
German Studies Association Newsletter

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Letter from the President

Dear colleagues and friends,

It's December, the year is drawing to a close, and I'm about to pass the baton of the GSA presidency to my successor, Janet Ward; at the same time, David Barclay is stepping down as executive director after fifteen years, to be succeeded on January 1 by Margaret Menninger as only the third executive director in the GSA's 40+ year history. A moment of transition(s), this would seem to be a time to take stock, reflect, and give thanks – if it weren't for the fact that we're also still very much in the thick of this pandemic and also stuck in the midst of a political "transition" unlike any other in this country's history. It feels difficult to find clear vantage points from which to survey the situation, footholds for anchoring next steps. If there's a glimmer of light on the horizon as vaccine options materialize, it's dimmed by the fact that we still won't know for a long time what the new normal will look like. Except that it likely will not be the old normal.

And yet, even in the face of all this uncertainty, collectively we accomplished an astonishing amount at the GSA this year, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of many remarkable colleagues and members: as we felt our way towards the virtual shape that our conference would end up taking, we found ways to stay in constant conversation inside the executive council, to consult with the board for key decisions, and to negotiate our way out of and into the appropriate contractual arrangements. Two people in particular – Benita Blessing and Margaret Menninger – somehow put in more time than there are hours in a day to get us ready to launch in October. Members of the program committee, the award committees, the nominating committee, and the DEI committee kept up and stepped up their work. We even pioneered new formats, such as the Emerging Scholars Workshop and the GSA Forum, which stand to become fixtures of future conferences regardless of Covid. We elected new board members, appointed new committees (including one tasked with making proposals on carbon footprint and technology), and appointed a new editor of the *German Studies Review* – the fourth in the journal's history: welcome, Katharina Gerstenberger, who will succeed Sabine Hake at the end of her term next year! And we joined forces with a group of kindred and sister organizations to form a new Advocacy and Vision group that that will help to bundle and push forward some of the many concerns we all share about the future of German Studies, the Humanities, undergraduate and graduate education.

And as the conference wound down – nach dem Spiel ist vor dem Spiel – calls for seminars went out and we're even now gearing up for 2021. What that will look like is at this point

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anyone's guess, but having figured it all out once as the pandemic came roaring in, I am much more confident that we'll also figure it out as Covid hopefully recedes in the rear view mirror. In all of this, we've been buoyed by the membership's overall readiness to adapt, to join the conference in large numbers, to roll with the new graduated dues structure and maintain their payments where possible, and even to give generously in support of those for whom these years represent extra hardship: thank you, especially, for helping to launch our GSA Community Fund, which we intend to endow and keep operating in perpetuity to help those participate in the GSA who otherwise would have a hard time affording it.

Finally, as this marks David Barclay's last newsletter as Executive Director, I'd like to add a few words of thanks. In the past weeks and months, I've had several opportunities to express my gratitude for all that David has done for the GSA, but I haven't yet been able to do so in writing. So let me just reiterate here a point that I made at the launch of the newly endowed Barclay Book Prize back in October, where I reflected on the momentous changes that the GSA underwent during David's tenure as executive director. It is staggering to consider the innovations of the past 15 years that we now think of as part and parcel of the GSA's very identity: when David started in 2006, there were no interdisciplinary networks, there were no seminars, there was no Arts Night, no *Spektrum* book series, no DEI committee in sight, no Max Kade Postdoctoral Fellows. And the GSA was a lot smaller, I dare say it was older, and it was less diverse. This was the work of many people, to be sure – more than I could name here, all of whom serve as a reminder of what a collective undertaking the GSA is and remains. But it is also true that David was there for all of these shifts, changes, and innovations. He welcomed them, vigorously championed some in particular, and implemented every one of them. In other words, the GSA that David now passes on to Margaret Menninger is fundamentally transformed from the one he took on from Gerry Kleinfeld in 2006. Or to put this more bluntly: the GSA has become bigger and better during his tenure. David managed these transformations by guarding a balance of continuity and change – at least for the first 14 years, that is. And then his 15th and last year, which could have been our undoing at various turns, instead has remade us – thanks, in no small part, to David's steady hand. For this and more, the GSA owes him an enormous debt of gratitude: thank you, David, and I look forward to seeing you at future GSA conferences!

At some long-ago board meeting, a former GSA president (who shall remain nameless) saw fit to purloin a gavel from some conference hotel (in Atlanta, by the looks of it). That instrument, a thing of true beauty really, has since passed ceremoniously from one president to the next. Though we'll have to forego the usual high pomp and circumstance under the pandemic, I'll be mailing it off this coming week to Janet – along with my best wishes to her and Margaret as they assume their new roles at the helm, and to Sara Hall as Vice President and President-Elect. As Immediate Past President, I'm still on the hook for the time being as a member of the Executive Council; but even as I look forward to resuming my regular membership, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve in this

role over the past two years. Thank you for all your input, help, critique, trust, and good cheer – and I look forward to seeing what’s next for the GSA in these tumultuous times.

Wishing you all health and peace,

Johannes

Johannes von Moltke
President



Gavel. Artist Unknown. Wood and Stenciled Metal. Late 20th Century.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear members and friends of the German Studies Association,

After fifteen years, this will be my final report to you as Executive Director. I'll be leaving office at the end of December, at which time I'll be succeeded by Professor Margaret E. Menninger of Texas State University. Margaret brings many years of extremely successful administrative experience with H-German and the GSA; she will be a superb Executive Director.

This final "letter" will largely consist of an abbreviated version of the report I submitted to the GSA Board for its virtual meeting on 13 November, though I'll leave out some boring details and add a few personal observations on the state of the GSA.

I. Transition Preparations

Margaret Menninger was supposed to "shadow" me throughout the year to learn the complex ropes of this job, and to a large extent she was able to do so. Of course, some accommodations for different schedules had to be made. For example, in early January (and doesn't that seem like a century ago?) I attended the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New York, and in conjunction with it I made my farewell visits to the DAAD, the New York Consulate General, 1014, and the Austrian Cultural Forum New York. We had agreed that, to save money, I would not attend the annual DAAD reception in New York later that month. Johannes von Moltke, Janet Ward, and Margaret attended those events, but I was absent. In early March, just before things shut down for good, Margaret and I were both in Washington, DC, for the annual meeting of the National Humanities Alliance, at which time we also visited the German Embassy and met with the GSA attorney, Stephen Schaefer. We also arranged a dinner for local GSA members at the Café Berlin on Capitol Hill.

In the intervening months, of course, we've had to do everything virtually. For example, Margaret was planning to accompany Craig Hendrick – our long-standing partner from ConferenceDirect – and me to a July site visit in Toronto, but obviously that didn't happen. As the pandemic worsened, and it became clear that an in-person conference was not going to happen in 2020, Margaret very generously focused her attention on the enormous complexities of shifting to a virtual format. (See more on that below.) At the same time, though, she has continued to work with me and with Tom Haakenson, our new and very gifted treasurer, on the fiscal and fiduciary matters that are part of the ED's responsibilities. She has also participated with me in a variety of virtual events, including virtual meetings of the American Council of Learned Societies. We're also working on lots of mundane details, such as shifting signatures on bank and TIAA accounts to figuring out how

to transport all the GSA documents and equipment (including 38 LCD projectors) from the storage room in Largo, Florida, to Texas and Oregon.

In short, Margaret is well prepared to jump right into the job on 1 January. She will be an absolutely superb Executive Director.

This year was also the first for our new Operations Director, Dr. Benita Blessing of Oregon State University. She had already played a vital role at the Portland conference in 2019, as the designated successor to Elizabeth Fulton. As I will note below, she played an absolutely pivotal role in the organization and implementation of the 2020 virtual conference. It could not have taken place without her.

II. 2020 Conference Preparations and Outcomes

To say that planning for this year's conference was stressful, exhausting, strange, and complex is to put it mildly. Not knowing in January and to a certain extent in February how the pandemic would unfold, we proceeded with "normal" planning for a conference in Washington, DC, to take place in early October. We of course also had to take account of our contractual obligations to the Crystal Gateway Marriott. Following the usual schedule, we had completed seminar planning in December and January, while "traditional" proposals arrived as usual on 15 February. The Program Committee, directed by Joanne Miyang Cho, began its review of proposals shortly thereafter, and as usual had completed its work and prepared a tentative program by April.

By that time, though, the world had shifted under us. It was increasingly clear that the pandemic, and all the restrictions associated with it, would be around for a long time. But what would it be like in the fall? And what about our contract with the hotel, given the uncertainties surrounding the fall? After consultations with Craig Hendrick, Stephen Schaefer, and the directors of other academic societies, we decided to defer a decision until the summer. In the meantime, a number of academic societies that regularly meet in the spring were already planning to go virtual. I was able to attend several of these events virtually, most notably the Association of American Geographers and the Law and Society Association. By May and June the Executive Council was meeting every other week for the first time in its history to consider our options during this rapidly evolving situation. By early to midsummer we were considering options from various companies that had begun to host virtual conferences, but in July we settled upon Open Water, a company based in Arlington, Virginia. Thanks to the typically outstanding work performed by Craig Hendrick, the Crystal City Marriott agreed to cancel our contract without penalty. We agreed to a contract for 2027 instead.

That contractual arrangement reminds us that what at one time was effective advance planning can turn around to bite us in the age of Covid, creating potential problems for the GSA. Following the practices of many other academic societies, we have regularly booked

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our conferences five or six years out. This made eminent sense for many years. There is a very finite number of big-box hotels in the US and Canada that can provide 30 or 31 concurrent breakout rooms, so it's always been essential to book early and also lock in affordable rates. This worked for us for many years. Suddenly, however, the Covid pandemic, combined with longer-term concerns like carbon footprints, has altered the situation. We now have hotel contracts through 2027 at a time when everyone may need to rethink the structure and future of academic conferences. This may well be one of the two or three biggest problems the GSA will face in the next decade. I'll have more to say on this in the final section.

In July and August we decided that it made most sense to extend the conference over six days, beginning with a special Arts Night event on Tuesday, 29 September, to help minimize Zoom Fatigue and take account of colleagues' teaching and home schedules. We also decided to meet between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. EDT to take account of time zone differences. Given the costs of running our first virtual conference, we opted to keep the same registration fees that we had originally announced for our planned in-person conference. Open Water put together a website for us that included an exhibitors' gallery and room for sponsors. Triangulating all this with Open Water, X-CD (the supplier of our conference software for the past few years), and Johns Hopkins University Press was not always easy; but, thanks to the indefatigable efforts of Benita, Margaret, and Duygu Ergun from the University of Michigan, we were able to pull it off. Indeed, without Benita, Margaret, and Duygu the conference simply could not have happened. Benita and Margaret were literally working twelve-hour days for weeks to make the conference happen. Benita played the lead role in putting together a set of FAQs for our website, and both she and Open Water prepared very helpful instructional videos.

Our numbers were down, among other things because we had given accepted panelists the option to delay their presentations until next year. In the end, 889 members and exhibitors registered for the conference. It featured a number of special events in addition to the Arts Night special with Tanja Dücker, Galal Alahmadi, and Leila Chammaa. In my opinion, our meeting with new members was more successful than our previous in-person events. Our virtual cocktail party was brilliantly organized, with wonderful and funny cocktail and mocktail recipes. Our other special events included a very important and successful GSA Forum on Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice, our new Emerging Scholars Workshops, and our annual awards ceremony. This issue of the GSA newsletter includes detailed information regarding the winners of the book and article prizes.

The virtual conference was not without glitches, of course. Benita and Margaret maintained an open room – analogous to the registration desk at in-person conferences – and it was used by a number of members. Many of the glitches concerned access to the individual session rooms. Although it seemed at the time that there were lots of glitches, on the whole the conference ran reasonably well, especially considering that this was *Neuland* for all of us.

III. Final Reflections: Past, Present, and Future

I can't avoid the temptation here to trot out the Dickensian cliché about the best of times and the worst of times. Sometimes clichés like this one are very true.

On the **positive** side of the ledger, the GSA has clearly become a congenial intellectual and organizational home for a wide range of German Studies scholars from around the world. Last year, when we met in Portland, members from 31 countries attended. Since 2005 our membership has increased from about 1300 to its current level of 2030 (as of October 2020). That latter number has been even higher in recent years, when we were able to hold in-person conferences, because of the “churn” factor in academic society memberships (i.e., people who become members for just one year so that they can participate in the conference). Although memberships have been rather flat in recent years, they have not declined significantly until (perhaps) this year.

To continue pointing to the positive side of things, we can note the following developments over the past fifteen years:

- Our conferences went from less than 200 sessions to more than 300.
- In an attempt to revitalize our interdisciplinary roots, we created an Interdisciplinary Committee and our Interdisciplinary Networks. We now have 18 Networks that are thriving and contribute hugely to the vitality of our conferences.
- We created our conference seminars, which attracted a great deal of interest in the ACLS and are now an essential aspect of our annual conference.
- We have undertaken a number of initiatives to demonstrate that the GSA is more than just a journal and a conference, but an organization that can and should be active in various ways throughout the year, including activities that are aimed at the public.
- We have tried to create an atmosphere in the GSA that is open and welcoming to early-career scholars, including but by no means limited to our New Members' Breakfast.
- Our membership seems to have become more diverse, though much remains to be done.
- Our journal, originally self-published and with a limited intellectual impact, has become a significant presence in the field under the editorships of Diethelm Prowe and Sabine Hake.
- We created *Spektrum*, a new book series published by Berghahn Books and ably edited since its inception by David Luebke.
- Although we were fairly slow to incorporate social media and modern electronic technologies, we've been catching up in recent years, as our new social media coordinators for Facebook and Twitter demonstrate.

On the **negative** or problematic side of the ledger, we can point to a number of problems, many of them thrown into sharp relief by the Covid pandemic, and by no means limited to our own Association. I'll discuss some of them in greater detail later. Here they are as questions for the immediate and longer-term future:

- Can academic societies like ours continue to justify their existence?
- Do academic societies even have a future in an age of climate crisis and pandemics?
- How do we – and can we – respond to the generalized decline of the humanities in higher education and in our culture more generally?
- Has the GSA been sufficiently open to the needs of its members, especially contingent faculty?
- Has the GSA been effective in terms of such things as administrative structure and fundraising?

Let me go into greater detail about areas both of accomplishment and problems, trying to look ahead to the next five or ten years. I list them in no rank order:

1. How should we respond to important shifts and calls for change in the academic and larger cultures?

The GSA clearly has to take a lead in responding to important changes (and calls for change) in the cultures of our various societies, from Germany and Austria to the United States. To that end, it has established a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, has developed a Conduct and Harassment Policy, and offered a special GSA Forum on Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice at the recent GSA virtual conference. A new Climate Crisis Committee will also be considering the impact of the climate crisis on the practices of academic societies like ours. And the GSA will also be considering the future of the German curriculum in higher education. Organizations like the ACLS are calling for more attention to be focused on teaching, especially undergraduate teaching. The new GSA Collaboratory is intended to support that aim.

2. What do we mean by “German Studies”?

Despite the fact that the GSA has embraced interdisciplinarity since its earliest WAGS days, it is still not at all clear that there is agreement among our members on a definition of “German Studies.” Back in 2013, much of the German media – including the *FAZ* and *Der Spiegel* – continued to insist that the GSA was a “Germanistenvereinigung,” necessitating letters from me. I have the impression that quite a few GSA members still think of “German Studies” mainly in terms of what used to be called Departments of German: i.e., language, literature, and more recently cultural studies. The GSA is and always has been both inter-

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and multidisciplinary. For decades we've said that forty percent of our membership consists of GermanistInnen, forty percent historians, and twenty percent all other disciplines. We may need to look again at the current structure of the membership. But it seems to me that this needs to be done in the context of a larger discussion of German Studies today, analogous to the discussions that began with the famous *Arizona Wüstenkonferenzen* of the GSA in the 1980s and culminated in an important 1998 document that helped set the tone of the Association for a number of years. The GSA regularly needs not only to reinvent itself but also rethink what it is that it does.

3. I continue to worry about our *Sorgenkinder*.

As I'm an historian myself, it may seem self-serving to suggest that there is a problem with history as a discipline at the GSA. But I believe there is, though it may be more a matter of perception than reality. (Which I hope is the case.) But I do have the sense that cultural studies are overshadowing much else at the GSA. The problem with political science as one of our main *Sorgenkinder* is an old one. In 2005, when I was ED-designate, I organized not one but two ad hoc committees at our Milwaukee conference to discuss the state of political science in the GSA. Some progress, but not much, has been made since that time. Considering (among other things) important shifts that have taken place in the German-American relationship in recent years, we have simply got to pay more attention to recent political and economic developments in Central Europe, including Austria and Switzerland.

Speaking of *Sorgenkinder*, let us not forget the nineteenth century and indeed the entire *Zeitraum* before 1800. We really need to keep close track of trends at the conference and in the journal.

4. The administrative structure of the GSA is antiquated and in need of an overhaul.

The GSA has long been masterful at squeezing blood out of turnips, using its very limited resources to maximum effect. It does this without any full-time staff, in sharp contrast to most similarly sized academic societies. Thus it has relied for decades on the generous work of volunteers at all levels, so much so that the GSA seems almost Tocquevillian in terms of the commitment of its members. Unfortunately, our otherwise commendable volunteerism is creaky and antiquated. Along with the development of an array of initiatives in the past 15 years, the job of Executive Director involves a number of responsibilities that were not anticipated in 2005. The job of Operations Director, which did not even exist in 2005, needs to be significantly reconfigured and recalibrated.

One consequence of this entire situation is that the other GSA officers, most notably the President, have come to play management roles that really aren't always appropriate but are nevertheless necessary if the work of the GSA is to be done. The necessary distinction in any non-profit corporation between governance and management is often blurred in the GSA. Ideally, the GSA would have a full-time Executive Director and at the very least one

full-time staffer. I am quite aware that our extremely limited financial resources make such an arrangement almost impossible at the present time. It should be noted that, for reasons of administrative efficiency, the ACLS has been encouraging member societies, especially medium-sized societies like ours, to pool resources and collaborate in various ways (e.g., to cut back on insurance costs, or to negotiate hotel contracts).

5. Fundraising has got to be a priority.

I realize that fundraising in a time of pandemic is excruciatingly difficult. It is also more essential than ever. To make things more complicated, everyone involved with fundraising agrees that it is much more difficult to raise money for a semi-abstract, uncentered entity like the GSA than for a bricks-and-mortar institution with a specific physical location. Fundraising in a pandemic and post-pandemic world will require constant, unremitting work if it is to succeed. It will require a small but highly focused and very active Fundraising Committee, and it will require the mobilization of the Board and the continued support of our members.

6. Advocacy, and taking account of shifts in the profession, will be essential to our futures.

The Coalition of Women in German (WiG) has recently initiated an effort, enthusiastically supported by the GSA, to consider ways in which we can collectively advocate for our members, our programs, and our values at a variety of levels. Among other things, the pandemic has exacerbated and also made more public the needs of many of our members, especially early-career and contingent faculty. We've revamped our dues schedule in an attempt to address these problems, and our new Community Fund represents an attempt to respond to the needs of our most vulnerable members. I strongly believe that contingent faculty should be more "visible" within the GSA, both on the Board and in our various committees.

7. Does the conference have a future? If so, what kind?

How will post-pandemic budget cuts affect travel to conferences? How will hiring freezes and reductions affect our membership base? How will concerns about carbon footprints affect conference attendance? Will the very idea of an in-person conference, with all its opportunities for personal networking, be abandoned or radically reconfigured? What would a "hybrid" conference actually look like? What do we really mean by a "hybrid" conference? Would it be affordable in terms of band-width expense? These are all questions which will have to be addressed in the near and intermediate future.

Despite all these problems, we can look back with satisfaction at our collective accomplishments during the last forty-four years. The German Studies Association has come a very long way since the first meeting in Gerry Kleinfeld's back yard in Tempe, and since

the first tentative meeting of the Western Association for German Studies (WAGS) at the Holiday Inn in Flagstaff. But if it is to survive to mid-century and beyond as an important part of the landscape of international scholarship, it will constantly have to rethink and reinvent itself.

IV. Danksagung

I'll be stepping down at the end of December after two decades of direct engagement with the GSA, an organization that I first joined (I think!) in 1984, shortly after it had changed from WAGS to the GSA. I served for three years on the Board, a year as Session Coordinator for the nineteenth century, a year as Program Director, and then fifteen years as Executive Director. I'm very grateful for the support I've received over the years, and am still quite overwhelmed by the recognition I received at the virtual meeting; it came as a complete surprise.

As ED I've worked with eight Presidents. My thanks to them all: Kathy Roper, Sara Lennox, Celia Applegate, Steve Brockmann, Sue Marchand, Irene Kacandes, Mary Lindemann, and Johannes von Moltke. I've worked with excellent and committed Program Directors: Gail Hart, Andy Lees, Pat Herminghouse, George Williamson, Janet Ward, Ben Marschke, Jared Poley, Jason Coy, Margaret Menninger, Todd Heidt, and Joanne Miyang Cho.

I could not have done this job without the support of the American Council of Learned Societies. I owe a great deal to ACLS colleagues and colleagues from other ACLS societies, including Pauline Yu, Steve Wheatley, Herb Mann, Candice Frede, Sandra Bradley, Olavi Arens, Jay Malone, Jim Nafziger, Jim Grossman, and many more.

Special appreciation to all those who have helped in myriad ways over the years, and without whom nothing could have been accomplished in the Association: Ramaswamy Vadivelu, Terry Pochert, Charles Fulton, Liz Fulton, Craig Hendrick, Daniel Huffman, Sally Scheuermann, Michael Thomanek, Margaret Menninger, and Benita Blessing. Working with the Berlin Program has been a real privilege, and I owe a real debt of gratitude to Karin Goihl, Elke Loeschhorn, and Wedigo de Vivanco. Over the years I've been inspired by all the contributions of my dear friends Gerry Kleinfeld and Jerry Fetz, who devoted decades of their lives to this Association and have left a permanent imprint on it.

Finally, I'd like to pay tribute to some of our most active and devoted members, special friends and colleagues who did so much for the GSA and who have left us: Agnes Peterson, Sybil Milton, Henry Friedlander, Gerald Feldman, Diethelm Prowe, Gerhard Weiss, and Marion Deshmukh.

I'm sure that I have left off many names here. If I have, please don't be offended. If I included everyone, it would practically amount to a roster of the entire membership!

The GSA has become a vital part of my life. It has been a source of pleasure and, yes, sometimes of pain and aggravation. But it has created memories for a lifetime. A lot has happened since I told Shelley Baranowski in the late 1990s that I really liked the GSA and would enjoy being more directly involved with it. Though I've often not succeeded, I've tried to do my best. The Association faces difficult and complex choices in the years ahead, but I'm confident that the extraordinary members who comprise it will be able to steer the ship through turbulent waters.

Please stay safe and healthy this holiday season and into 2021 and beyond. Those who know me also know that I'm a lifelong *Star Trek* fan. And so, as I prepare to leave, my wish to you all is: Live long and prosper!

All best wishes to you all,
David

David E. Barclay
Executive Director

The 45th Annual Conference of the German Studies Association 2021

Call for Seminar Proposals

[NOTE: Although the deadline for submitting seminar proposals has passed, the Call for Proposals is included here for reference and informational purposes.]

The 45th German Studies Association Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, from September 30 to October 4, 2021 will continue to host a series of seminars in addition to conference sessions and roundtables (for general conference information see [*https://www.thegsa.org/conference*](https://www.thegsa.org/conference)). With 13 seminars postponed from the 2020 conference (click [*here*](#) for those seminar topics), we will have space for approximately 15 new seminars, for a total of about 28 seminars in Indianapolis.

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. 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; the coming together of scholars seeking to develop an anthology; 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.

To apply to convene a seminar, GSA members should submit a proposal through the online portal ([*https://www.xcdsystem.com/gsa*](https://www.xcdsystem.com/gsa)) by **11:59 pm EST on November 30, 2020**. The proposal should include the following items:

1. Title of Proposed Seminar;
2. Convener Information: names, ranks, institutional affiliations, email addresses;
3. 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;

4. Format Description: a 50-word description of the seminar's format, which will appear in the call for participants, etc.;
5. Goals & Procedures: a 200-word statement of seminar goals and procedures.
6. 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
7. 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 **January 4, 2021**. Conveners may then enlist participants to join the seminar. A 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, Professors Heather Mathews (hmathews@plu.edu) and Winson Chu (wchu@uwm.edu), to connect with GSA Networks close to their topic.
- 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 X-CD 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

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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

Call for Panel and Paper Proposals

The German Studies Association (GSA) will hold its [45th Annual Conference](#) from 30 September to 3 October 2021 at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Program Committee cordially invites proposals on any aspect of German, Austrian, or Swiss studies, including (but not limited to) history, Germanistik, film and media studies, art history, political science, anthropology, pedagogy scholarship, musicology, economic studies, religious studies, sociology, and cultural studies.

Proposals for entire sessions, for interdisciplinary presentations, and for series of panels are strongly encouraged (although 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 (www.thegsa.org) for information about the submission process for 'traditional' papers, sessions, and roundtables, which will open on 4 January 2021. The deadline for proposals is 15 February 2021.

Separate submission tracks have been set up for returning proposals that were postponed from 2020 and new proposals. There is more information about this on the GSA website, and instructions will also be available on the submission interface when it opens.

Please note that all proposed presenters must be members of the German Studies Association. Information on membership is available on the GSA website.

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](#)):

1. 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.)

2. If a paper proposal requires high quality sound equipment, that justification must be made in detail at the time of submission.

With respect to the continuing pandemic, it is unfortunately far too soon to speculate about conditions next October. As of right now, the GSA conference will take place in person. As matters continue to develop, we will keep the membership informed as quickly as possible.

For more information, visit the [current conference page](#) at the GSA website. You may also contact members of the 2020 Program Committee (<https://www.thegsa.org/conference/program-committee-2020>) or Operations Director Dr. Benita Blessing (operations@thegsa.org).

Call for Applicants: GSA Emerging Scholars Workshop (ESW)

We are excited to issue this call for the Emerging Scholars Workshop (ESW) to be hosted for the second time at the 45th German Studies Association Conference in Indianapolis, from September 30-October 3, 2021. 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 roundtables (for general conference information see <https://www.thegsa.org/conference>).

Over the past ten years, 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 two ESW sessions. You can only apply to one:

- Workshop 1:

“Cultural Approaches to Modern German History” facilitated by Prof. Monica Black, University of Tennessee at Knoxville (<https://history.utk.edu/people/monica-black/>)

This seminar is designed for graduate students at any level interested in anthropological and cultural approaches to modern German history. Our discussions will focus on such issues as subjectivity, ritual and symbolic practice, vernacular knowledge, and systems of meaning. In that sense, the seminar will be as concerned with theory and method as with any particular era or specific set of topics. Some advance reading will be required.

- Workshop 2:

“Critical European Studies in Practice and Theory,” facilitated by Prof. Randall Halle, University of Pittsburgh (<http://www.german.pitt.edu/people/randall-halle>)

This Critical European/German Studies seminar is oriented toward grad students interested in German cultural policy and production in a transnational European context. If we only focus on the word on the page, the image on the screen, or the performer on the stage, we understand only a fraction of what brought them there. The workshop offers both practical and theoretical training for participants who want to engage the contemporary creative industries and the cultural policy that organizes them. We will investigate various mechanisms of European, national, and regional policy and funding. Participants will then engage the processes of Europeanization and their impact on the German-speaking world. We will finally set the contemporary cultural project of the EU in relation to longer histories of Europeanization and other models like Paneurope, the Europe of Nations, Eurasia, Eurafrika, and the imaginative communities they constitute. After completing the seminar, participants will be better able to assess the complex connectivity of the (German) cultural objects they investigate.

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, 8:30-10am. 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.). 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 convey the ways in which the student seeks to benefit from the workshop. The letter must indicate which of the two workshops the applicant wishes to join.

The deadline for the submission of the application letter is Friday, December 18, 2020 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, 2021. Students who cannot be accommodated this time will still have the opportunity to apply to one of the regular GSA seminars or sessions.

[Return to TOC](#)

The ESW Committee consists of:

Astrid M. Eckert (Emory University) | aeckert@emory.edu

Priscilla D. Layne (UNC-Chapel Hill) | playne@email.unc.edu

Conference Submission Guidelines

- All papers and panels must be submitted via the GSA website.
- All prospective participants, including moderators and commentators, must be paid members of the German Studies Association for the current year.
- All papers and panel titles must conform to the style guidelines of either *The Chicago Manual of Style* or *Historische Zeitschrift*.
- Papers in both English and German are welcome.
- The submission deadline is **Monday, February 15th, 2021**, at 11:59pm Eastern Standard Time. No submissions will be accepted after this deadline.
- Organizers of entire sessions should submit a 300-500 word session description, with 350-600 word abstracts for each paper in the session.
- Individual paper submitters should submit a 350-600 word abstract.
- Please indicate, using the drop-down menu, the field/area/chronological period to which you wish your session or paper to be assigned.
- For assistance with the online submission process or with dues payment, first contact Benita Blessing at operations@thegsa.org.

Rules for Participation

- Each individual may participate in no more than two sessions, with a seminar or Emerging Scholars Workshop counting as one session.
- No individual may give two papers, or give a paper and participate in a seminar or ESW. These are defined as "presenter roles."
- No individual may apply to more than one presenter role.
- Individuals **may** both give a paper (or participate in a seminar) **and** participate in one roundtable.
- An individual who has been accepted to a seminar **may not** withdraw in order to submit a paper.

Composition of Panels

- A complete panel must comprise a moderator, a commentator and no fewer than three and no more than four papers. Incomplete panels may be submitted, but their acceptance and/or eventual composition then becomes the purview of the Program Committee.
- Graduate students may not serve as commentators, and there may not be more than two graduate student papers on any panel.

- There may not be more than two individuals on any panel from the same institution.
- Co-authored papers are permitted, but each presentation is limited to two co-presenters. A co-presentation counts as one presenter role for each speaker, for scheduling purposes.
- Proposals for panel series must be limited to no more than four related panels.

Projection and sound

- All breakout rooms will be equipped with LCD projectors that have VGA cables. Please be sure to bring an appropriate adapter for your laptop.
- Laptops will not be provided.
- The standard projectors **do not** have sound support. Please see below if your presentation will require sound.
- Presenters requiring separate **sound** equipment must request it during the submission process. Assignment of panels to rooms specially equipped for sound is at the discretion of the Program Director and the Executive Director.

Scheduling Changes

- The Program Director and the Executive Director reserve the right to move papers from one session to another at their discretion.
- New papers **may not** be substituted in cases of participant withdrawal. Only papers received by the original submission deadline and fully vetted by the Program Committee will be considered.
- Withdrawn participants **may not** present via video conference (Skype, Zoom, etc.), nor may they have their contributions read *in absentia*.
- When participant withdrawals result in a panel with two papers, or a roundtable with two participants (excluding moderator), such sessions may be cancelled at the discretion of the Program Director and the Executive Director if no other alternative can be found.
- Single papers that are not initially accepted will be put on a waitlist in case of future openings. Authors are free to decline this option. Every attempt will be made to send final decision notifications by Friday, June 1st, 2021.

Withdrawal from the Conference

- **All individuals withdrawing from the conference must inform the GSA.** Please contact Dr. Benita Blessing at operations@thegsa.org to confirm your absence as soon as possible, even if that means after the conference, so that we can plan and also keep accurate records.
- Lack of travel funding is **not** a valid reason for withdrawal. All non-North Americans are eligible for our [travel grants](#), and there is no deadline for application.
- Individuals withdrawing from the conference after acceptance of their papers and/or panels will not have their membership dues to GSA refunded.

- Registration fees for cancellations will be refunded, but will incur a cancellation penalty of 50% of the fee. Exceptions may be made for illness or other serious and unforeseen circumstances. No refunds are available for cancellations after 1 September. For more information, contact [Benita Blessing](#).

GSA Book and Article Prizes Awarded in 2020

The GSA is pleased to announce that the following prizes were awarded at its virtual 44th conference

The **DAAD/GSA Prize for the Best Book in Germanistik and Cultural Studies** published in 2019 was awarded to **Professor Tobias Boes** (University of Notre Dame) for his book *Thomas Mann's War: Literature, Politics and the World Republic of Letters* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2019)

LAUDATIO:

Tobias Boes's *Thomas Mann's War: Literature, Politics and the World Republic of Letters* (2019) is an outstanding transnational study that charts the construction of Thomas Mann as "Hitler's most intimate enemy" in the world literary space. By drawing on several archives in Germany and the United States, Boes presents great insights into how the German author who took refuge in the US came to acquire a canonical status among both American and global Anglophone readership. The framing opens up significant new directions of conceptualizing authorship and connecting the German canon to questions of world literature. At stake are not only the public construction of an author, especially under the conditions of exile, when one's readership largely knows the work only in and as translation, but also the role of 'middlebrow' aesthetics in American taste, which is embraced not only as a popular strategy, but a genuine badge of honor. Boes's book thus becomes much more than the study of Thomas Mann (the man, and the author). Through its compelling research and inviting writing style, the study draws a vivid picture of how a figure such as Thomas Mann and his writings are mediated in the American public sphere.

Boes's readings of Mann and his literary works are refracted by exile, translation, the American book market, book series such as the Armed Services Editions during the Second World War, and the lectures and statements that Mann made during his stay in the United States. Boes successfully documents the course of politicization of a once self-proclaimed non-political man, who, by being a German in the US, comes to understand the significance of books as weapons in the war against Fascism. Rather than portraying Mann as the perfect world literary author, Boes remains aware of Mann's problematic political stances on issues of anti-Semitism and race, thus underlining the tensions, contradictions, and inconsistencies that also entail the evaluation of an author in the world literary space.

Particularly striking is the fact that *Thomas Mann's War* is a book that could only emerge from the archives and erudition of many interconnected fields in literary and cultural studies, yet succeeds in reaching an audience that goes well beyond the walls of the academy. In a time of global fascistic and systemic racist formations – as well as the reinvigorated struggle against them – Boes's study unpacks the complex social and public mechanisms that go into both making and unmaking them. It also signals possibilities for critical public humanities scholarship within the field of German Studies.

Honorable Mention was awarded to **Professor Carl Gelderloos** (Binghamton University), *Biological Modernism: The New Human in Weimar Culture* (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2020)

LAUDATIO:

Carl Gelderloos's *Biological Modernism: The New Human in Weimar Culture* is an erudite, meticulously researched scholarly contribution that sheds new light on the history of ideas surrounding biology, organic life, and nature as formative forces in modernist projects, right and left. The study contributes truly innovative perspectives to our understanding of Weimar literature and culture by way of masterful close readings of individual texts that simultaneously weave an impressive web of connections: larger conceptual questions about aesthetics, media, and genre are sutured to the history of science, disciplinarity, and the life sciences. Gelderloos maps this fraught historical terrain in a sophisticated way that complexifies - but does not muddle - straightforward political distinctions, as it facilitates a rethinking, in particular, of the traditional association of biological thought with fascist antimodernity in German studies. The book focuses on the Weimar Culture of the early twentieth century, tracing how Biology as an emergent discipline opened up new ways of conceptualizing form, development, and history. Gelderloos draws on and interweaves bodies of knowledge from a wide range of fields such as biology, philosophy, photography, and literature to explore constructions of the "new human" in concert with the significance of aesthetics and technology and, thereby, offers a deeper cultural understanding of a tumultuous period in German history. In its historicizing argument, *Biological Modernism* indicates a range of connections to contemporary discussions around Ecology and the Anthropocene, and thereby opens German Studies to a broader field of transdisciplinary investigations in our own historical moment.

Book Prize Committee: B. Venkat Mani (University of Wisconsin—Madison. chair), Claudia Breger (Columbia University), Paul Fleming (Cornell University).

The **DAAD/GSA Prize for the Best Book in History and Social Sciences** published in 2019 was awarded to **Professor Astrid M. Eckert** (Emory University) for her book *West Germany and the Iron Curtain: Environment, Economy, and Culture in the Borderlands* (Oxford University Press, 2019)

LAUDATIO:

Winner of the 2020 GSA/DAAD Book Prize: Astrid M. Eckert's *West Germany and the Iron Curtain: Environment, Economy, and Culture in the Borderlands* achieves what all innovative history aspires to do: open new sight lines that advance both conceptual and empirical knowledge. By focusing on the newly created borderlands that divided the two postwar Germanies, Professor Eckert's study brings into sharp focus how the Cold War saddled a congeries of regions and towns with the common fate of a border

region. Situated along the political frontier of a global ideological divide, these West German locales – from the Baltic Sea to Bavarian villages – underwent dramatic economic, political, and environmental change over the course of the Cold War—and beyond. The Iron Curtain’s domestic and international politics transformed these areas of central Germany into *Randzonengebiete*: peripheral regions whose socioeconomic development accorded neither with the storyline of the “economic miracle” nor with the political narratives of Bonn and West Berlin. The brilliance of Eckert’s book lies in demonstrating how these peripheral areas – constituting one-fifth of the FRG – assumed a centrality in ways they never had before. Despite its backwater status as the “east of the west,” the borderlands exerted substantial force in reconstituting the West German state. By reimagining the cultural landscape of West Germany’s social and political development, Eckert’s extensively researched study marks a signal contribution to the fields of German and European history.

Local and regional history is certainly not new to German historiography, yet West Germany and the Iron Curtain combines exceptional sensitivity to a wide range of local issues with a commanding knowledge of the Cold War’s broader history. Rather than replacing history “from above” with an emphasis on grassroots agency, Eckert considers the intricate relations between local practice and the economic, environmental, and military initiatives undertaken by national and regional authorities. By recovering an overlooked border culture, the study amplifies our understanding of the FRG’s social diversity, from 1945 into the new millennium, beckoning us to reconfigure the cultural geography of West Germany and its drivers of change. Indeed, Eckert’s periodization is itself notable. Just as she chooses to focus on the newly constructed postwar political frontier, raising anew the concept of borders as a sociological phenomenon, so too she challenges customary periodization, stretching her study from the immediate postwar and zonal Germany, through the two Cold-War Germanies, and into reunification. In doing so, she demonstrates the dynamism and volatility of circumstances across a half century—precisely in a region that contemporaries perceived as provincial and behind the times.

By entwining politics, economy, culture, and the environment, the book introduces a new synthetic narrative to the Cold War. The opening chapters deftly explore the political economy of aid. The construct of the borderlands, and its perception as a single geographic unit, emerged as an effective means to garner economic support for regions left behind during the economic boom of the 1950s. By branding themselves as *Randzonengebiete*, these heterogeneous communities (and their equally diverse landscapes) successfully lobbied for loans, subventions, and start-up initiatives, which local politicians successfully sustained over a half century. The concept of borderlands further promoted various forms of tourism. If the attraction of a quiet 2 country idyll of yesteryear lured one kind of visitor, others sought the frisson of gazing upon dangerous border fortifications of the other Germany—an interpretive frame promoted by state-subsidized “political education” trips. The tensions that inhered in such constructions of the Federal Republic’s border contributed to the identity of the borderline Heimat, perhaps the quintessential German homeland of the Cold War. Even today, Eckert reminds us, the former border remains a memorial landscape of otherness.

Subsequent chapters on environmental policy, transboundary nature, and Gorleben, the now-famous site of popular protest against nuclear power, amount to the first environmental history of the German-German border. Contrary to conventional wisdom, Eckert shows that transboundary pollution ran generously in both directions; keeping the FRG “clean” often meant contributing to dirty air and water in the GDR. But the weaknesses of East-German environmental protections loomed large for the borderlands; they not only uncovered a failing industrial infrastructure but also framed the dilatory tempo for reaching an environmental accord, which was only signed two years before the fall of the wall. Eckert offers no triumphalism after unification. The land surrounding the Werra river remains a brownfield to this day, and other long-lasting effects continue to plague the land. She equally resists any redemptive message when assessing the accidental animal sanctuary that the wall’s no-man’s land unwittingly created. If birds thrived, terrestrial animals met far less salutary fates—not least through the proliferation of land mines. Furthermore, the incongruity between natural habitats and political borders did not end in 1989. The long-term impact of the cold war on flora and fauna transcend any conventional periodization of the Cold War; rather, one must speak of a *longue durée* of environmental change. The book’s last chapter is a tour-de-force analysis of the Gorleben protest movement, which Eckert recasts as a border issue, uniting it with the book’s political, economic, cultural, and environmental themes. By foregrounding Gorleben’s borderland status, the anti-nuclear protest blurred the boundaries between geographic, ideological, and national identities, and its success partly derived from the site’s location, which heightened cold-war tensions. Throughout all these chapters, Eckert is alive to the lived social experience of borderland actors and the evolving conditions that acted upon them. Clear-eyed and true to her sources, Eckert furthermore displays a resolutely critical approach in judging regional, national, and international governance.

Astrid M. Eckert’s presentation of the borderlands as a fundamental geographic unit of the Cold War, and her deft analysis of its constitutive process in the postwar decades, breaks new ground in historiography. Written in crisp, pellucid prose and based on years of exacting archival research, the work provides students, scholars, and a general reading audience with a new understanding of West Germany during the Cold War. Eckert’s wide-ranging study demonstrates not only the past and current importance of the German-German borderlands, but also their lasting significance and consequences for future generations. A model of historical scholarship, Eckert’s opus is likewise a broader cautionary tale about the cultural, political, and economic consequences of borders and walls. The GSA/DAAD book prize committee offers its warmest congratulations to Professor Eckert for this outsized achievement.

Book Prize Committee: James M. Brophy (University of Delaware, chair), Ofer Ashkenazi (Hebrew University), Belinda Davis (Rutgers University).

The **DAAD/GSA Article Prize for the Best Article Published in the *German Studies Review*** during the previous year was awarded to **Professor Joe Perry** (Georgia State University) for [Return to TOC](#)

his article “Love Parade 1996: Techno Playworlds & the Neo-Liberalization of Post-Wall Berlin,” *German Studies Review* 42, no. 3 (October 2019): 561-79.

LAUDATIO:

The DAAD/GSA article prize committee warmly congratulates historian Joe Perry, whose “Love Parade 1996: Techno Playworlds & the Neo-Liberalization of Post-Wall Berlin” has been selected as 2019’s winner.

Perry’s article looks at Berlin’s world-famous Love Parade, the city’s euphoric festival of music, dance, costume, and drugs, and how it contributed – quite in contrast to the techno scene’s ethos of “effervescent cultural experimentation” – to the creation of a fully globalized New Berlin, playground for the “Easy Jet Set.” Committee members praised the article as engaging enough to be assigned to undergraduates, while at the same time exemplifying what might be called critical theory in action, as it exposes the harnessing of art in the service of neoliberal Berlin’s renaissance as a global “creative class” destination. Rather than nourishing rebellion, Perry shows, the Love Parade’s original spirit of creativity and transgression instead spurred urban boosterism and marketing strategies, contributing to the city’s post-1990 gentrification. All committee members admired Perry’s cultivation and analysis of a broad collection of sources, from film and techno-scene videos to statements by city officials to social media sites (many now defunct) and fanzines.

Article Prize Committee: Monica Black (University of Tennessee—Knoxville, chair), Matthew Handelman (Michigan State University), Kristin Kopp (University of Missouri).

The GSA Prize for the Best Essay by a Graduate Student and the Sybil Halpern Milton Book Prize were not awarded in 2020. They will be awarded again in 2021.

2021 Prize Competitions Announced

In 2021 the GSA will again make a number of awards. We hope that as many members as possible will make nominations and submissions.

In 2021 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 2020. Inquiries, nominations, and submissions should be sent to the committee chair, Professor Kira Thurman (University of Michigan, thurmank[at]umich.edu) by **20 February 2021**. The other members of the committee are Professors Tobias Boes (University of Notre Dame) and Chunjie Zhang (University of California, Davis).

In 2021 the **DAAD/GSA Book Prize for the Best Book in History or Social Sciences** will be awarded to the best book in those fields published in 2020. Inquiries, nominations, and submissions should be sent to the committee chair, Professor Ben Marschke (Humboldt State University, bm57[at]Humboldt.edu), by **20 February 2021**. The other members of the committee are Professors Jörg Echternkamp (Halle and Potsdam) and Astrid M. Eckert (Emory University).

The **DAAD/GSA Article Prize** will be awarded in 2021 for the best article in Germanistik or cultural studies that appeared in the *German Studies Review* in 2020. Inquiries, nominations, and submissions should be sent to the committee chair, Professor Qinna Shen (Bryn Mawr College, qshen[at]brynmawr.edu), by **20 February 2021**. The other members of the committee are Professors Pieter Judson (European University Institute) and Lorie Vanchena (University of Kansas).

The **Sybil Halpern Milton Book Prize** is awarded every other year, and will be awarded in 2021 for the best book in Holocaust Studies published in 2019 or 2020. Inquiries, nominations, and submissions should be sent to the committee chair, Professor Doris Bergen, University of Toronto, doris.bergen[at]utoronto.ca) by **20 February 2021**. The other members of the committee are Professors Neil Gregor (University of Southampton) and Todd Presner (University of California, Los Angeles).

The prize for the **Best Essay in German Studies by a Graduate Student** will again be awarded in 2021. The deadline for nominations and submissions is **15 March 2021**. Papers should be 6,000-9,000 words in length. The winner will be published in the *German Studies Review*. Nominations and submissions should be sent to the committee chair, Professor A. Dana Weber (Florida State University, aweber[at]fsu.edu). The other members of the committee are Professors Eric Kurlander (Stetson University) and Ervin Malakaj (University of British Columbia).

David Warren Sabean Receives AHA Award for Scholarly Distinction

Professor David Warren Sabean (University of California, Los Angeles), a long-time GSA member, has received one of the highest awards of the American Historical Association, the Award for Scholarly Distinction, which goes “to senior historians of the highest distinction who have spent the bulk of their professional careers in the United States.” Previous recipients include Professors Charles Maier (Harvard University) and Gerhard Weinberg (University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill), also distinguished GSA members.

Here is the citation for Professor Sabean:

“David Warren Sabean is professor emeritus at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he held the Henry J. Bruman Endowed Professorship. Sabean’s scholarly production is as prodigious as it is distinguished. His mixture of interdisciplinary insights and methods, principally anthropology, and range of subjects has influenced generations of historians. A sensitivity to the world of rural society and its workings characterizes his scholarship. Sabean has held visiting and distinguished academic appointments at numerous institutes and universities in the United States and Europe as well as having received major awards including a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship.”

Congratulations from the GSA to Professor Sabean!

GSA Archives Committee Report 2020^[1]

Neues aus deutschen Archiven Rainer Hering

Gliederung:

- 1.) Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln
- 2.) Arolsen Archives
- 3.) Bundesarchiv
- 4) Archiv der deutschen Frauenbewegung in Kassel
- 5) GSA Archives Committee

1.) Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln

Im Sommer 2020, bestimmen zwei Aspekte die Arbeit des Kölner Stadtarchivs: die „neue Normalität“ in Folge der pandemischen Ausbreitung des neuartigen Corona-Virus und die Vorarbeiten für den Umzug in das neu errichtete Dienstgebäude am Eifelwall.[2] Während die Bauarbeiten dort nach Aussage der Gebäudewirtschaft der Stadt Köln nach Plan und weitgehend im Budget voranschreiten, bereitet sich das Historische Archiv der Stadt Köln auf den größten Umzug seiner Geschichte vor.

Die abschließenden Arbeiten am Innenausbau im neuen Gebäude am Eifelwall laufen planmäßig: Im Kern des Gebäudes, dem „Schatzhaus“ mit seinen sieben Ebenen mit Magazinräumen, sind die Regalanlagen montiert und abgenommen. Die Lüftungstechnik wird sukzessive in Betrieb genommen und die Raumaustrocknung schreitet voran. Als zukünftige Nutzer des Gebäudes beschäftigt sich das Archiv nun intensiv mit der Ausstattung des Gebäudes. Die Beschaffung von Möbeln, der Einbau von IT-Technik, die Sicherheitsausstattung, die Vorbereitung für ein integriertes Schädlingsmonitoring und vieles mehr werden in diesen Monaten abgeschlossen. Am 16. Dezember 2020 soll der Neubau vollständig fertig und durch die Bauaufsicht abgenommen dem Nutzer übergeben werden. Es folgt noch eine zweimonatige Phase der klimatischen Einregulierung, bevor das Historische Archiv gemeinsam mit dem Rheinischen Bildarchiv die neuen Räumlichkeiten beziehen kann. Eine große Einweihung ist für Ende März 2021 vorgesehen.

Der Einzug des Archivgutes wird im Frühjahr 2021 von statten gehen. Seit mehreren Monaten wird in der Bestandserhaltung die transportgerechte Verpackung des Archivgutes vorangetrieben, eine Aufgabe, die insbesondere bei den einsturzeschädigten Archivalien

oft aufwändig ist. Erschließungsprojekte werden schon seit Anfang des Jahres eng in die Verpackungsabläufe eingetaktet.

In der zweiten Jahreshälfte ist daher mit Einschränkungen für die Nutzerinnen und Nutzer zu rechnen, über die das Stadtarchiv auf seinen Websites und über Social Media informieren wird. Die durch den Einsturz erzwungene und über digitale Systeme verwaltete chaotische Lagerung des Archivgutes erlaubt aber fallweise noch weiter die Bereitstellung von Materialien. Gleichzeitig erleichtert sie den Umzug dadurch, dass die Kartons des Archivs einfach nach Größe und Archivgutart eingelagert werden können, ohne dass man für Bestände geordnet in aufsteigender Nummernreihenfolge Regalplatz berechnen und freihalten müsste.

Noch einige Daten und Fakten zum Stand des Wiederaufbaus und zur regulären Archivarbeit: Mehr als drei Viertel aller insgesamt erwarteten Bergungseinheiten wurden mittlerweile erfasst. Bis zum Ende der Bergungserfassung Ende 2021 rechnen wir damit, dass dieser Wert noch deutlich über 80 Prozent ansteigt. Die restlichen Einheiten sind so beschädigt, dass sie erst konservatorisch behandelt werden müssen, bevor sie durch Archivarinnen und Archivare identifiziert werden können. 16,3 Prozent aller erwarteten Bergungseinheiten wurden bereits konservatorisch behandelt, mehr als die Hälfte davon stehen bereits uneingeschränkt wieder zur Benutzung zur Verfügung.

Aber auch die Übernahme und Erschließung neuen Archivgutes geht intensiv weiter. Im Bereich der städtischen Überlieferung ist vor allem ein großer Bestandskomplex aus dem Amt der Oberbürgermeisterin seit den 1980er Jahren zu nennen sowie die vollständige Nachkriegsüberlieferung der Feuerwehr, die Material zu allen größeren Einsätzen enthält. Dazu kommt eine Anzahl von Nachlässen, unter denen sicherlich derjenige des bundesweit aktiven Medienunternehmers und Kölner Ehrenbürgers Alfred Neven DuMont (1927-2015) herausragt.

Seit Dezember 2019 sind die Archivleitung, die Verwaltung, die Öffentlichkeitsarbeit sowie Teile der archivischen Sachgebiete nun in der Brabanter Straße 2-4 untergebracht, unweit des Rudolfplatzes, im Herzen des bekannten „Belgischen Viertels“. Der neue Standort verfügt über ein kleines „Ausstellungslokal“ im Erdgeschoss, für das eine niedrighschwellige Ausstellung unter dem Titel „Zeig’s mir. Imagines Coloniae“ mit 55 Bildern aus 11 Jahrhunderten erstellt worden ist. Besucher sollten zwanglos die durcheinander gehängten Bilder auf sich wirken lassen, es gibt Lesecken und interaktive Möglichkeiten zur Beteiligung.

Weiterhin konnten die Restaurierungsdaten für weitere 18000 Objekte in den Datenbanken erfasst werden, so dass nicht nur medienbruchfreie digitale Restaurierungsdokumentationen flächendeckend vorhanden sind, sondern auch Aufwandskalkulationen für zukünftige Maßnahmen im Bereich der Bestandserhaltung deutlich einfacher und genauer erstellt werden können.

Der Austausch mit den anderen städtischen Institutionen wird ergänzt durch verschiedene nationale und internationale Foren zu Fragen des Notfallmanagements und der Prävention, in denen Mitarbeitende des Hauses präsent waren.

Nach längeren diskret durchgeführten Verhandlungen zwischen der Stadt Köln, vertreten vor allem durch ihren Stadtdirektor Dr. Keller und den dafür beschäftigten Anwälten auf der einen und den Baufirmen der ARGE Stadtbahnbau Los Süd auf der anderen Seite, ist ein Vergleichsvorschlag für die zivilrechtliche Abwicklung des Einsturzschadens erreicht worden, über den in der kommenden Woche der Rat der Stadt Köln entscheiden wird. Kernpunkte sind die grundsätzliche Anerkennung der Schuldfrage durch die Bauunternehmen, der Weiterbau der betroffenen U-Bahn-Teile auf eigene Rechnung durch die Bauunternehmen sowie die Zahlung einer Schadensersatzleistung von insgesamt 600 Mio. EUR an die Stadt Köln. Von dieser sind ca. 340 Mio. EUR zuzüglich der bislang hierfür aufgewendeten Mittel für die Wiederherstellung des Archivgutes vorgesehen.

2.) Arolsen Archives

Der Internationale Suchdienst in Bad Arolsen (ITS) nett sich jetzt Arolsen Archives - International Center on Nazi Persecution. Diese Einrichtung untersteht den elf Staaten des Internationalen Ausschusses für den Internationalen Suchdienst (Belgien, Frankreich, Deutschland, Griechenland, Israel, Italien, Luxemburg, Niederlande, Polen, Großbritannien, USA). Grundlage sind die Bonner Verträge von 1955 und das Änderungsprotokoll von 2006. Im Auftrag des Ausschusses wurde der ITS jahrzehntelang vom Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz (IKRK) geleitet und verwaltet. Am 9. Dezember 2011 unterzeichneten die elf Mitgliedsstaaten zwei neue Abkommen über die Aufgaben und die Administration des ITS. Das Internationale Komitee des Roten Kreuzes zog sich Ende 2012 aus der Leitung des ITS zurück. Neuer institutioneller Partner ist das Bundesarchiv, finanziert wird die Einrichtung aus dem Haushalt des Bundesinnenministeriums.[3]

Bis heute sucht eine große Zahl von Menschen Informationen über Angehörige, die durch das NS-Regime ermordet, verfolgt oder verschleppt wurden. Erneut sind die Anfragen an das weltweit umfangreichste Archiv über NS-Verfolgte gestiegen, im vergangenen Jahr um zehn Prozent. Die Arolsen Archives erhielten Anfragen zu rund 24.000 Personen – fast drei Viertel stammen dabei von Angehörigen. Nur noch zwei Prozent kamen von Überlebenden selbst. Insgesamt wandten sich Menschen aus rund 70 Ländern an die Arolsen Archives, besonders stark vertreten waren Deutschland, Polen und die USA.

Digitale Kopien der Daten befinden sich derzeit im US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington sowie in Israel (Yad Vashem in Jerusalem), Polen (Nationales Institut des Gedenkens in Warschau), Belgien (Archives Générales du Royaume), Luxemburg (Centre de Documentation et de Recherche sur la Résistance), in Frankreich (Archives Nationales) und in Großbritannien (Wiener Library in London) – darunter auch Unterlagen über die Deportation französischer Widerstandskämpfer, die Ausbeutung französischer

Zwangsarbeiter sowie die Verfolgung der Juden nach der Besetzung Frankreichs durch die Deutschen. Auch das Staatliche Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau hat den direkten Zugriff auf die komplette Datenbank des ITS und somit auf das weltweit umfangreichste Archiv über NS-Verfolgte.

Bislang wurden etwa 88 Millionen Abbildungen und über sieben Terabyte an Daten an diese Einrichtungen überreicht, darunter Dokumente zu Konzentrationslagern, Ghettos und Gefängnissen (ca. 18 Millionen Abbildungen), die Zentrale Namenskartei des ITS (ca. 42 Millionen Abbildungen), Registrierungskarten von Displaced Persons (ca. 7 Millionen Abbildungen) sowie Unterlagen zum Thema Zwangsarbeit (ca. 13 Millionen Abbildungen), zu DP Camps und zur Emigration (4,5 Millionen Abbildungen).

Das Online-Archiv der Arolsen Archives steht Interessierten seit Mai 2019 zur Verfügung: <https://collections.arolsen.archives.org>. 350.000 Nutzer aus aller Welt recherchierten bereits in diesem nun öffentlich zugänglichen Teil der Sammlung, die mit 30 Millionen Dokumenten zum UNESCO Welterbe zählt. Sie gibt Auskunft über KZ-Inhaftierte, Zwangsarbeiter des NS-Regimes und die Überlebenden der Verfolgung.

Zum 27. Januar 2020, dem Internationalen Holocaust Gedenktag und 75. Jahrestag der Auschwitz-Befreiung, veröffentlichen die Arolsen Archives eine weitere bedeutende Sammlung online. Es handelt sich um Registrierungskarten von 1,7 Millionen Menschen, angelegt durch die Alliierten. Die Karten enthalten viele Informationen sowohl über Herkunft und Verfolgungsweg als auch über die Situation nach 1945: Wohin wollten die Menschen emigrieren? An welchen Orten lebten sie übergangsweise?

Die historischen Bestände der Arolsen Archives stehen fast vollständig online. Nun können Interessierte auf der ganzen Welt über das Online-Archiv auf 26 Millionen Dokumente mit Informationen zu 21 Millionen Namen von NS-Verfolgten zugreifen. Die Arolsen Archives haben ihre Sammlung im Internet zuletzt mit Dokumenten über Zwangsarbeiter und über Deportationen in die Konzentrationslager erweitert. Mit diesem Schritt ist nun ein Großteil der Dokumente aus dem weltweit umfassendsten Archiv über NS-Verfolgung online veröffentlicht.

- **Die Zwangsarbeiter-Kartei** – Original-Dokumente und Kopien über Millionen von Zwangsarbeitern, die individuelle Schicksale nachvollziehbar machen: Melde- und Registrierkarten, Fragebögen, Schriftverkehr
- **Deportationen** – von Juden, Roma und Sinti aus dem ehemaligen Deutschen Reich, Österreich, Böhmen und Mähren: Transport- und Deportationslisten mit Informationen über Millionen Menschen, die in Konzentrationslager und Ghettos verschleppt wurden.

Der Bestand über die Deportationen ist größtenteils schon sehr gut indiziert – das heißt, die Dokumente können zum Beispiel nach Namen durchsucht werden. Besonders umfassend und interessant sind die Informationen über Deportationen aus Berlin. Die dort angelegten Deportations- und Transportlisten sind eigentlich „Konfiszierungslisten“: Zu fast jeder

Deportation existiert ein Begleitschreiben an die „Vermögensverwertungsstelle“ des Berliner Oberfinanzpräsidenten. Diese Behörde organisierte auf Grundlage der Listen den Einzug des Vermögens der Juden im Raum Berlin.

Link zum Gesamtinventar:

<https://www.its-arolsen.org/archiv/bestandsueberblick/gesamtinventar/>

Die Arolsen Archives veröffentlichen nicht nur Millionen von Dokumenten online. Auch Bücher und Zeitschriften stehen jetzt in einer digitalen Bibliothek zur Verfügung. Das neue Online-Portal aola.to/online-bibliothek bietet Nutzer*innen mit hilfreichen Such- und Filtermöglichkeiten eine schnelle und genaue Recherche und wird kontinuierlich erweitert.

3.) Bundesarchiv

Die aktuelle Arbeit des Bundesarchivs im Berichtszeitraum wird wesentlich von zwei äußeren Entwicklungen geprägt: Die Überführung der ehemaligen Deutschen Dienststelle (WASt) in das Bundesarchiv zum 1. Januar 2019 und die bevorstehende Überführung des Stasi-Unterlagen-Archivs in das Bundesarchiv zum 1. Juli 2021.[4]

Die Anzahl der Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter erhöht sich damit binnen zwei Jahren von rund 700 (Bundesarchiv alt) um ca. 250 (WASt) und ca. 1.400 (BStU) auf ungefähr 2.350. Die Menge an Schriftgut umfasste Ende 2018 ca. 340 laufende Kilometer, durch die Übernahme der WASt-Unterlagen kamen rund 50 Kilometer hinzu, die Stasi-Unterlagen belaufen sich auf rund 110 Kilometer, sodass mit den jährlichen regulären Zuwächsen im Jahr 2022 rund 530 Kilometer Schriftgut vom Bundesarchiv aufzubewahren sind. Die Anzahl der Dienststellen, die durch den Umzug der Abteilung Filmarchiv vom Fehrbelliner Platz nach Berlin-Lichterfelde um eine reduziert werden konnte, wird sich nach der Integration des Stasi-Unterlagen-Archivs auf 24 belaufen – in 20 Städten und 10 Bundesländern.

Auch nach dem Übergang der Verantwortung auf das Bundesarchiv verbleiben zunächst alle Stasi-Unterlagen an dem Ort, an dem sie sich heute befinden. Um eine dauerhafte optimale Unterbringung zu gewährleisten, ist vorgesehen, auf Dauer in allen fünf betroffenen Bundesländern nur noch einen Archivstandort zu unterhalten, an dem die Unterlagen aus diesem Bundesland zusammengefasst werden sollen. Der allgemeinen Erfahrung folgend wird der Planungs-, Genehmigungs- und Bauprozess voraussichtlich mindestens 10 bis 15 Jahre dauern. Sobald in Berlin-Lichtenberg ausreichende und geeignete Magazine, Werkstätten und Büros zur Verfügung stehen, wird das Bundesarchiv die derzeit in Berlin-Lichterfelde verwahrten Bestände zur Geschichte der DDR nach Lichtenberg verbringen, damit diese dort der DDR-Forschung an einem Ort mit den Stasi-Unterlagen zur Benutzung und Auswertung zur Verfügung stehen. Das Stasi-Unterlagen-Gesetz (StUG) soll in novellierter Form neben dem Bundesarchivgesetz bestehen bleiben und auch in Zukunft die rechtliche Basis des Zugangs zu den Akten der Stasi bilden.

Durch die Übernahme der Aufgaben der ehemaligen Deutschen Dienststelle (WASt) ist das Bundesarchiv mehr denn je die zentrale Stelle für die Auskunftserteilung aus und Nutzung von personenbezogenen Unterlagen insbesondere zu Militärangehörigen des Ersten und

Zweiten Weltkriegs. Vorrangiges Ziel in der neuen Abteilung in Berlin-Reinickendorf am Standort der ehemaligen WAST ist neben der physischen Sicherung der in ihrem Bestand stark gefährdeten Unterlagen deshalb eine Anpassung und Beschleunigung der Workflows, um die Bearbeitungszeiten für die zahlreichen eingehenden Anfragen zu reduzieren und der seit Jahrzehnten etablierten archivfachlichen Praxis an den anderen Dienstorten nahezukommen.

Das Bundesarchiv setzt sein Digitalisierungsprogramm verstärkt fort. Eine Digitalisierungsstrategie für die kommenden Jahre ist in Arbeit. Nicht zuletzt aus rechtlichen Gründen liegt der Fokus der Digitalisierung zunächst auf älteren Beständen, das heißt auf Unterlagen aus der Zeit bis 1945. Der inhaltliche Schwerpunkt der Digitalisierung in den Jahren 2017 bis 2020 lag – auch über Akten hinaus – auf Unterlagen aus der Zeit der Weimarer Republik; die Ergebnisse sind über das Themenportal „Weimarer Republik – Die erste deutsche Demokratie“

(<https://weimar.bundesarchiv.de/WEIMAR/DE/Navigation/Home/home.html>) gut zugänglich. Als zentrale Bestände, die in jüngster Zeit zu sehr großen Teilen digitalisiert bereitgestellt wurden, können R 43-I Reichskanzlei, R 1001 Reichskolonialamt und R 1501 Reichsministerium des Innern genannt werden. In den nächsten Jahren soll die Digitalisierung mit Schwerpunkt auf Unterlagen zur Zeit des Nationalsozialismus fortgesetzt werden, um der Forschung rechtzeitig zu den 100. Jahrestagen Material online zur Verfügung stellen zu können.

In eigenen Projekten werden weiterhin intensiv die Akten der Treuhand und des Bundesverfassungsgerichts bewertet und erschlossen. Auch die vor Jahrzehnten begonnenen Editionsreihen „Akten der Reichskanzlei“ – der Jahresband 1943 ist 2020 erschienen – und „Dokumente zur Deutschlandpolitik“ – die letzten drei ausstehenden Bände sind in Bearbeitung – nähern sich ihrem Ende.

Im Jubiläumsjahr 2019 (Gründung des Reichsarchivs im Oktober 1919) widmete sich das Bundesarchiv auf einer Fachkonferenz seiner eigenen Geschichte und der seiner Vorgängerinstitutionen. Die Beiträge der Konferenz, darunter der Festvortrag von Jörn Leonhard, sind in Ausgabe 2019 des Fachmagazins „Forum“ gedruckt und online unter <https://www.bundesarchiv.de/DE/Content/Publikationen/Forum/forum-2019.html> zugänglich.

4.) Archiv der deutschen Frauenbewegung in Kassel

Das Archiv der deutschen Frauenbewegung in Kassel wurde 1983 als gemeinnütziger Verein gegründet, um die Frauenbewegungen in Deutschland im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert umfassend zu dokumentieren, zu erforschen und zu verbreiten. Frauenbewegungen werden verstanden als Gesamtheit aller Bestrebungen, die die besonderen Interessen von Frauen vertreten. Damit die Frauenbewegungen als Akteurinnen in sozialen, kulturellen und wirtschaftlichen Veränderungsprozessen im öffentlichen Bewusstsein wahrgenommen und verankert werden, ist es Aufgabe, die Veränderungspotentiale von Frauenbewegungen und deren Leistungen in Gesellschaft und Politik sichtbar zu machen.

1984 wurden das Archiv, die Bibliothek und das Studien- und Forschungszentrum eröffnet. Am 8. März 2003 wurde die Stiftung Archiv der deutschen Frauenbewegung ins Leben gerufen. Zum Jahreswechsel 2004/2005 ging die Trägerschaft vom Verein auf die Stiftung über.

Die Verbindung von Sammlung, Forschung und Kommunikation sowie die verschränkten Modi von eigenständiger Forschung und wissenschaftlichen Kooperationen sind ein Alleinstellungsmerkmal der Stiftung Archiv der deutschen Frauenbewegung im deutschsprachigen Raum. Mit einer nur sehr geringen Personalausstattung leistet sie durch das herausragende und verantwortungsvolle Engagement der hauptamtlich Beschäftigten vorbildliches in der Überlieferungssicherung, Erschließung und Auswertung hochkarätiger Unterlagen zur Geschichte der deutschen Frauenbewegungen im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert und der Vermittlung ihrer Ergebnisse. Die Stiftung sichert professionell gerade im Archivbereich einzigartige Bestände, wie z.B. die ca. 200 Regalmeter des Deutschen Evangelischen Frauenbundes, die aufgrund bestimmter Konstellationen nicht in ein staatliches, kommunales oder kirchliches Archiv gelangt sind und andernfalls so nicht überliefert wären. Darüber hinaus finden sich hier in großer Zahl themenbezogene Druckschriften und entsprechendes Dokumentationsgut, das sonst nicht im Zusammenhang gesammelt wird. Quantität und Qualität der Vermittlungsarbeit sowie der eigenen wissenschaftlichen Tätigkeit und der Kooperationsprojekte sind mehr als beachtlich. Insbesondere die Zeitschrift *Ariadne* nimmt eine führende Position in der deutschsprachigen historischen Geschlechterforschung ein.

Markant ist der umfangreiche Bestand der Deutschen Evangelischen Frauenhilfe, der jetzt im Rahmen der DDF-Projektförderung erschlossen wird. Die Evangelische Frauenhilfe war eine große Frauenorganisation im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert. Unter der Schirmherrschaft der Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria wurde die Evangelische Frauenhilfe 1899 als Frauenhilfe des Evangelisch-Kirchlichen Hilfsvereins gegründet. Über das 19. und 20. Jahrhundert hinaus bestand die Frauenhilfe als eine der mitgliederstärksten Frauenorganisationen der konfessionellen Frauenbewegung, bis sie sich 2008 mit der Evangelischen Frauenarbeit in Deutschland zu den Evangelischen Frauen in Deutschland zusammenschloss. Nach 1945 war die Organisation geteilt in die Geschäftsstellen West und Ost mit den Sitzen in Münster (später Düsseldorf) und Potsdam, so dass der Kontakt über die innerdeutsche Grenze hinweg durch Konferenzen und Korrespondenzen bestehen konnte, bis 1992 die Wiedervereinigung der Frauenhilfe erfolgte.

Interessant ist der Veränderungsprozess der Frauenhilfe von einem kirchlich-konservativen Verband mit Schwerpunkt auf Fürsorgearbeiten diakonischer Art hin zu einem politisch-progressiven Frauenverband. Bis in die 1950er repräsentierte die Frauenhilfe das Frauenbild der Ehefrau, Hausfrau und Mutter. Doch mit der Diskussion um das Gesetz zur Gleichberechtigung wurden zunehmend feministisch-theologische Aspekte in die verschiedenen Arbeitsbereiche der Frauenhilfe aufgenommen. In zahlreichen

Manuskripten, Stellungnahmen, offenen Briefen und Pressespiegeln sind auch diese Auseinandersetzungen überliefert.

5.) GSA Archives Committee

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)

[1] The Archives Committee consists of Jennifer Rodgers, Malgorzata Swider, Gerhard Weinberg, 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 2020.

[3] Vgl. International Tracing Service (ITS): Jahresbericht 2015. Neue Zugänge zum Archiv des ITS. Bad Arolsen 2016.

[4] Diese Ausführungen basieren auf einem Bericht von Dr. Tobias Herrmann vom 30. Juni 2020.

GSA Committees 2021

DAAD/GSA Article Prize

- Qinna Shen, German, Bryn Mawr (Chair)
- Pieter Judson, History, European University Institute
- Lorie Vanchena, German, University of Kansas

DAAD/GSA Book Prize (History/Social Science)

- Ben Marschke, History, Humboldt State (Chair)
- Joerg Echternkamp, History, Halle/Potsdam
- Astrid Eckert, History, Emory University

DAAD/GSA Book Prize (Literature/Culture Studies)

- Kira Thurman, German/History, University of Michigan (Chair)
- Tobias Boes, German, Notre Dame
- Chunjie Zhang, German, University of California Davis

DAAD/GSA Graduate Student Essay Prize

- Dana Weber, German, Florida State University (Chair)
- Eric Kurlander, History, Stetson University
- Ervin Malakaj, German, University of British Columbia

Sybil Milton Prize

- Doris Bergen, History, University of Toronto (Chair)
- Neil Gregor, History, University of Southampton
- Todd Presner, German, University of California Los Angeles

Nominating Committee

- Mary Lindemann, History, U Miami (Chair)
- Carol Anne Costabile-Heming, German, University of North Texas
- Nicholas Stargardt, History, Oxford

Carbon Footprint and Technology Committee (2 year term)

- Christina Gerhardt, German, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Co-Chair
- Sabine von Mering, German, Brandeis University, Co-Chair
- Vance Byrd, German, Grinnell College
- Anke Finger, German, University of Connecticut
- David Gramling, German, University of British Columbia

- Thomas Haakenson, Art History, California College of the Arts (*ex officio*)
- Kiley Kost , German, Carleton College
- Thomas Lekan, History, University of South Carolina
- Simon Richter, German, University of Pennsylvania
- Richard Steigmann-Gall, History, Kent State University

Committee on the GSA Initiative for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion 2021

- Irene Kacandes, German, Dartmouth College (Chair)
- Alicia Ellis, German, Colby College
- Tiffany Florvil, History, University of New Mexico
- Eli Rubin, History, Western Michigan University
- B. Venkat Mani, German, University of Wisconsin Madison

Arts Night Committee

- Johannes von Moltke (Chair), German, University of Michigan
- Justin Jampol, Wende Museum of the Cold War
- Johanna Schuster-Craig, Michigan State University
- Sonja Klocke, German, University of Wisconsin Madison

Social Media Directors

- [Facebook](#): Richard Steigmann-Gall, Kent State University
- [Twitter](#): David Gramling, University of British Columbia

Program Committee 2021

Program Director

- Vance Byrd, German, Grinnell College

Pre-1800

- Scott Pincikowski, German, Hood College

19th Century

- Samuel Frederick, German, Pennsylvania State University

20th/21st Century History

- Julia Torrie, History, St. Thomas University, Canada
- Katrin Paehler, History, Illinois State

20th/21st Century Germanistik / Cultural Studies

- Beverly Weber, German, University of Colorado Boulder
- Christoph Kone, Williams College

Contemporary Politics, Economics, Society

- Carol Hager, Political Science, Bryn Mawr College
- Dominic Nyhuis, Political Science, UNC

Interdisciplinary/Diachronic

- Julia Roos, History, Indiana University
- Sai Bhatawadekar, Asian Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Single Papers

- Verena Hutter, German, Portland State University
- Adrienne Merritt, German, St. Olaf College
- Michelle Kahn, History, University of Richmond

Seminars

- Elizabeth Drummond (Chair), History, Loyola Marymount University
- Richard Langston, German, University of North Carolina Asheville

Interdisciplinary Networks

Interdisciplinary networks are platforms tasked with focusing sustained interdisciplinary attention on topics of interest to the GSA membership by distributing calls for papers and forming panel series for the annual conference on a regular basis. Networks also have maintained list-servs, blog sites, and webpages, and have developed publications (journal issues and book volumes) derived from their panel activities.

GSA networks are formed in consultation with the GSA's standing Interdisciplinary Network Committee, comprising all network coordinators, and its co-chairs. Network coordinators are nominated by the IC co-chairs and confirmed by the GSA President and Executive Director for three-year terms.

Interdisciplinary Committee Co-Chairs

- Heather Mathews, Pacific Lutheran University (2019-2021)
- Winson Chu, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (2018-2020)

1. Asian German Studies

- Douglas McGetchin, Florida Atlantic University (2017-2019)
- Joanne Miyang Cho, William Paterson University (2017-2019)

2. Black Diaspora Studies

- Tiffany Florvil, University of New Mexico (2016-2020)
- Vanessa Plumly, Lawrence University (2018-2020)
- Nancy Nenno, College of Charleston (2019-2021)

3. Body Studies

- Kristen Ehrenberger, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (2019-2021)
- Michael Hau, Monash University (2019-2021)
- Heikki Lempa, Moravian College (2019-2021)
- Jill Suzanne Smith, Bowdoin College (2019-2021)

4. Comics Studies

- Sylvia Kesper-Biermann, Universität Hamburg (2018-2020)
- Lynn Kutch, Kutztown University (2018-2020)
- Brett Sterling, University of Arkansas (2018-2020)
 - o For 2021-2023 terms:
 - Elizabeth "Biz" Nijdam, University of British Columbia (2021-2023)
 - John Benjamin, United States Military Academy (2021-2023)

5. Digital Humanities

- Verena Kick, Georgetown University (2020-2022)
- Jon Berndt Olsen, University of Massachusetts (2020-2022)
- Martin P. Sheehan, Tennessee Tech University (2020-2022)
- Evan Torner, University of Cincinnati (2020-2022)

6. Emotion Studies

- Derek Hillard, Kansas State University (2014-2019)
- Erika Quinn, Eureka College (2018-2020)
- Holly Yanacek, James Madison University (2018-2020)

7. Environmental Studies

- Timothy Scott Brown, Northeastern University (2018-2020)
- Joela Jacobs, University of Arizona (2019-2021)
- Stephen H. Milder, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (2020-2022)

8. Family and Kinship

- Simone Derix, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (2020-2022)
- Monika Nenon, University of Memphis (2020-2022)
- Alexandria Ruble, Spring Hill College (2020-2022)

9. GDR and German Socialisms

- April Eisman, Iowa State University (2020-2022)
- Sonja Klocke, University of Wisconsin at Madison (2020-2022)

10. Law and Legal Cultures

- Richard Bodek, College of Charleston (2020-2022)
- Todd Herzog, University of Cincinnati (2020-2022)

11. Medieval and Early Modern German Studies

- Frances Kneupper, University of Mississippi (2020-2022)
- James Parente, Jr., University of Minnesota (2020-2022)
- Lisa Scott, Independent Scholar, (2020-2022)
- Kathryn Starkey, Stanford University (2020-2022)

12. Memory Studies

- Ben Nienass, California State University at San Marcos (2017-2019)
- Katja Wezel, University of Pittsburgh (2017-2019)

13. Music and Sound Studies

- Abby Anderton, Baruch College (2020-22)
- Jeff Hayton, Wichita State University (2019-2021)
- David Imhoof, Susquehanna University (2020-2022)
- Amy Wlodarski, Dickinson College (2018-2020)

14. Queer and Trans Studies

- Kyle Frackman, University of British Columbia (2019-2021)
- Laurie Marhoefer, University of Washington (2019-2021)
- Carrie Smith, University of Alberta (2019-2021)

15. Swiss Studies

- Peter Meilaender, Houghton College (2016-2019)
- Hans Rindisbacher, Pomona College (2016-2019)

16. Teaching

- Elizabeth Drummond, Loyola Marymount University (2019-2021)
- Andrew Evans, SUNY New Paltz (2019-2021)
- Rachael Huener, Macalester College (2019-2021)
- Kristopher Imbrigotta, University of Puget Sound (2019-2021)

17. Visual Culture

- Daniel Magilow, University of Tennessee (2017-2019)
- Kristin Schroeder, University of Virginia (2019-2021)

18. War and Violence

- Katherine Aaslestad, West Virginia University (2018-2020)
- Kathrin Maurer, University of Southern Denmark (2018-2020)

In Memoriam

Ruth Klüger (1931-2020)

On the fifth of October, 2020, Ruth Klüger, the eminent scholar, avowed feminist, and child survivor of the Holocaust, passed away at the age of 88. Klüger was an important figure in the field of German Studies during the last half century through her substantial contribution to the scholarship on a number of authors and bodies of literature, from Lessing, Kleist, and Ebner-Eschenbach to the poetry of the Baroque period and beyond, German-Jewish literature, and women's literature and practices of reading. With her professorships at the University of California-Irvine, Princeton University, Case Western Reserve University, and the University of Virginia, she was also an elemental force in the first sustained generation of women scholars in the American academy, who through sheer will, hard work, astute scholarship, and solidarity paved the way for a more diverse professoriate, at least in terms of gender.

Beyond these achievements, however, Klüger was known in recent decades as a trenchant and at times unapologetically pugnacious figure in discussions of Holocaust memory. Through her incisive and at times contentious memoir *weiter leben: eine Jugend* (1992), which took on a major function in German discourse on the Holocaust in the 1990s, and its English-language counterpart *Still Alive: A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered* (2001), which she called "neither a translation nor a new book," but rather "another version, a parallel book, if you will, for my children and my American students" (210), Klüger played a crucial role in the transnational scholarly discourse on the Holocaust.^[1] As their titles indicate, Klüger's memoirs reconstruct her experience as a child and young teen in Nazi Vienna, in the Theresienstadt ghetto, in Auschwitz-Birkenau, and in the labor camp Christianstadt, and they additionally explore her life in early occupied Germany and as a new immigrant to the United States. Klüger embeds her exploration of her traumatic childhood and posttraumatic young adulthood in an intricate, gender-sensitive examination of how the effects of these experiences resound into the present both in her interactions and relationships with others and in public narratives of the Holocaust, the latter of which, she finds, tend to reduce the events to bromidic platitudes. She accomplishes this dual focus on past and present through a complex narrative design that often concurrently focalizes both the younger experiencing self and the older evaluating and narrating self. Klüger's nuanced, discerning perspective insists on a rigorous evaluation of both the historical events of the Holocaust and contemporary memory of them and passionately rejects the cathartic sentimentality, simplistic binaries, and trite narratives that often characterize public discourse on survivors' experience. Her memoirs (including a third autobiography, *Unterwegs verloren* [2008]), which readers uniformly find both moving and challenging, reflect Klüger's own reputation in the fields of German Studies and Holocaust Studies; she was known not only for her exacting perspective, acerbic wit, and readiness to take offense, but also for her generosity with others, her impressive knowledge of a wide range of literatures and intellectual

traditions, her prodigious talent for reading literary texts, and her gift for writing, which she accomplished in an inimitable voice that was unparalleled in its critical force, its conceptual precision, its ethical clarity, and its refusal to conform to the expectations of others.

The singular quality of Klüger's voice and perspective is exemplified in the banquet speech she gave at the 2013 German Studies Association Conference in Denver, Colorado and that was published in 2014 in the *German Studies Review*.^[2] In this address, Klüger takes up what she calls "the Adorno problem" (393), namely the decades-long debate about the ethical advisability and aesthetic feasibility of literature about the Holocaust. As is typical for her thinking, the address is less monologically categorical than it is dialogically reflective; although Klüger advocates decidedly for the value, necessity, and utility of Holocaust literature, she is cogently aware of the ethical gray areas in which representation—whether fictional or nonfictional, aesthetically ambitious or markedly realist—inevitably finds itself mired. Literature, she reminds us, "can both enlighten and obfuscate" (400). On the one hand, it can crystallize the inner dynamics of the historical events of the Holocaust and work "simply and yet sublimely to make life more bearable" (397) through its quest for truth. On the other hand, however, Holocaust literature can also "falsif[y] our experience in the service of empty hope" (397), manipulatively peddle "easy solutions" and "voyeuristic sensations" (398), and devolve into deceptive lies and literary kitsch, especially when historical specificity is willfully or negligently misrepresented in the service of sensation or affective response. Klüger is interested in the murky border zones and areas of irritation between these two general orientations, arguing that, at times (as, for example, in her reading of Anne Frank, Bruno Apitz and Tadeusz Borowski), texts can exhibit both tendencies, particularly as a result of the practices of interpretation that readers bring to them. For this reason, Holocaust literature will continue to pose a challenge to readers and critics, for it is, as she argues (specifically with regard to the texts of Imre Kertész), a body of work "at odds with itself" (395).

Klüger's 2013 speech at the GSA further addresses the role that literature will be called on to play in the next phases of Holocaust memory, in which our knowledge of the Holocaust can no longer issue directly from living survivors. In an attempt to allay the pervasive public anxiety about the passing of the last generation of survivors, she writes,

Today we often hear the anxious question of what will remain when the last living witnesses of the Shoah have died [...] Who will tell us stories of what it was like? I want to answer: Relax, the living witnesses of every other event in history have died and their memory has persisted thanks to writing and other recording devices. My answer is, what remains will be, as it always has been, the written word, whether history or invented stories, interpreted and absorbed by readers and listeners. Put slightly differently, what lasts is Scripture, if you will, not Holy Scripture, but an engraved text, on stone, on paper, on a digital device, filtered by the human mind. (391)

Klüger reminds us—especially the literary scholars and historians among us who place particular value on the written record left behind by generations of people throughout history—of the ways in which the memory of the Holocaust will persist via the texts in which it is recorded. In the wake of her death, her words of reassurance now serve also to console those of us who perceive sharp feelings of loss at the passing of this extraordinary woman. For, through her own exceptional scholarly and autobiographical oeuvre, Klüger’s remarkable voice endures.

^[1] Ruth Kluger, *Still Alive: A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered* (New York: The Feminist Press of the City University of New York, 2001). Klüger often published her English-language texts as “Ruth Kluger,” a phenomenon that encapsulates the ways in which her life played out between languages, cultures and continents.

^[2] Ruth Kluger, “The Future of Holocaust Literature: German Studies Association 2013 Banquet Speech.” *German Studies Review* 37.2 (2014): 391-403.

Erin McGlothlin, Washington University in St. Louis

Peter Paret (1924-2020)

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Peter Paret, Professor Emeritus in the School of [Historical Studies](#) at the Institute for Advanced Study, passed away peacefully at age 96 at his Salt Lake City home on September 11, 2020. A German-born American and acclaimed cultural and intellectual historian, Paret studied the modern historiography of war from 18th- to 20th-century Europe, as well as the relationship of art, society, and politics.

Paret first joined the Institute’s School of Historical Studies as a Member for the 1966–67 academic year and returned in 1986 to become the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities. Paret became a Professor Emeritus in 1997 and remained active and productive through his retirement.

“The combination of engagement and detachment with which Peter approached historical questions, and the shrewdness and energy with which he always argued his case, made him a vigorous contributor to intellectual life at the Institute, and cemented his legacy as one of the leading historians of the 20th century,” stated [Robbert Dijkgraaf](#), IAS Director and Leon Levy Professor. “His legacy as an educator, author, and innovator will continue to inform the field for generations to come.”

Paret was born in Berlin on April 13, 1924, the son of Hans Paret and Suzanne Aimée Cassirer. His mother’s father, Paul Cassirer, was a publisher and art dealer and an important

force for modernism in the arts in Germany. His mother's uncle was the philosopher Ernst Cassirer. Following his parents' divorce, Paret joined his mother and sister living in Vienna in 1933. His mother remarried psychoanalyst and educational reformer Siegfried Bernfeld the following year, and with her husband and children moved to France. In 1937, they emigrated to the United States, settling in San Francisco.

Paret enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley in 1942. He was drafted for World War II the following year and served in combat intelligence and operations sections of an infantry battalion in the New Guinea and Philippines campaigns and in Korea. He was discharged in 1946 with the rank of Staff Sergeant, reentered Berkeley as a sophomore, and graduated in 1949. In 1956, Paret began his graduate studies in history at King's College, University of London, completing his dissertation on the Prussian Reform era under Sir Michael Eliot Howard and graduating with a Ph.D. in 1960.

Paret published his first book, *Guerrillas in the 1960s* (Praeger, 1961) with John W. Shy on contemporary military theory, while working as Research Associate at the Center of International Studies at Princeton University (1960–1962). In it, he argues that “Basically, the problem [of guerrilla warfare] is political; to attempt to understand it as a purely military one is the most dangerous kind of oversimplification. Guerrillas are a symptom rather than a cause. Lasting success requires a viable political settlement, and even operational success over a period of time demands the proper political framework for effective military action.” Throughout his career Paret eagerly looked beyond the pure military narrative, expanding the study of conflict into the greater context of society. He saw subjects as seemingly diverse as the military, politics, culture, and the arts as all interconnected.

“[Peter Paret](#) was an historian of modern Europe who began as an authority on war and on Clausewitz in particular, but his interests and competence ranged far beyond that, notably in art history,” stated [Glen Bowersock](#), Professor Emeritus at the IAS, “His literary sensibilities and meticulously crafted prose enshrine the quality of his elegant mind. I will always cherish my discussions with him about Theodor Fontane.”

In *Yorck and the Era of Prussian Reform* (Princeton University Press, 1966), Paret presents a well-rounded view of the Napoleonic wars, noting, “The resulting wars have been studied as thoroughly as any in history; but more is known about the course of the campaigns and their exploitation by governments and individual genius than about the institutions that did the fighting and the methods that they employed. The great achievements are easily identified; the specifics of doctrine, administration, and execution that led to them and form part of their substance prove more elusive.” It was a recurring theme of Paret to consider alternative angles with the effect of challenging the scholarly consensus. Having written several articles on the life and work of Carl von Clausewitz, he published a biography, *Clausewitz and the State* (Oxford University Press, 1976), which is now in its third expanded edition and has been translated into Spanish, Japanese, and German. In this

book, Paret was able to draw attention to the way in which overlooked facets of Clausewitz's life influenced his work. Clausewitz was traditionally seen as a frustrated, embittered bureaucrat, but Professor Paret was able to show how "his life demonstrates a unity of motives and effort, a harmonizing of inner needs and achievements, a mastery of reality through understanding."

"Peter Paret was a formidable and indefatigable and independent scholar and teacher whose distinguished and active scholarly career spanned over six decades," stated Harold T. Shapiro, President Emeritus of Princeton University. "Indeed, his last published article appeared this year. Peter had deep cultural roots in pre-World War II Europe and while these values and outlooks continued to inform him and his work, they never constrained his outlook on his scholarship and teaching which continued to grow and change throughout his career."

In later work, Professor Paret moved away from political and military history to examine the use of visual art and sculpture as a historical source, focusing on the works of Adolph Menzel and Ernst Barlach. In *Art as History: Episodes in the Culture and Politics of Nineteenth-Century Germany* (Princeton University Press, 1988) he argued forcefully that "Works of art and literature, whether they address the past or not, reflect facets of the times in which they originate... Art and literature are among society's most determined efforts to understand itself, and through their insights, errors, and obfuscations we hear the clear voice of the past."

Paret's publications span more than 60 years from the late 1950s to his most recent publication, "From Discovery of a Clausewitz Manuscript to Its Interpretation," which appeared in the *Journal of Military History* (July 2020).

Paret himself represented a crucial line of historical research that went back to the foundation of IAS and the work of IAS Professor Edward Mead Earle and his Princeton Military Studies Group. The group was formed in the 1930s during the rise of totalitarianism and was influential in facilitating the shift of U.S. foreign policy from its footing of military-focused "national defense" to "national security," which advocates a policy-based approach to global stability. Paret's research has likewise had profound implications on current foreign policy.

Prior to joining the Institute Faculty in 1986, Paret held academic appointments at the University of California, Davis (1962–1969), followed by Stanford University (1969–1986), where he became the Raymond A. Spruance Professor of International History in 1977. Paret has received four honorary degrees and has been elected to numerous learned societies, including the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the German Clausewitz Society. Paret's numerous awards include the Pritzker Military Museum & Library's Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in Military Writing (2017); Germany's Order of Merit, Great Cross (2013) and Cross (2000); The Historical

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Society's Jack Miller Center Prize (2010); the American Philosophical Society's Thomas Jefferson Medal (1993); the Society for Military History's Samuel Eliot Morison Prize (1993); and the Moncado Prize (1970).

Peter Paret was predeceased by his beloved wife Isabel née Harris, a clinical psychologist, in 2018, and is survived by children Suzanne Aimée Paret and Paul (Monty) Paret; and four grandchildren.

Heidrun Suhr (1951-2020)

Heidrun Suhr was the very first DAAD Visiting Professor to come to the US and she was sent to the University of Minnesota, where she was a colleague in our department from 1984 to 1989, but she remained an ally of the German program here and of Women in German. She was a dear friend to many of us. Heidrun passed away in Berlin on October 2, 2020, at the age of 69; she died of cancer, which had been diagnosed late last year, but this was after having bravely lived with MS since the mid-1990s, continuing to travel the world as she loved to do almost until the end of her life.

Heidrun was born in Oldenburg, (West) Germany. She studied Anglistik, Germanistik, and political science in Marburg, earning her doctorate with a dissertation on English women novelists of the 18th century. While in our department, she taught our students, served on committees, organized conferences, and conducted her own research. In 1987, working together with art historian Mark Haxthausen, she planned an international conference at the University of Minnesota to mark the 750th anniversary of Berlin, inviting scholars from both German states. In 1988 she was instrumental in planning the Women in German conference, which for the first time took place in Minnesota that fall. In 1989, Heidrun published one of the first articles in English on Turkish German authors in *New German Critique*. It is still being cited.

After leaving Minnesota Heidrun briefly served as a DAAD Visiting Professor at the University of Montreal and then took a job at the DAAD New York Office, where she soon became the Director—the first woman to hold that position. While with the DAAD in New York she supported German studies in the US; she helped our department finance the Minnesota Forum on German Culture, a conference series initiated by our colleague Jack Zipes. Heidrun was also responsible for ensuring that Women in German conferences got funding from the DAAD, which continued for many years.

While with the DAAD in New York, she also taught at New York University, and eventually she became the director of NYU's Deutsches Haus. But soon after she took that position, she was diagnosed with MS. She decided to return to Germany in the late 1990s, where she

worked for a few more years for the DAAD in Bonn, and then she retired to Berlin. For many years her traveling had been part of her job with the DAAD, visiting universities and conferences all over the world, but after retirement, she continued her travels. Indeed, she was at a health spa on a beach in Sri Lanka in December 2004 when the tsunami devastated that coast; thanks to the help of a brave cook at the resort, Heidrun survived.

From 2008 on, she was instrumental in helping the Center for German and European Studies (CGES) at the University of Minnesota, then directed by Sabine Engel, establish a number of exchange programs between Minnesota and Berlin, not only for students but also for teachers, as well as for health policy and energy policy leaders. Heidrun's apartment on the Chauseestrasse (right across from the Brecht-Haus) became a salon for these visitors. She arranged tours for them, sometimes leading them herself, driving on the scooter she used to get around Berlin. (MS made it difficult for her to walk.)

She also taught German to refugees in Berlin. Among those she tutored was Hayatullah, a young man from Afghanistan. Heidrun became a special advocate and friend to him, and he has thrived professionally with her help. The last time she visited Minnesota was in May 2019, when (ever the international traveler) she came to Minnesota in May to help us celebrate Ruth-Ellen Joeres' 80th birthday; indeed, it was her idea to hold the party.

After her diagnosis with cancer in December 2019, she made a lot of brave decisions, always facing the facts rationally, planning as efficiently and thoroughly as she had done all her life: first to stop chemo treatments after they became too onerous, when to go on pain medications, and when to go into hospice. She always kept in touch with friends by email and WhatsApp until she couldn't write anymore. Impressive till the very end, Heidrun was an amazing human being, full of energy and ideas, an enthusiastic traveler, a very knowledgeable lover of art and culture, politically engaged, a talented powerhouse who had facilitated with great insight and intelligence so many important initiatives in German studies. As Sabine Engel writes, "She was a trailblazer: first DAAD visiting professor in the USA; first woman director of the DAAD New York Office; and in her many years of struggle with MS, she demonstrated a joy in life and a degree of courage and persistence that inspires awe."

Heidrun was a warm, considerate, and generous friend to so many. We were lucky to know her, and we will miss her. There will be a small family ceremony (owing to COVID) in Oldenburg, where she will be buried. Her friends in Berlin are trying to organize a ceremony there, too. If and when we learn of an obituary in Germany and/or about a memorial fund, we will make that known.

Rick McCormick, University of Minnesota, in consultation with Linda Schulte-Sasse, Ruth-Ellen Joeres, Sabine Engel, and Cathy Parlin. Republished from the University of Minnesota website with permission.