



**GSA**

**GERMAN STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER**

XLVII, NUMBER 1 - SPRING/SUMMER 2022

**GSA 2022**

**2022**

## Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2022 edition of the GSA Newsletter!

Our [preliminary schedule is available here](#). Please check it carefully and let us know about issues as soon as possible and **by June 30** at the latest. We still have panels that need commentators and moderators; please indicate your interest on the change form linked at the top of the preliminary schedule. Changes made after June 30 will not be reflected in the published program.

[Online conference registration and meal reservations](#) for the 46th annual conference of the GSA in Houston, TX are now open. Register soon!

*@theGSA on Twitter*

*@GermanStudiesAssociation ~ YouTube*

*@GermanStudiesAssociation ~ Instagram*

*@GermanStudiesAssociation ~ LinkedIn*

*[www.thegsa.org](http://www.thegsa.org)*

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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the GSA,

We are looking forward to welcoming you back to an in-person conference this September in Texas. (Do be prepared for both humidity and heat!) Our host city Houston is amongst the most diverse in the country, and sports exceptional cultural sites as well as wonderful places to eat, many of which will be within walking distance of our hotel.

I am very pleased to introduce you all to the new members of the GSA staff whose short profiles appear below. They, along with my assistant Sara Schmidt, have been instrumental in preparing the program, this newsletter, and making sure that our conference runs as smoothly as possible.

Keep an eye out for more news about GSA elections, conference updates, and information about Houston via email and social media as the summer progresses. In the meantime, all my best wishes for some relaxing and productive months.

Margaret E. Menninger, Texas State University  
Executive Director

## Meet the New Team

### OPERATIONS DIRECTOR DR. JENNIFER L. JENKINS

Currently, and until the end of this summer, I'm an Associate Professor of German at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington (PLU eliminated the German program and its two tenured faculty positions as a cost-saving measure after declaring financial exigency in fall 2020), where I've taught courses in German literature, culture, and language and in the Nordic Studies and Holocaust and Genocide Studies programs; some of my service commitments have taken the form of interdisciplinary program administration and institutional strategic planning leadership roles.

My recent publications include a translation of excerpts from Johann Jakob Scheuchzer's *Natur-Historie des Schweitzerlandes*, a chapter on Hermann Broch's *The Death of Virgil*, and articles on Broch's early writings in *Studia austriaca* and *Deutsche Vierteljahrsschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Geistesgeschichte*. I'm currently working on projects focused on theories of the masses and an early theoretical work by Broch on portraiture and kitsch. Outside Germanistik, I have an M.A. in modern Scandinavian literature with a concentration in Swedish modernism, and taught Dutch while completing my Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

As a Bärndütsch speaker, I'm looking forward to resuming my sojourns in the Berner Oberland this year after two pandemic summers spent at home in the Pacific Northwest growing hot peppers. Having been a member of the GSA since starting out in the profession in 2008, I'm thrilled to begin serving the Association in my new role as Operations Director (cognizant of the size of the shoes I'll have to fill in the wake of Benita's departure) and to be able to welcome GSA colleagues in person at the conference in Houston this September.

# Meet the New Team

## COMMUNICATIONS & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES MANAGER NINA MONDRÉ SCHWEPPE

Raised between three continents, I bring a human-centered approach to communications and relationship management to help bridge understanding across several industries and cultures. With over fifteen years combined service in higher education and corporate/legal administration, my core strengths lie in program development, communications strategy and applied digital storytelling. My openness to possibility has led me to pursue multiple passions and given me the resourcefulness and highly specialized training suited for collaboration.

After spending the height of the pandemic in Toronto, Canada, I am leaving my position as Senior Manager, Communications with Climate Engagement Canada - Canada's first investor-led climate change initiative that brings together a network of institutional investors and key members of the climate activist community to engage with companies to return to the Rocky Mountain West.

While in Toronto during Covid, I also proposed, developed and implemented a digital presence and strategy for the University of Toronto's Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. This fall, I am thrilled to resume my roles at Montana State University, where I teach interdisciplinary courses with a focus on applied critical thinking.

My graduate research in German (McGill University) focused on digital hermeneutics and interpretation of texts. I am fluent in German, French and English and am personally and professionally committed to daily practices for a sustainable and just future in everything I do.

## We want your opinion!

Let us know how you engage with the GSA on the web by taking this short 5-10 minute survey.

We want to know how you use our website, what you think could be improved and what you'd like to see more of on the site and on our channels. How you would like to engage with us on the web?

Your input means a great deal to us!

Please fill out the survey **by September 30, 2022**

Survey link: <https://forms.gle/XhrYvjmL6NaUSNQT6>

## [GSA Web Use and Suggestions for Improvement \(2022\)](#)

# FORTY-SIXTH CONFERENCE DETAILS

The Forty-Sixth Conference of the German Studies Association  
September 15-18, 2022  
Houston, Texas

[Online conference registration, meal reservations, and hotel reservations](#) for the 46th annual conference of the GSA in Houston, Texas, are now open.

You must first register for the conference to be eligible for our special group rate of US \$199.00 per night at the Hilton Americas-Houston (1600 Lamar St., Houston, Texas, 77010, USA). Please note that you can only reserve a hotel room at the conference rate by using the link you receive after registering.

You will not be able to reserve a room at the conference rate by calling the hotel or by booking with an online agency. Our primary hotels sell out well before the deadline every year. We may be able to arrange additional capacity at an overflow hotel, but we cannot guarantee that this will be the case. Please reserve your room(s) as soon as possible.

## **Conference Registration Rates (until August 15):**

Regular, joint, and emeritus members: \$160.00

Non-members: \$230.00

Independent scholars (members): \$70.00

Independent scholars (non-members): \$135.00

Students (members): \$50.00

Students (non-members): \$120.00

Exhibitors: \$250.00 / table

Please note the following: After August 15, prices for all registration categories will increase by \$10. Exhibitor registration will close on August 15. For persons who cancel after August 15, the registration fee will be refunded less a 50% processing charge. No refund requests made after September 1 will be honored.

If you have any technical issues with payments or the website, please email Ursula Sykes at [ugray2@jh.edu](mailto:ugray2@jh.edu).

Operations Director Dr. Jennifer L. Jenkins ([operations@thegsa.org](mailto:operations@thegsa.org)) will be happy to answer all other questions about the conference, but cannot assist with payments or website problems.

More information about menus, meal events and further details on our website:

<https://thegsa.org/conference/current-conference>

# CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## NEW MEMBERS MEETING

Welcome new members!

You will be invited directly to a new members meeting on Friday, September 9, 2022 via Zoom from 11:00am-1:00pm US Central Daylight Time (18 Uhr).

## ARTS NIGHT

ARTS NIGHT is sponsored by the German Studies Association, DAAD, BGHRA, and the DEFA Film Library

**Thursday, September 15**

6:30PM

**EXHIBIT OPENING:** "Visualizing Translation: Homeland and Heimat in Detroit and Dortmund."

7:00PM

**READING:** Olga Grjasnowa (sponsored by the [DAAD](#))

8:30PM

**FILM SCREENING:** The Films of Branwen Okpako (sponsored by the [DEFA Film Library](#) and the [BGHRA](#))

*Read more about these events in our upcoming program!*

## MEAL EVENTS

Friday, September 16, 12:30PM - 1:45PM

**"Food for Thought": Showcasing New and Innovative Research**

Friday, September 16, 7:30PM - 10:00PM

**Presidential Address: GSA President Janet Ward, University of Oklahoma**

Saturday, September 17, 12:30PM - 1:45PM

**Luncheon Discussion: Dr. Naika Foroutan, Institute for Integrations- und Migrationsforschung, Humboldt Universität and 2022 DAAD/AICGS Research Fellow**

[Register here](#) for the luncheons and banquet when you register for the conference.

[Menus and meal prices may be found on our current conference page here.](#)

To reduce food waste, the hotel only prepares as many meals as have been purchased.

**Deadline to purchase meals is August 15.**

# A MESSAGE FROM CLIMATE EMERGENCY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

In July 2020, the GSA Executive Board responded to an open call letter, decided to establish the **Climate Emergency and Technology Committee (CLEAT)**, and charged the group with drafting a Vision Statement. After a year of meetings and research, we (the members of CLEAT) wrote and submitted a multi-faceted report that outlines basic principles and suggests ways that the GSA might imagine its future so that it is both more sustainable and accessible. [[See CLEAT report here](#)]

We are proud of the many many ideas generated in this report, some of which, like regional conferences, have already been positively received. Since only a small number of GSA members were able to attend or attended the Town Hall in November 2021, we invite the GSA membership to join us virtually in thinking about the ideas presented in the report. [To that end, we invite you to fill out this survey and share thoughts.](#) We are particularly interested in hearing from more vulnerable (precariously employed or marginalized) GSA members.

**Deadline for responses Friday, July 15, 2022**

**Survey link <https://bit.ly/3xMUKpB>**



## Do you have news to share?

Is there an upcoming conference or  
Call for Proposals you would like to amplify  
to our greater GSA community?

Let us know!

Contact [media@thegsa.org](mailto:media@thegsa.org) and we will help boost the signal

# CONTRIBUTE TO THE GSA

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## "Drop-In" Room

Do you have a group that would like a chance to meet and network with other conference participants in a smaller and quieter space?

Consider signing up for a session in the GSA Drop-In room situated on the same floor as the other breakout rooms. This room may be checked out from the Executive Director on Friday, September 16 or Sunday, September 18.

To have this information included in the conference program, please name your session and send in a brief (50 words or less) description **by 30 June to [ed\\_assistant@thegsa.org](mailto:ed_assistant@thegsa.org)**.

If you sign up after that date, we'll make sure your information is in the conference app. Space will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

## AFFILIATIONS

The GSA is pleased to be an affiliate society of the [American Historical Association](#).

We are in the process of establishing affiliations with the [Modern Language Association](#), [American Political Science Association](#), and [College Art Association](#).

Members interested in assisting with this process should contact the Executive Director to learn more.

AMERICAN  
HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## CALL FOR DONATION TO THE GSA ARCHIVES

In an effort to bring our record collection closer to archival standards, we need to fill gaps and obtain some duplicate copies of select GSA publications such as the **Newsletter**, **German Studies Review**, and **conference programs**.

Do you have copies you can donate?

**Please visit [this link](#) to see what we need and let us know what you can bring to Houston.**

For more information, please contact the Assistant to the Executive Director at [ed\\_assistant@thegsa.org](mailto:ed_assistant@thegsa.org)



# ELECTIONS 2022

*Voting will run July 1-31. Stay tuned for information about a  
"Meet the Vice-Presidential Candidates" town hall*

# CANDIDATES FOR GSA POSITIONS

## Vice President (2yrs)

Eric Langenbacher (Georgetown)  
Damani Partridge (Michigan)

**ERIC LANGENBACHER** is a faculty member in the Department of Government, Georgetown University, where he completed his PhD in 2002, as well as Director of the Society, Culture, and Politics Program at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies in Washington, DC, and Managing Editor of *German Politics and Society* (since 2005). He was a member of the GSA Board from 2016-2018, the Program Committee (2019, 2020), and, currently, the Berlin Program's selection committee. Recent scholarship includes *The German Polity*, "Disinformation in Memory Politics and Anti-Democratic Movements," and *A Zeitenwende Indeed: The 2021 Bundestag Election and its Consequences*.

In the turbulent 21st century, the GSA's mission—to foster multi-disciplinary scholarship on German-speaking Europe—remains vitally relevant, also because of unprecedented attacks on higher education and specific disciplines. The next president should work with our dedicated colleagues to stabilize and rebuild the association's activities, stepping up fundraising to keep costs down and increase financial support for junior, underpaid, and remote colleagues. Seizing the post-pandemic moment, the president should also lead a process of reflection so that the association can benefit from lessons learned. We might envision a slightly scaled-down in-person conference, buttressed with hybrid or on-line components, and rethink conference locations.

**DAMANI J. PARTRIDGE** (Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, 2003) is Professor of Anthropology and Afroamerican and African Studies and a German Department affiliate at the University of Michigan. His writing examines noncitizenship, sexuality, post-Cold War 'freedom', Holocaust memorialization, African-American military occupation, 'Blackness' and embodiment, and the Obama moment in Berlin. He directs the Filming Future Cities Project in Berlin and Detroit. In 2012, he published *Hypersexuality and Headscarves: Race, Sex, and Citizenship in the New Germany*. UC Press will publish *Blackness as a Universal Claim: Holocaust Heritage, Noncitizen Futures, and Black Power in Berlin* this fall. His funders include the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Fulbright Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service, the German Research Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the School for Advanced Research, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation. For the GSA, he has regularly co-organized seminars, panels, conducted public interviews, and a special webinar on Holocaust Memory, Coloniality, and Black Lives. Having completed his term on GSA's Board, he serves on its Committee for Institutional Transformation and Social Justice. He plans to continue work towards making the GSA into an organization in which a diverse set of members will systematically thrive.

# CANDIDATES FOR GSA POSITIONS

## Board - Germanistik (3yrs)

Alicia Ellis (Colby)

Kathryn Starkey (Stanford)

### ALICIA ELLIS

I am an associate professor of German at Colby College where I also chair the Department of German and Russian. I earned a doctorate in German and an MA in African American Studies from Yale University. My first book, *Gender and Identity in Franz Grillparzer's Classical Dramas: Figuring the Female*, was published in 2021.

As a scholar of the long nineteenth century and, most recently, of Black Europe, my commitment to the discipline is dynamic and shifting. I recently joined the GSA Community Fund Committee. I am also committed to the organization's diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. A member of the Committee on Institutional Transformation and Social Justice, I have been involved in discussions that tackle questions about race and racialization in the GSA and beyond.

If elected as Board Member for Germanistik/Cultural Studies, I wish to explore how a focused expansion of the meaning of German Studies would benefit the organization. Even as diverse approaches to the field are introduced, it is clear that some of the scholarly nuances that un-conventional approaches to the discipline bring are often overlooked. As such, their impact on the intellectual rigor of German Studies disappears from a deeper discourse about the field.

### KATHRYN STARKEY

As Professor and Chair of German Studies at Stanford University I have experience working collaboratively with colleagues across periods and disciplines in fostering a strong, diverse, and inclusive intellectual community. I am committed to promoting a scholarly environment where all feel welcome and are able to thrive. My publications have covered a wide range of topics pertaining to medieval and early modern German literature and culture, including text and image, the senses, poetics, gender, visuality, and performance. I am currently co-writing a book (with Fiona Griffiths) on *A History of Medieval Germany (900-1220)*. I have years of experience with the GSA. In 2000 I co-founded (with Sara Poor and William Layher) YMAGINA, a group dedicated to supporting junior colleagues by, among other things, sponsoring annual panels at the GSA. I am now co-coordinator of the newly founded Network of Medieval and Early Modern German Studies, and in this capacity have worked with my colleagues to expand our network and increase our visibility at the GSA.

As Board Member, I would represent the earlier periods while working in consort with other members of the board to foster inclusion and diversity of colleagues and scholarship.

# CANDIDATES FOR GSA POSITIONS

## Board: History (3yrs)

Tiffany Florvil (New Mexico)

Heikki Lempa (Moravian)

### TIFFANY FLORVIL

As an Associate Professor of European History at the University of New Mexico, I also have interdisciplinary interests in race, diaspora, gender, and sexuality. I have been a member of the GSA since 2010, when I attended my first conference in California. I co-founded the Black Diaspora Studies Network in 2015 and have seen the network grow considerably during these last years. Since 2020, I have been a member of the Committee on Institutional Transformation and Social Justice (ITJS) (formerly the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee) and chair of the committee since 2022.

I see my work on the Board as building from the work that I have attempted to do with the ITJS committee. I want to continue to make the GSA an inclusive space that is more attentive to issues of racism, ableism, sexism, classism, transphobia, and homophobia. I believe the GSA is capable of more structural changes that reflect a commitment to equity and equality for all our members. I see my position on the Board as aiding me in this commitment to instigate tangible change. I welcome the opportunity to use my position on the Board to advocate for our members who need support and community.

### HEIKKI LEMPA

I am a Professor of History at Moravian University. I have lived a nomadic life like many other German historians. From the University of Turku (Finland) I moved to the University of Chicago (PhD), Columbia University (post-doc), and finally to Moravian University. I have published three books, *Bildung der Triebe*, *Beyond the Gymnasium*, and *Spaces of Honor*. My current book project, *The Bodies of the Others*, attempts to situate German bodies in a global context. These books and projects reflect my interests in the histories of education, the body, and emotions from the late 17th into the early 20th centuries thereby cutting across the divide between early modern and modern. They also reflect my work at the GSA. Over the past ten years I worked with wonderful colleagues to launch two interdisciplinary networks: Emotion Studies Network and Body Studies Network. I served on the Program Committee and chaired the Seminars Committee for two years.

My current concern is the survival of the GSA. How do we keep and grow the membership? How do we expand on the variety of voices? I am interested in bringing in undergraduate panels to the GSA without compromising our academic standards

# CANDIDATES FOR GSA POSITIONS

**Board: Social Science (3yrs)**

Daniel Kinderman (Delaware)  
Jonathan Olsen (Texas Woman's)

## DANIEL KINDERMAN

Daniel Kinderman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science & International Relations and Director of the European Studies program at the University of Delaware. He is a political economist who has a longstanding interest in German business, politics, and society. In recent years his research has focused on German business responses to the right-wing populist AfD, with a particular focus on Saxony. He has been a visiting scholar at the Free University Berlin, the Berlin Social Science Center and the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies and a guest professor at the University of Halle. He has received support from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) as well as from the GSA-affiliated Berlin Program fellowship. He attended the GSA conference in Washington, DC in 2015.

If elected to the Board, he will support the organization and its multi- and interdisciplinary orientation to the best of his ability. In addition, he hopes to attend more GSA conferences. This summer he is based at the department of economic geography at the University of Jena. He received an MA and a Graduate Diploma in German and European Studies from York University and a Ph.D. from Cornell's Government Department.

## JONATHAN OLSEN

I serve on the editorial board of German Politics & Society and German Politics, and on the executive board of the International Association for the Study of German Politics (IASGP). In addition, I serve on the executive board of the DAAD Alumni Association (USA) and in that capacity have helped to organize several events for DAAD AA (USA) including a panel at this year's GSA annual meeting on German foreign policy in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

I have had a long association with the German Studies Association and participated in many GSA annual meetings over the last 25 years. One of my first academic publications was in the GSA's journal, *German Studies Review*. In addition, I organized the Political Science section of the GSA for the 2006 and 2012 conferences.

My area of research is in German political parties, and I have written on both the Linke and AfD. I'm both a three-time Fulbrighter (once as a student, twice more as a Guest professor) and a German Academic Exchange Service alumnus (also as a Guest Professor). If elected, I would like to attract more political scientists to the organization and to find ways to offer cross-disciplinary collaborations.

# CANDIDATES FOR GSA POSITIONS

## Board: Graduate (2yrs)

John Gillespie (Vanderbilt)

Elizabeth Schoppelrei (Penn State)

### JOHN GILLESPIE

John Gillespie (MA, Middle Tennessee State University, 2018) is a fifth-year PhD candidate at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Gillespie studies twentieth-century German and Czech societies, and his dissertation explores the importance of beer to identity formation and state policies in the postwar Germanys and Czechoslovakia. He authored “Cold (Beer) War: The German Volksgetränk in East German Rhetoric (1945-1971)” in *Food, Culture and Identity in Germany’s Century of War* (2019) and “Imbibing the Future: Alcohol Moderation and Modernity in 1960s and 1970s East German Broadcast Media and Film” in *Contemporary European History* (2022). Gillespie has received research grants from the DAAD, MTSU, Vanderbilt University, and the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Additionally, he won the Southern Historical Association’s Snell Memorial Prize for the best graduate paper in *European History* in 2019.

Gillespie has been a GSA member since 2019, presented at the 2020 virtual conference, and will present again in 2022. He also served as Vice President and President of Vanderbilt’s Graduate History Association from 2019 to 2021. If elected, Gillespie will advocate for initiatives to improve the market-readiness and public outreach of GSA student members and work to further promote equity and inclusivity in the organization.

### ELIZABETH SCHOPPELREI

As a Ph.D. candidate who is invested in social justice and has published on German literature (*QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking*) and poetry as social activism (*Fat Studies*), I will support the GSA in developing policies that foster feminist, anti-racist, trans-friendly, and accessible environments. I will draw upon my involvement within GSA—from my first presentation (2018) to participating in the seminar “Sexuality Studies and the Law” (2021) and contributing to the upcoming roundtable “The Place of Trans\* in German Studies” (2022).

If elected, I will serve the GSA in three main ways: backing social justice initiatives, encouraging greater accessibility, and expanding mentorship. In my role, I would support the Committee for Institutional Transformation and Social Justice’s recommendations to the board and ensure open communication channels. Regarding accessibility, I will encourage efforts to make future programs more attentive to accessibility needs (including childcare, all-gender restrooms, quiet rooms, etc.). I will also pursue an expansion of the Community Fund, supporting graduate students and those precariously employed. Finally, I hope to establish wide-ranging mentorship structures while not overburdening those most often called upon to serve in these roles. Caring, intentional mentorship networks are crucial to growing a more diverse German Studies.

# INVITATION TO JOIN DAAD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Invitation to GSA Members to Join the [DAAD Alumni Association \(USA\)](#)

Most GSA members are likely familiar with DAAD programs and may have received DAAD grants or encouraged students to apply for a DAAD study abroad or internship program. However, GSA members may not be familiar with the DAAD Alumni Association USA which offers the opportunity to network with DAAD Alumni and support DAAD exchange programs through local and national events and initiatives.

Membership is not limited to DAAD alumni and is open to all individuals who share the goals of the organization and the DAAD (see below). We invite all GSA members to join the DAAD Alumni Association USA by becoming a member donor!

**Please visit the following link to join or make a donation:**

<https://www.daad.org/en/alumni-services/alumni-usa/>

*The mission of the DAAD Alumni Association is to strengthen transatlantic ties between Germany and DAAD alumni and friends, both in the United States and abroad. We aim to share and expand knowledge of German culture and society and provide academic opportunities for exchange among DAAD alumni, students, and institutions in the USA.*

To achieve these goals and to support future students, who share our objectives, the DAAD Alumni Association awards scholarships enabling students at U.S. universities to study, conduct research, or participate in internships in Germany. We also facilitate communication with DAAD exchange students from Germany who are studying in the USA through local networking at their host universities.

Through newsletters, social media posts, educational workshops, member meetings, conference participation, and collaborations with organizations that share our focus on Germany, the DAAD Alumni Association seeks to strengthen the ties between the USA and Germany.

## GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE!

### **GSA Travel Grants**

We welcome non-North American members to our annual conferences, and may be able to provide financial support as a fund of last resort for a very small number of non-North American participants. More about eligibility and details here:

<https://www.thegsa.org/prizes/travel-grants>

Learn more about our fund - [we welcome contributions to all our funds!](#)

### **GSA COMMUNITY FUND**

# RAISING MONEY FOR UKRAINE

## Raising Money for Ukraine and other Displaced Scholars

The German Studies Association stands in solidarity with all those in Ukraine and the rest of the world in opposing Russia's attack on a sovereign nation, as well as with the people in Russia protesting this invasion at considerable risk to themselves. And we stand in solidarity with any and all GSA members who are personally affected by this violence. We ask our members to consider donating to some of the following groups helping displaced scholars and others bearing witness to the war. The **Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen** has a non-residential [fellowship program](#) for scholars in Ukraine. They are not accepting applications for fellowships at this time, but will accept donations for future fellowships and for support of those documenting the war in Ukraine:

### Account Holder:

Institut f. d. Wissenschaften vom Menschen – Spendenkonto  
Spittelauer Laende 3, 1090 Wien

### Bank

Erste Bank  
Graben 21, 1010 Wien

### IBAN

AT50 2011 1280 5698 6103

### BIC/SWIFT

GIBAATWWXXX

Harvard University's Ukrainian Research Institute has compiled a broad list of [charities and NGOs](#) taking donations.

Finally, the **Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies** (ASEEES) has a [resource list and how-tos](#) on how to help displaced scholars.

# GOOD NEWS

## National Endowment for the Humanities Awards

The National Humanities Alliance (NHA) Executive Director Stephen Kidd released the following statement about the \$33.17 million National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grants for 245 humanities projects nationwide:

"The National Endowment for the Humanities will support seven Documenting Endangered Languages grants that fund research and fieldwork to document languages at risk of extinction. With Dialogues on the Experience of War grants, the NEH will support reading and discussion groups for veterans and the training of student veterans to lead these groups. And Summer Stipends will support research and writing for more than 100 publications, including on topics such as environmentalism and race in the 1970s, prosthetics and mobility aids in Victorian literature, and newly discovered graffiti at Pompeii."

"We are immensely proud of the NEH's impact across the U.S. and will continue advocating for increased federal support for future grants in 2022 and beyond."

## NEH Award Winners in German Studies

**Marike Janzen**, University of Kansas, Lawrence

Readers and Refugees as World Citizens in the Contemporary German Literary Sphere

**Rebecca Bennette**, Middlebury College

The Forced Sterilization and "Euthanasia" of World War One Soldiers under Nazi Eugenics Policies

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# IN MEMORIAM

## MANFRED WILKE

### (1941-2022)

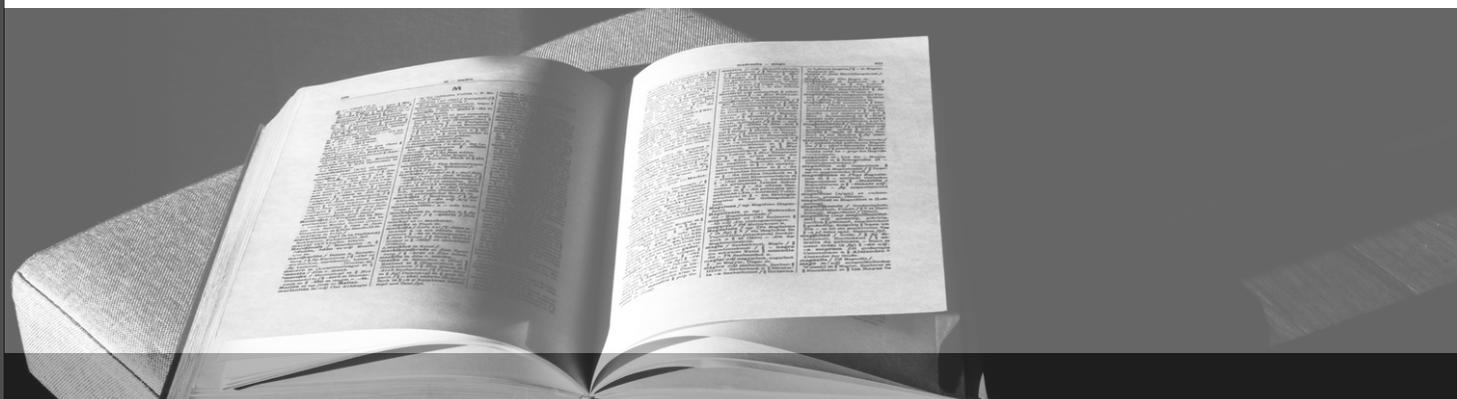
Professor Manfred Wilke, for many years a friend and member of the GSA, died in Berlin on 22 April 2022. In March he had still been able to attend the thirtieth-anniversary commemoration of the Enquete-Kommission "Aufarbeitung von Geschichte und Folgen der SED-Diktatur," created by the Bundestag and of which he had been an active member. Many in the GSA will recall his remarkable banquet address, "Der Weg zur Mauer," at the 2011 conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Drawn from his book of the same title, Professor Wilke's address was a tour de force, recounting, in fresh and remarkable ways, the events that had led to the construction of the Berlin Wall half a century earlier. He also participated in a number of other GSA conferences over the years.

Born in Kassel in 1941 into a family of modest means, Manfred Wilke attended the Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Politik in Hamburg, an institution for non-traditional students following the zweiten Bildungsweg. From there he attended the University of Hamburg and the University of Bremen, from which he received a doctorate in sociology in 1976 with a dissertation on trade union-related topics. After working for the Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft, Wilke moved to West Berlin and completed his Habilitation with Theo Pirker at the Free University in 1981. In 1985 he became professor of sociology at the Fachhochschule für Wirtschaft in Berlin.

Trained as a political sociologist but working seamlessly in history and political science as well, Professor Wilke embodied the interdisciplinarity that the GSA has always embraced. His work also traces a political and intellectual odyssey that in many ways reflects the experience of an entire West German generation. His first book was co-edited with the legendary Rudi Dutschke in 1975. Thereafter he produced an extraordinary body of work, focusing primarily on the history of communism and the history of the German Democratic Republic. Cooperating with writers as various as Jiří Pelikan, Hermann Weber, and Ossip K. Flechtheim (among many others), Wilke's years of study and publication culminated in two path breaking books in 2006 and 2011: *Der SED-Staat* and *Der Weg zur Mauer*

Manfred Wilke was no ivory-tower academician. Following his initial trade-union activities in the 1970s he became active in the support of dissidents in the GDR. and elsewhere. In the mid-1980s he began working closely with the Forschungsverbund SED-Staat, and,

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## In Memoriam - Professor Manfred Wilke (1941-2022)

as already noted, in 1992 he became a member of the Bundestag's Enquete-Kommission as well as many other groups focusing on the legacy of the SED and the Stasi. After 1989-90, he always understood the importance of the primary sources that were pouring out of the former DDR and other countries, which helps to explain his engagement with the Gauck- and Birkler-Behörden and the SAPMO archives, now in the Bundesarchiv.

His own political journey led him from youthful flirtations with the outlawed Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands, sympathy with Trotskyism, and membership in the famous Sozialistischer Deutscher Studentenbund to active engagement with the SPD, of which he was a member until 1994. Shortly thereafter, he joined the CDU, remaining active in that party for many years.

Anyone who knew Manfred Wilke had to be impressed with the sweep of his life's work, which at once ranged broadly while managing to be tightly focused. Personal encounters with him invariably turned into joyous intellectual encounters, sustained by his enthusiasm, his erudition, and his boundless generosity. Over the course of many years, the writer of these lines benefitted in numerous ways from Manfred's insights and suggestions.

A brief obituary like this can hardly do justice to Manfred Wilke's accomplishments. For more details, see his [Wikipedia entry](#).

He leaves behind his wife and intellectual partner, Karin, five children, and grandchildren.

David E. Barclay  
Kalamazoo College

