Joanne Miyang Cho, Alicia Ellis, Tiffany Florvil, Katharina Gerstenberger (ex officio), Ela Gezen, Tom Haakenson, Sara Hall, David Imhoof, B. Venkat Mani, Margaret Menninger, Jonathan Olsen, Damani Partridge, Denise Phillips, Liz Schoppelrei, Faye Stewart, (zoom) Marie Sumner Lott, Janet Ward, Jonathan Zatlin

Joined: Jen Jenkins

Introduction

- Meeting agenda unanimously approved. May 2023 Board meeting minutes unanimously approved.
- Welcome, introductions.

Report from President Sara Hall

- Responsibilities and role of Board; considering ideas from ACLS leadership training; plan to use spring virtual Board meeting as retreat to consider function and mission of GSA.
- Better formal process for committee reporting needed.
- Update on summer experience at ACLS Intention Foundry, which aimed to get input to leadership from graduate students and young scholars. The meeting generated plans to work on challenging structures of privilege in academia (“hidden curriculum”) and to make international students more visible at and give them greater access to the GSA.
- On-going search for editor of Spektrum to replace David Luebke as Series Editor; hope to have new editor by early spring.
- Member survey in Spring Newsletter to ask for input on mission statement input and pillars of focus, and then establish committees around each pillar.

Report from Operations Director Jen Jenkins

- About 1500 participants for 2023 (vs about 850 at 2022 meeting!).
- Improved processes for identifying overcommitted scholars and for helping people “take a grad to lunch/dinner” donations.
- Next time need to invite guest conference speakers earlier.
- 2023 Conference data as of 25 September 2023
- 24 Seminars (including Emerging Scholars Workshop), 316 participants (cf. 2022: 14 seminars, 163 participants)
- 41 Roundtables, 226 participants (cf. 2022: 26 roundtables, 151 participants)
- 192 Pre-formed Panels, 980 total participants, 617 presenters (cf. 2022: 110 panels, 570 total participants, 357 presenters)
- 1 Undergraduate Research panels, 5 presenters (cf. 2022: 2 panels, 7 presenters)

GSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, 5 OCTOBER 2023

Report from Secretary David Imhoof

- Elections in April-May 2023 for three positions to the Board: Germanistik, 20th-21st century History/Social Sciences, and Early modern-19th century History/Social Sciences. Welcome to Faye Stewart, Denise Phillips, Paul Lerner; all three terms begin in 2024 and run for three years.
- Planned member survey for March 2024.
- Bylaws Revision: From 2021 to 2023 the need to revise grew from minor additions/changes to the decision to overhaul the Bylaws completely. Goal is to make bylaws simpler, like many other organizations do, with a document on practices that could be amended/changed much more easily. Timetable: Ad-hoc committee work in first half of 2024, revision to Board by fall 2024 and to members fall 2025 for approval.

Work on Mission/Vision Statement, led by Hall

- Motion to send Statement to membership by March – *passed unanimously*.

Report from Executive Director Margaret Menninger

- Two important issues facing the GSA: 1) growing requests from members for services from GSA, especially from contingent and precariously employed scholars, and 2) declining revenue. For example, we gave out ca \$95,000 in grants (10% of endowment) but only got about \$5,000 in donations. We may have to make some decisions about conference amenities vs. revenue, including raising membership and registration fees. GSA membership and conference registration is lower than at most other similar organizations.
- The gap between precarious and established members has grown: half of our membership are at the lowest tier of membership.

Report from Treasurer Tom Haakenson

- Overall financially healthy.
- About 20% of operating budget (about \$400,000 to 450,000) goes to grants, fellowships, prizes.
- We have now disaggregated one large TIAA fund into individual funds for specific awards, prizes, as well as a general endowment fund. We retain an account at Wells Fargo for cash payments.
- Because of significant increase in memberships at lower levels we may need to increase fees, especially for higher tiers of membership.
- The Conference Community Fund was set up to help faculty members who lost positions/funding, but this fund is now increasingly going to grad students who need to present at the GSA but have no institutional funding (including some at R1s who *should* have funding). Received about \$5000 in donations this year, and we also use 4% draw down from endowment. All but one person who applied received money.

GSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, 5 OCTOBER 2023

- Finance Committee suggests we develop overall plan for endowment draw.
- Finance Committee will consider impact of raising membership fees.
- Discussion of how to pressure graduate programs to provide funding for students to attend conferences, instead of GSA paying.
- Discussion about whether undergraduate students might also apply for assistance from the Conference Community Fund.
- Motion to approve the 2024 budget – unanimously approved.

Motion brought before the membership

- Motion that the GSA create a mentoring award – all in favor with one abstention; passes. Plan to bring this motion to the entire membership today in the Membership Meeting and, if passed, authorize the president to create a committee to administer the award. (Note: membership endorsed this motion.)

Adjourn at 3.05pm EDT

GSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, 3 MAY 2023

GSA Virtual Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 12.00-2.00pm CDT (1.00-3.00pm EDT), via Zoom

Present: Monica Black, Johanne Cho, Alicia Ellis, Tiffany Florvil, Katharina Gerstenberger, Tom Haakenson, Sara Hall, David Imhoof, Venkat Mani, Margaret Menninger, Jonathan Olsen, Damani Partridge, Liz Schopperlrei, Marie Sumner-Lott, Janet Ward

Joined: Eli Rubin, Jen Jenkins, Sabine von Mering, Christina Gerhardt, Kiley Kost, Seth Peabody, Julia Ludewig

Meeting agenda unanimously approved. Fall 2022 meeting minutes unanimously approved.

Institutional Transformation and Social Justice (ITSJ) Committee updates

Committee working on tasks chiefly relating to the Montreal conference: 1) plans to work with representatives of indigenous groups, in partnership with German Studies Canada;

GSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, 3 MAY 2023

2) enhanced disability and accessibility at the Montreal hotel; 3) setting up a graduate student reception, which would be especially helpful for those not coming from schools with large cohorts; and 4) seeking new members to replace those rotating off the ITSJ Committee this year.

Mission and Vision Statement draft

Task force reported good engagement and input from members but wondered how to expand input, especially from scholars from less-represented disciplines. There was discussion about need for the Statement to express a desire to expand the GSA's membership and reach beyond North America and Europe, bearing in mind that the GSA is not the only German Studies group in the world and that we should seek to work with other groups. The next strategic planning steps would be to create "strategic pillars" with attendant committees, ultimately aiming to complete strategic planning by 2026.

Treasurer Tom Haakenson's report on finances and fundraising

We filed 2021 taxes in November 2022 but are trying to move to a May filing in the future. We've had limited success in fundraising, but we're still considering new ideas and especially how the Board can help.

Report from Operations Director Jennifer Jenkins

Current GSA member numbers vs. historical year-end totals

Active GSA Members		
2012	2090	Dec. 1 report
2013	2261	"
2014	2058	"
2015	2374	"
2016	1951	"
2017	1730	"
2018	1748	"
2019	2215	"
2020	2066	"
2021	1873	"
2022	1562	"
2023	1928	as of end March

GSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, 3 MAY 2023

Conference submissions stats 2022 vs. 2023

	GSA 2022	GSA 2023	% increase
Seminar proposals	20	35	75%
Seminar participant applications	178	363	103.4%
Individual papers	121	122	0.83%
Pre-formed panels	112	199	77.7%
Roundtables	29	45	55.2%
Total regular submissions	262	366	39.7%

This significant increase in proposals and applications will require rejecting submissions at a much higher rate than usual unless the conference is extended. A motion was made supporting the Executive Director in the decision to ask the Montreal hotel if we could extend the conference into Sunday afternoon and thus add an 11th session. *Vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain – passed.*

Update from Climate Emergency and Technology (CLEAT) Committee

Members of the Committee emphasized their future focus and their appreciation for the Board's attention. They value some of the changes made (meatless GSA meals, recycling, etc.) and want to continue to push for larger suggestions based on principles aimed to minimize climate impact.

Adjourn at 2.07pm CDT



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

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