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# **German Studies Association Newsletter**

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**Volume XLIV  
Number 2  
Winter 2019-20**

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## Letter from the President

Dear members and friends of the GSA,

After the conference is before the conference. While we're looking back at what we learned in Portland, we're also already looking forward to our next meeting in Washington DC on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of German reunification. Here, then, are just a few highlights of what the Board, the Executive Council, and the many volunteers and ad hoc committee members have been up to. Or I should say: what we have been up to collectively, as members of the GSA who gathered before Arts Night at the Portland conference hotel for the annual general meeting. After the board had conveyed its requisite reports to the membership, we conducted an open meeting in which board members and members at large could hear from one another about ongoing work, future directions for the GSA, general questions and concerns. Thanks to our two new social media directors, Yuliya Komska and Richard Steigmann-Gall, some of the conversation had already begun in the lead-up to Portland on Facebook and Twitter (@thegsa). Indeed, it is our hope that we can sustain some of these conversations there during the 362 days of the year that we don't spend in face-to-face conversation while waiting for hotel elevators to take us to our sessions...

Without a set agenda but with many engaged contributions from members who had taken time out of their busy conference days to share their views, the meeting ranged broadly across different concerns. However, to my ears there was a discernible gist and tone, a collective call to ensure that the GSA commit itself to accessibility and inclusiveness, to socially and environmentally conscious planning, to solidarity and advocacy on behalf of precariously employed colleagues and precariously positioned programs (in the [latest period covered by MLA surveys](#), there was a net loss of 86 German programs between 2013 and 2016; the [AHA reports](#) similarly drastic declines in the number of history majors. Meanwhile, GSA membership has been stable, even growing modestly, making our collective voice both stronger and more urgent.). At the upcoming executive council meeting in Florida, we will resume the discussions from the general meeting with a focus on concrete next steps. Meanwhile, I want to thank all of you who came and shared your concerns, and look forward to staying in conversation about these issues as we continue our work to make the GSA as inclusive and supportive as possible.

In fact, as many of you will have seen, we have already rolled out one new initiative geared toward graduate students, in particular. With a view to providing new avenues for networking and professionalization, we are now piloting the GSA Emerging Scholars Workshop for graduate students. We owe a collective thanks to Astrid Eckert and Priscilla Layne for proposing this initiative and shepherding it through to its launch with such attention to detail, and to B. Venkat Mani and Edith Sheffer for agreeing to serve as the conveners of the two inaugural workshops in Washington next October.

In other matters, I wanted to share a few words about our new dues structure, news of which should have reached you soon after the Board decided to move ahead with this change at its Portland meeting. As you can imagine, we discussed this at some length, as none of us would take such a step lightly. However, after a long period of flat dues coupled with spiraling costs,

we could not put off an overall increase. In deciding how to structure this change, we weighed our collective commitment to keeping the GSA affordable for its members; we considered that many of us maintain simultaneous obligations and memberships in one or more additional societies, some of which (MLA, AHA) impose even higher burdens on often limited research and travel funds, if not on personal budgets; and we recognized, in particular, the pressures facing graduate students, adjunct faculty and precariously employed members who have to make difficult choices between professional networking and travel, and making ends meet on a day-to-day basis. For this reason, we in fact *lowered* the cost of membership at the lowest income tier – but also created a staggered dues structure that now asks more of members with regular, higher salaries. Not only is this in keeping with the way most professional societies structure their dues schedules; it also reflects the board’s desire to create a fairer, redistributive approach to membership. Think of it as a progressive tax. We will likely make tweaks to the structure in the future as we track its effect on our budgets; thank you, meanwhile, for bearing with us through this transition and continuing to support the GSA.

Speaking of transitions, let me take this moment to once again thank Jerry Fetz, whom we honored at the Portland banquet for his many years of service as the GSA’s secretary-treasurer. We had recently split that position into two and it now devolves to Tom Haakenson (who assumes the office of treasurer on January 1) and Margaret Menninger, who has been serving as our elected secretary for the past year, but who has now accepted the challenge of filling David Barclay’s shoes when he concludes his term as Executive Director at the end of next year. Since Margaret will already begin “shadowing” David in this complex role as of this coming January, she has asked to be relieved of her secretary duties as soon as possible, and so we will run another election for that position during our regular election cycle this coming Spring. And finally, we also bid farewell with our deep gratitude to Liz Fulton, our outgoing Operations Director, who has been replaced (actually, “fliegender Wechsel,” as in the hand-off of the baton in an ongoing relay race, is the term that comes to mind...) by Benita Blessing. We are fortunate to have people like Benita, Tom, and Margaret step up to help us keep things going behind the scenes – and there are scores like them, who’ve graciously accepted my various entreaties to serve on one of the many committees that make the GSA run. Thank you to all of them! If you would like to become similarly involved, I invite you to let either myself, Vice-President Janet Ward, or next year’s nominating committee know: Irene Kacandes (chair), Jared Poley, and Joy Calico.

Wishing you restful holidays,  
As ever,

Johannes v. Moltke  
President

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear members and friends of the GSA,

A well-known historian – unfortunately, I can't remember who it was – once sardonically commented that his fellow historians tend to regard every period of history as an “age of transition.” I do suppose that it's a *Gemeinplatz* to note that our lives, individually and collectively, are always about transitions of one sort or another. Still, some transitions are more important than others; and the German Studies Association is facing one of the biggest transitions in its 43-year history, beginning with the departure after the most recent conference of our indefatigable Operations Director, Elizabeth Fulton, who after eleven years with the GSA has accepted an important new position in Easton, Pennsylvania. She was honored at our annual banquet on 4 October in Portland, and has been ably succeeded by Benita Blessing of Oregon State University. Our veteran Secretary/Treasurer, Jerry Fetz, is retiring at the end of December after almost twenty years in those positions. He, too, was honored at the recent conference in Portland. As Johannes von Moltke notes in his Letter, the GSA Board had earlier decided to split the two jobs, and for the past year Margaret Menninger of Texas State University has served as the organization's Secretary. Earlier this year, however, Margaret was selected by the GSA Board to replace yours truly when my term expires in one year, at the end of 2020. She will be only the third Executive Director in the Association's history, which was decisively shaped by the 29-year tenure of my own predecessor, our legendary founding Executive Director, Gerald Kleinfeld (who was also recognized at our banquet). In the meantime, the GSA members will need to elect a new Secretary to succeed Margaret! Meanwhile, our new Treasurer, Thomas Haakenson of the California College of the Arts, will assume his new role at the beginning of January 2020. Finally, in 2021 the extraordinary editor of the *German Studies Review*, Sabine Hake, will be stepping down after a decade of service. She has been the journal's third editor, after Gerald Kleinfeld and Diethelm Prowe.

Transitions offer opportunities as well as dilemmas, and these transitions offer the chance to build upon a number of innovations and initiatives that the GSA has undertaken in the past fifteen years. Our membership has grown from about 1300 in 2005 to 2246 as of early December 2019. In 2005 we only had AV in a few breakout rooms, and even that AV was only available in a confusing array of platforms. Now we offer AV in every breakout room and WiFi throughout our conference hotels, and we're working to improve sound quality. In the past decade we've introduced our Interdisciplinary Networks, our Seminar Program, Arts Night, the New Members' Breakfast, and more recently a Lightning Round at one of our luncheons. Next year we'll be introducing an Emerging Scholars Workshop, and we're finally moving in new directions with social media. We've streamlined our on-site registration and our online conference submission software. As recently as 2004 we were still using paper submissions, and until several years ago we relied on effective but home-grown and non-replicable submissions software. The journal was self-published until 2011. All that has changed. We've also had a conference app since 2015 (though we encountered serious problems in 2019 that I'll describe below). At the same time, we've significantly expanded our year-round activities, including our long-time support for the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies at the

Free University of Berlin.

But – here I go again! – these things cost money. Costs have skyrocketed in recent years. These days we cannot *not* provide WiFi throughout our hotels. Yet, this year it cost us \$13,000. If that seems shocking, other academic societies represented in the American Council of Learned Societies report even more startling WiFi charges. In one case, a society was quoted over \$100,000 just for hotel WiFi. In addition, “traditional” AV has gotten more expensive. We save a lot of money by owning our own LCD projectors. Still, rental of stands and power strips, along with microphones for certain spaces and Internet for the registration space, typically run at least \$25,000 per conference. We have an excellent record of filling our contracted overnight room blocks; however, (and this is an old story) we always find that we are touch and go with our contracted Food and Beverage minimum.

What all this suggests is that we have got to deal with rising conference costs if we are to continue providing existing services and – we hope – at the same time create new opportunities, especially in social media. (See Johannes von Moltke’s comments on our new Social Media Committee, composed of Yuliya Komska and Richard Steigmann-Gall.) This brings us, of course, to fundraising. We were very fortunate to secure funding this year for Arts Night, for which we are immensely grateful. We continue to receive funds from the Max Kade Foundation to support two additional postdocs in Berlin. But we badly need sponsorships for the conference app and various conference activities. Your own help, however modest, is essential and vastly appreciated. Moreover, as noted by Johannes von Moltke and elsewhere in this issue, after exhaustive study and discussion, the Board voted to revise our dues structure to be more fair and equitable. Rest assured that we will continue to do due diligence and do all that we can to make certain that the GSA is an affordable intellectual home for all our members in all phases of their careers.

Let’s turn now to some statistics. The 43rd annual conference in Portland, Oregon, was one of the two biggest in our history, comparable only to Denver in 2013. Pending one final count, 1450 attendees from 32 countries were present in Portland. We provided 37 overseas travel grants to colleagues from 15 countries. We had a record number of sessions. Things mostly went well, except for two big problems. The conference app had all kinds of difficulties, apparently connected to an issue with Apple licensing; we are working closely with our vendor to ensure that this never happens again. Then there was the matter of the exhibitors’ space. Please rest assured that something like this will never happen again, least of all in the familiar space at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Washington next year. We always want our conferences to be *reibungslos*, and when they aren’t we try to fix the problems promptly.

Despite all our transitions, our core mission has remained basically unchanged since 1976, when a group of young academics, originally meeting in Gerry Kleinfeld’s back yard in Tempe, decided to set up an organization that would be affordable, accessible, intentionally interdisciplinary, and open to new modes of scholarship *and* conference organization. These will not change in the future.

Finally, if any of you happen to be in New York in early January for the AHA, please feel free to

attend a special session on “The Saliency of Central Europe: Questions and New Approaches,” on 3 January from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. It’s sponsored by the Central European History Society, with which the GSA works closely. Yours truly will be bloviating on the state of German Studies today, while, more interestingly, GSA stalwarts Celia Applegate, Jim Brophy, and Pieter Judson will be sharing their own insights and views.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and a great start to 2020!

Best regards,

David E. Barclay  
Executive Director



## **Planning for the Forty-Fourth Conference of the GSA Washington, D. C., 1-4 October 2020**

The forty-third annual conference of the GSA will take place from 1 to 4 October 2020 at the **Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202**. The hotel is located across the Potomac River from Washington proper, and is one Metro stop from Ronald Reagan National Airport.

The **Call for Seminar Proposals** follows below. After six years, our seminars have proved to be a rousing success. Please note that the deadline for submission of seminar topics will have passed by the time you read this. Applications for participation in seminars will open on **5 JANUARY 2020**. Again, see below for details.

The traditional **Call for Papers** also follows below. Please note that the deadline for submitting Traditional paper, session, or roundtable proposals and the deadline for ALL submissions will be **15 FEBRUARY 2020**.

The GSA will also be sponsoring an **“Emerging Scholars Workshop”** for the first time. A Call for Proposals is also shown below.

**Detailed conference submission guidelines can be found below.** Submissions for Atraditional@ papers, sessions, or roundtables will be accepted online ([www.thegsa.org](http://www.thegsa.org)) **after 5 January 2020**. Only online submissions will be accepted. Paper proposals or proposals submitted by email will not be accepted. Although the GSA encourages all types of submissions, including individual papers, members and non-member participants are urged, where practicable, to submit complete session proposals, **including the names of proposed moderators and commentators**. The latter is extremely important if sessions are to be complete. The GSA also encourages the submission of thematic series that might include **UP TO BUT NO MORE THAN** four related sessions, and it also vigorously supports interdisciplinary sessions, including sessions that are organized in conjunction with our interdisciplinary Networks.

Although the Program Committee will certainly not reject four-paper session proposals, submitters are reminded that four-paper sessions tend to inhibit commentary and discussion. On the whole, three-paper sessions are vastly preferable. Please note that, in a session with three papers, individual presenters should speak no more than twenty minutes. In four-paper sessions, it is expected that individual presenters will speak for no more than fifteen minutes. In each case, the commentary should not exceed ten minutes in order to enable as much audience discussion as possible.

As in the past, all submissions of traditional papers, sessions, and roundtables will take place online at the GSA Web site ([www.thegsa.org](http://www.thegsa.org)). Please do note that all presenters, including moderators, commentators, seminar participants, and roundtable participants, must be members of the German Studies Association at the time of submission. For information on

membership, please go to the GSA website ([www.thegsa.org](http://www.thegsa.org)).

## **German Studies Association Annual Conference 2020 CALL FOR SEMINAR PROPOSALS**

The 44th German Studies Association Conference in Washington, D.C., from October 1-4, 2020, 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>).

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 and any auditors. 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.

In order to facilitate extended discussion, seminar conveners and participants are required to participate in all three seminar meetings. Please note that both seminar conveners and seminar applicants who have been accepted for seminar participation 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. In addition, seminar conveners must come from different institutions (where there are more than two conveners, no more than two may come from the same institution).

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](mailto:hmathews@plu.edu)) and Winson Chu ([wchu@uwm.edu](mailto:wchu@uwm.edu)), to connect with GSA Networks close to their topic.

Starting in 2020, 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 (see <http://journals.oregondigital.org/index.php/konturen/pages/view/gsalanding> for more information). Please note: although the portal for applications for publication in *Konturen* will only open in October, 2020 (after the conference is over), conveners may address their interest in this project in their seminar description.

Applying to convene a seminar is a two-step process. Initially, the Seminar Committee invites GSA members to submit a preliminary proposal that includes the following items:

1. Title of proposed seminar
2. Names, ranks, and institutional affiliations of conveners
3. A 150-word description of the seminar's subject (which will eventually be used in the call for participants, the printed program, and the online program/mobile app)
4. A 50-word description of the seminar's format (which will appear in the call for participants, etc.)
5. A 200-word statement of seminar goals and procedures.

These items are due by **November 22, 2019, by 11:59 pm EST**. Please submit your application online at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/gsa>. Your username and password are the same as those you use to log in to your GSA profile at <https://thegsa.org/members/profile>. Please note that you must be a current member of the GSA to submit a proposal. If your password needs to be reset, please contact Ms. Ursula Sykes ([jrnlcirc@press.jhu.edu](mailto:jrnlcirc@press.jhu.edu)) at Johns Hopkins University Press. If technical questions or problems arise with the submission interface itself, please contact Benita Blessing ([operations@thegsa.org](mailto:operations@thegsa.org)).

Following the submission of preliminary proposals, the GSA Seminar Committee will provide suggestions and assistance for the final submission, which is due by **December 6, 2019, 11:59 pm EST** to the same website. The Committee will then review seminar proposals and post a list of approved seminars and their topics on the GSA website by **January 6, 2020**. 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.

The GSA Seminar Committee consists of:

Joe Perry (Georgia State University) | [jbperry@gsu.edu](mailto:jbperry@gsu.edu) (chair)  
Elizabeth Drummond (Loyola Marymount University) | [elizabeth.drummond@lmu.edu](mailto:elizabeth.drummond@lmu.edu)  
Richard Langston (University of North Carolina) | [relangst@email.unc.edu](mailto:relangst@email.unc.edu)

## **German Studies Association Annual Conference 2020 CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANELS**

The German Studies Association (GSA) will hold its 44th Annual Conference from 1 to 4 October 2020 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington, DC.

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

Proposals for entire sessions, for interdisciplinary presentations, and for series of panels are strongly encouraged (though we discourage thematic series of more than four panels). Individual paper proposals are also welcome. The call for seminar proposals has been distributed separately.

Please see the GSA website for information about the submission process for ‘traditional’ papers, sessions, and roundtables, which will open on 5 January 2020. **The deadline for proposals is 15 February 2020.**

Please note that all proposed presenters must be members of the German Studies Association. Information on membership is available on the GSA website ([www.thegsa.org](http://www.thegsa.org)).

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.

For more information, visit the GSA website, where previous conference programs can be found, and a detailed list of submission guidelines at <https://thegsa.org/conference/submission-guidelines> or contact members of the 2020 Program Committee: <https://www.thegsa.org/conference/program-committee-2020>

The 2020 Program Committee consists of:

Program Director	Joanne Miyang Cho (History, William Paterson University)
Pre-1800 (all fields)	Dan Riches (History, University of Alabama)
19th Century (all fields)	Vance Byrd (German, Grinnell College)
20th/21st Century History	Andrew Donson (History, University of Massachusetts) Eli Rubin (History, Western Michigan University)
20th/21st Century Germanistik	Jonathan Wipplinger (German, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee) Lynn Wolff (German, Michigan State University)
Contemporary Politics, Economics, and Society	Carol Hager (Political Science, Bryn Mawr College) Eric Langenbacher (Government, Georgetown University)
Interdisciplinary / Diachronic	Ela Gezen (German, University of Massachusetts, Amherst) Julia Roos (History, Indiana University)
Single Papers	Kevin Amidon (German, Fort Hays State University) May Mergenthaler (German, Ohio State University) Ilka Rasch (German, Furman University)
Seminars	Joe Perry, Chair (History, Georgia State University) Elizabeth Drummond (History, Loyola Marymount University) Richard Langston (German, University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill)

**Emerging Scholars Workshop at the GSA Conference:  
CALL FOR APPLICANTS**

We are excited to introduce a new conference format exclusively for graduate students, to be hosted for the first time at the 44th German Studies Association Conference in Washington, D.C., from October 1-4, 2020.

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 Germanists and historians access to the leading scholars 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:

**Workshop 1 (“German Studies, Hyperlinked”)**, facilitated by B. Venkat Mani (German Literature and Culture), is open to all graduate students at all levels, including students in MA programs.

**Workshop 2 (“Dissertation Design”)**, hosted by Edith Sheffer (History), is directed at PhD students already working on their dissertations.

Beyond these distinctions of level, 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.

**Workshop 1:** “German Studies, Hyperlinked! Research, Teaching, and Service within and beyond the Discipline,” facilitated by Dr. B. Venkat Mani, University of Wisconsin-Madison (<https://gns.wisc.edu/person/b-venkat-mani/>)

This workshop is geared toward all levels of graduate students: from those who are just about to conceptualize a dissertation project, to those who are about to go on the job market. The purpose of the workshop is to make students aware of the linkages between research, teaching, and service—as graduate students and as future professionals. In addition, the workshop will help participants identify and highlight in their work the “hyperlinks” between German Studies and other fields in the humanities and social sciences—including but not limited to colonial and postcolonial studies, critical race and ethnicity studies, gender and sexuality studies, migrant and refugee studies—with a view toward a broader, comparative model of German Studies. The three days will focus on the following questions:

1. Research: What is the significance of my dissertation project in the larger field of German Studies and the Humanities (or Social Sciences)? How do I develop skill-sets to cross disciplinary boundaries? How do I contribute to the public humanities while working on my dissertation? How open or insulated are my research topics?
2. Teaching: Are there connections that have started emerging between my research and my teaching? What kind of teaching profile do I want to develop as a graduate student and as a future professional? How do I teach my research interests as large enrollment courses in English translation? How aware am I of building an inclusive and equitable learning environment?
3. Service: Have I been able to think about the value of service to the department, the college/university, and the profession? How am I working toward becoming an aware and proactive citizen of the profession of teaching and learning? What are the skill-sets I am developing in my research and teaching that can help me make a stronger case for the humanities and social sciences?

**Workshop 2:** “Dissertation Design,” facilitated by Dr. Edith Sheffer, Senior Fellow, Institute of European Studies, University of California, Berkeley (<https://edithsheffer.com/>)

This workshop is designed for PhD students who have concrete dissertation projects. Students may be at different stages – prospectus, research, or chapter writing. The workshop will discuss individual dissertation projects as well as general strategies for research and writing. One month before the workshop in October 2020, each student will submit an abstract of the dissertation (250 words), a chapter outline with brief chapter descriptions (2-3 sentences), and a writing sample. 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 application letter (2 pages max.). Entry-level graduate students (eligible for workshop #1) 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 20, 2019 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 6, 2020. Students who cannot be accommodated this time will still have the opportunity to apply to one of the GSA seminars or sessions.

The ESW Committee consists of:

Astrid M. Eckert (Emory University) | [aeckert@emory.edu](mailto:aeckert@emory.edu)  
Priscilla D. Layne (UNC-Chapel Hill) | [playne@email.unc.edu](mailto:playne@email.unc.edu)

Please direct inquiries to both ESW Committee members.

We are looking forward to receiving your application!

**Guidelines for Submitting 2020 Proposals**  
**Forty-Fourth Annual Conference**  
**1-4 October 2020**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**Submission of Proposals for Individual Papers or Entire Panels**

- 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 **Friday, 15 February 2020**, at midnight Eastern Standard Time.
- 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 Dr. Benita Blessing at [operations@thegsa.org](mailto:operations@thegsa.org).

**Rules for Presenters**



- No individual may undertake more than one "presenter role," defined as giving a paper or participating in a seminar. Participating in a roundtable is not considered a presenter role.
- No individual may undertake more than two roles altogether, including a presenter role. Thus, an individual may give a paper and offer commentary on a separate panel. No individual may present two papers, nor may any individual participate in a seminar and present a paper.
- No individual may submit two or more papers or apply to two or more seminars.
- Individuals **may** both present 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 presentation 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 or 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 Skype, 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. Final decisions will be sent by Friday, 1 June 2020.

### **Withdrawal from the Conference**

- **All individuals withdrawing from the conference must inform the GSA.** Please contact Dr. Benita Blessing at [operations@thegsa.org](mailto:operations@thegsa.org) to confirm your absence.
- Anyone who cancels after **Friday, 1 June 2020**, for any reason other than medical or family emergency will not be permitted to submit another proposal for two years.
- 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 fee for membership in the 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 Dr. Benita Blessing at [operations@thegsa.org](mailto:operations@thegsa.org).

## GSA Prizes and Dissertation List

### Book and Article Prizes for 2019

The GSA is pleased to announce that the following prizes were awarded at its 43rd conference in Portland, Oregon.

The **DAAD/GSA Prize for the Best Book in Germanistik and Cultural Studies** published in 2018 was awarded to **Professor Nicola Behrmann** (Rutgers University), for her book *Geburt der Avantgarde – Emily Hennings* (Wallstein Verlag, 2018).

#### LAUDATIO:

This year's German Studies Association prize for the best book in Germanistik and Cultural Studies is awarded to Nicola Behrmann's *Geburt der Avantgarde – Emmy Hennings*, published by Wallstein Verlag in 2018. The book establishes Emmy Hennings as a central figure of the avant-garde. Through her, it traces a female genealogy of the movement. Situating Hennings in relation to figures as diverse as Benjamin, Ball, Huelsenbeck, Lasker-Schüler, and Tzara, the book also draws attention to now forgotten women artists. Its theoretically sophisticated, bold, and persistent questioning of the possibilities of literary historiography, the structural exclusion of women from the avant-garde, as well as the role of *écriture féminine* opens up promising new avenues for future work on modernism. *Geburt der Avantgarde* carefully reconstructs Henning's biography to question the concept of the archive, its limits, and its potential. By highlighting the fragility of our canon, Nicola Behrmann develops a language to make the scarce traces of Emmy Henning's presence speak. She reflects on the difficulty of including performance rather than print in our accepted historiographic narratives. The outline of Henning's contribution becomes visible in the figures of a voice behind the mask, an ephemeral event, a gift. While speaking to a variety of audiences interested in literary studies, media studies, performance studies, inter-arts, gender studies, historiography, and modernism, the book does not sacrifice sophistication for readability: it is highly engaging and eloquent. Above all, it is an example of and a testimony to the sociopolitical and existential relevance of archival humanistic inquiry.

Prize Committee: Johannes Türk (Indiana University, chair), Matt Erlin (Washington University in St. Louis), Fatima Naqvi (Rutgers University).

The **DAAD/GSA Prize for the Best Book in History and Social Sciences** published in 2018 was awarded to **Professor Dolores L. Augustine** (St. John's University) for her book *Taking on Technocracy: Nuclear Power in Germany, 1945 to the Present* (Berghahn Books, 2018).

#### LAUDATIO:

Dolores Augustine has written a masterful study on the history of nuclear power in Germany since 1945. *Taking on Technocracy* answers the question of why, among major developed nations, Germany alone has turned its back on atomic energy. But the book is far more than this. Here is a work that takes one of the most distinctive and effective environmental protest movements of the last half-century and fully contextualizes it in the postwar culture of both Germanies. Anti-nuclear activism, Augustine argues, was a “popular rebellion against the rule of experts,” a frontal challenge to technocracy itself. Yet it was hardly an anti-scientific movement, much less a lapse into an irrational Romanticism. Instead, grassroots protestors themselves mastered and made deep use of scientific knowledge to challenge the expert establishment. Working in tandem with maverick scientists who, for their own part, often risked their own careers to help, they popularized technical arguments about the dangers of nuclear power and mobilized that knowledge through teach-ins, pamphlets, and courtroom testimony. Above all, as Augustine recounts in vivid, often gripping detail, they staged demonstrations and protests at proposed reactor sites and waste depositories like Wyhl, Brokdorf, and Gorleben—out-of-the-way places that have since become synonymous with the popular campaign against *Atomkraft*. Augustine’s study is the best account of these seminal events in English; her study makes clear that the anti-nuclear movement is one of the few truly massive, grassroots movements to have succeeded.

Augustine’s is a beautifully rich and complex argument synthesized from an exciting variety of methodological vantage points and a masterful command of an impressive range of sources, encompassing oral history and individual testimony, archival documents, and media collections among others. Concluding with Angela Merkel’s decision to phase out nuclear energy in 2011 and the growth of a vibrant alternative energy sector in Germany—and, of course, written against the backdrop of potentially catastrophic climate change in our own collective future—this is a work that, while deeply historical, could hardly be more timely. Sure to receive a wide reception, *Taking on Technocracy* is a true credit to our profession and a genuine scholarly tour de force.

Prize Committee: Kathleen Canning (Rice University, chair), Ian McNeely (University of Oregon), Eli Rubin (Western Michigan University).

The **Sybil Halpern Milton Prize for the Best Book in Holocaust and Genocide Studies**, awarded every two years for the best book published in those fields in the previous two years, was awarded to **Professor Bradley W. Hart** (California State University, Fresno) for his book *Hitler's American Friends: The Third Reich's Supporters in the United States* (Thomas Dunne Books/St Martin's Press, 2018).

LAUDATIO:

*Hitler's American Friends* is an exceptionally timely and important book. It brilliantly restores a sense of contingency to the history of the United States in the 1930s and 1940s. Hart not only reminds us that Fascist and Nazi ideas once enjoyed considerable support in the U. S. but shows how, but for certain circumstances, they might have been even more dangerous than they ended up being. His study stands as a timely warning against reading history complacently in a teleological perspective.

Hart's book is not only thoroughly researched, with important archival evidence drawn from some unexpected sources; it is also written in a clear, lucid style that makes it accessible to a broader public. This is especially important given the relevance of the topic for the current political situation. Hart makes a strong and compelling case for the significance and impact of the American pro-Nazi movement in the 1930s and 40s, uncovering material not previously studied. While Hart acknowledges the political climate in the US over the past several years, the book does not draw facile parallels, but rather paints a rich and nuanced picture of the underpinnings of Nazi ideology during the war and today. As Hart writes: "In an era in which Americans have once again seen swastikas carried alongside American flags in Charlottesville, Virginia, and other communities, the lessons learned from the first defeat of Hitler's American friends should once again be remembered" (17). Indeed, Bradley W. Hart's book is a major contribution to the fields of American, German, and Holocaust history, one that helps us navigate the complex past as well as the present moment.

Prize Committee: Leslie Morris (University of Minnesota, chair), Darcy Buerkle (Smith College), Gavriel Rosenfeld (Fairfield University).

The **DAAD/GSA Article Prize for the Best Article Published in the *German Studies Review*** during the previous year was awarded to **Professor Sara S. Poor** (Princeton University) for her article "The Curious Multilingual Prehistory of French and German Monolingualism," *German Studies Review* 41, no. 3 (2018): 465-485.

LAUDATIO:

The DAAD/GSA Article Prize Committee recommends that Sara S. Poor (Princeton University) be awarded the 2019 prize for the best *GSR* article in Germanistik or cultural studies for her essay "The Curious Multilingual Prehistory of French and German Monolingualism."

Sara Poor's article reinterprets the significance of the 842 Strasbourg oaths sworn by Louis the German and Charles the Bald. These oaths have commonly been understood as a foundational event that signaled the dawn of monolingual German and French nations. Poor's article argues instead that this narrative of historical origin is a myth produced following the rise of print and reinforced by nineteenth-century nationalist interests. Poor shows that all parties to the oath, the leaders and their followers alike, operated in a multilingual environment where "mother tongue" and "native language" were not necessarily one and the same. Poor suggests that the

concept of “customary language” can help overcome this difficulty and restore our understanding of the Strasbourg oaths to its multilingual context.

Our committee finds Sara Poor’s article to be outstanding in terms of content, scope, innovation, and style. Poor’s complex argument, based as it is on close readings of historical and linguistic records, scrutiny of sources and secondary materials, and examinations of terminologies associated with discourses on monolingualism and nationhood, is conveyed with exceptional clarity. What is more, Poor manages to draw out very clearly what is at stake in her reading, namely the question of how we position ourselves vis-à-vis narratives about native languages and cultural identities, monolingualism and nations, national literatures, and the practice of the discipline of *Germanistik*. Such questions of course become all the more urgent because of the need to interrogate our disciplinary assumptions and practices at a time when academia in general and the humanities in particular are experiencing a crisis, and especially because of the fraught political moment in which we live. Poor urges us to work against a kind of *Geschichtsvergessenheit*, and to replace whatever mythical assumptions we—and the discipline of *Germanistik*—may make about monolingualism, nation, and language with a renewed dedication to the study of political, linguistic, and literary history. As Sara Poor so elegantly shows us, in the current historical moment, which is marked not least by mass migrations caused by wars, poverty, and climate change, and which therefore forces us to rethink notions of nation, belonging, and language, it behooves us to examine once more our multilingual origins.

Prize Committee: Imke Meyer (University of Illinois at Chicago), Elke Siegel (Cornell University), Stoltzfus (Florida State University).

The **GSA Prize for the Best Essay by a Graduate Student** written in 2018 was awarded to **Peter B. Thompson** (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) for his essay “Wardens of the Toxic World: German Women’s Encounters with the Gas Mask, 1915-1945.” It will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *German Studies Review*.

LAUDATIO:

“Wardens of the Toxic World: German Women’s Encounters with the Gas Mask, 1915-1945,” brilliantly establishes the relationship between gender and the gas mask to show how women carved out military and technological spaces for themselves within the patriarchal world of Weimar and Nazi Germany. In cogent and persuasive prose, the author demonstrates the continuities of gendered expectations over time and the limited reach of the so-called New Woman, arguing that the specific needs of the state to educate the public about gas masks and proper procedures during air raids offered a different form of “emancipation” for women – one that took advantage of, instead of challenging, dominant norms. Impressive about “Wardens of the Toxic World” is its command of the complexity of the place of the gas mask in both real life and the social and technological imaginary of the period. Technical knowledge of chemistry and

industrial techniques is connected with analysis of political developments and cultural discourses culled from a wide range of primary texts and cultural objects, which are examined critically both in their own right and in the context of previous research. The author effectively brings together multiple strands of historiography into a whole greater than the sum of its equally fascinating parts.

Prize Committee: Imke Meyer (University of Illinois at Chicago, chair), Stephen Lazer (Arizona State University), Peter McIsaac (University of Michigan).

## 2020 Prize Competitions Announced

In 2020 the GSA will again make a number of awards. We hope that as many members as possible will make nominations and submissions.

In 2020 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 2019. Inquiries, nominations, and submissions should be sent to the committee chair, Professor B. Venkat Mani (University of Wisconsin—Madison, [bvmani@wisc.edu](mailto:bvmani@wisc.edu)), by **20 February 2020**. The other members of the committee are Professors Claudia Breger (Columbia University) and Paul Fleming (Cornell University).

In 2020 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 2018. Inquiries, nominations, and submissions should be sent to the committee chair, Professor James Brophy (University of Delaware, [jbrophy@udel.edu](mailto:jbrophy@udel.edu)), by **20 February 2020**. The other members of the committee are Professors Ofer Askenazi (Hebrew University) and Belinda Davis (Rutgers University).

The **DAAD/GSA Article Prize** will be awarded in 2020 for the best article that appeared in the *German Studies Review* in 2018 or 2019. Inquiries, nominations, and submissions should be sent to the committee chair, Professor Monica Black (University of Tennessee—Knoxville, [mblack9@utk.edu](mailto:mblack9@utk.edu)), by **20 February 2020**. The other members of the committee are Professors Matthew Handelman (Michigan State University) and Kristin Kopp (University of Missouri).

The **Sybil Halpern Milton Book Prize** for the best book in Holocaust and Genocide Studies is awarded every other year, and will not be awarded in 2020.

The prize for the **Best Essay in German Studies by a Graduate Student** will again be awarded in 2020. The deadline for nominations and submissions is **15 March 2020**. 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 Elizabeth Otto

(University at Buffalo, [eotto@buddalo.edu](mailto:eotto@buddalo.edu)). The other members of the committee are Professors Hester Baer (University of Maryland) and Alice Weinreb (Loyola University Chicago).

## Call for Information about Dissertations in German Studies

The German Studies Association is continuing its tradition of posting information in the spring newsletter about dissertations completed in any area of German (that means: Austrian, German, Swiss, German diasporic) Studies (any discipline or interdisciplinary). If you received your Ph.D. in 2018 or 2019, you may be listed in the Spring 2020 newsletter (no repeats, however!). If you have supervised a dissertation that was completed in 2018 or 2019 that has not already been listed, please encourage the author to submit a description following the guidelines below.

Send an email to Janet A. Ward ([janet.ward@ou.edu](mailto:janet.ward@ou.edu)) any time before **17 March 2020**.

Please type "GSA dissertation list" in the subject line.

Be sure to include (in this order, please):

1. Name (Last, first)
2. Title of Dissertation
3. Institution and department in which it was defended
4. Name of dissertation director(s)
5. Month and Year of Defense (or degree if no defense)
6. Abstract of the dissertation of 200 or fewer words in either English or German. (150 words is desired length, 200 words an absolute limit. Longer abstracts will be shortened)

Please forward this notice to any institutions or individuals for whom you believe it is relevant.



## Announcements

### GSA Introduces New Dues Structure

At its meeting on 3 October 2019, the GSA Board approved a revision and updating of the organization's dues structure beginning on 1 November 2019. This vote followed a detailed discussion of two years. The old dues structure had been in place and unchanged for many years. The following will be the new annual dues structure:

Income below \$50,000	\$ 40.00
Income between \$50,001 and \$70,000	\$ 110.00
Income between \$70,001 and \$90,000	\$ 130.00
Income between \$90,001 and \$110,000	\$ 155.00
Income between \$110,001 and \$150,000	\$ 170.00
Income greater than \$150,000	\$ 185.00
Life member (one-time payment)	\$ 1000.00
Institutional member	\$ 500.00

Please note that those members who have signed up for recurring payments in the past will need to return to paying their dues on a non-recurring basis until the new system is fully in place. Please note, too, that joint memberships are no longer available. Thank you for your understanding!

### Dr. Margaret Menninger Named New GSA Executive Director Beginning in 2021

At its meeting on 3 October 2019, the GSA Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Margaret Eleanor Menninger, Associate Professor of History at Texas State University, as the GSA's third Executive Director. She will assume that office on 1 January 2021; the current Executive Director, Prof. David E. Barclay, will remain in that function until the end of 2020.

Professor Menninger has served as NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Humanities at Texas State, where she has taught in the Department of History since 2001. She received her A.B., M.A., and PhD degrees at Harvard University, where she studied with David Blackburn.

She is an accomplished chamber musician and is currently completing a manuscript on *A Serious Matter and True Joy: Philanthropy, the Arts, and the State in Nineteenth-Century Leipzig*. Among other things, she has published on the idea of the *Gesamtkunstwerk*.

Dr. Menninger brings a wealth of experience in the GSA to her new duties. She has served with distinction as Program Director and as chair of the Seminar Committee, and she is currently the GSA Secretary. The GSA will thrive under Margaret Menninger's leadership.

### **Dr. Benita Blessing Named New GSA Operations Director**

The GSA is pleased to announce that Dr. Benita Blessing has agreed to serve as its second Operations Director, succeeding Elizabeth Fulton, who was honored at the Portland conferences for her immense contributions to the GSA over the past 11 years.

Dr. Blessing teaches in the World Languages and Cultures program at Oregon State University. She has taught at a number of other institutions, including the University of Vienna. Dr. Blessing received a BA at Trinity University, her MA at the Middlebury-Monterey Institute of International Studies, and a PhD in history and educational policy studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has numerous publications and an impressive record of scholarship, especially in the history of education. She has been active in the GSA for many years, most recently as a member of the Program Committee. Please welcome Dr. Blessing as the new GSA Operations Director! She can be reached with technical and organizational questions at [operations@thegsa.org](mailto:operations@thegsa.org).

### **Prof. Gerald Fetz Honored upon Retirement as GSA Treasurer; Prof. Thomas Haakenson Named New GSA Treasurer**

After tirelessly serving the GSA for almost two decades as its Secretary/Treasurer, Professor Gerald Fetz is retiring at the end of 2019. A real pioneer of the association, Professor Fetz first joined the Western Association for German Studies (WAGS) – the predecessor of the GSA – at its legendary Snowbird conference in Utah in 1978. A graduate of Pacific Lutheran University, he earned his PhD at the University of Oregon, and thereafter began a distinguished career as a professor of German language and literature at the University of Montana, where, among many other distinctions, he served as Dean of the Honors College and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He is an expert on contemporary German and Austrian literature, including the work of Thomas Bernhard, and has recently co-edited an anthology on the work of Christa Wolf. Professor Fetz was honored for his decades of service to the GSA at the organization's annual banquet on 4 October and at a special roundtable, chaired by Professor Guenter Bischof, on the place of Austria in German Studies. Professor Fetz will continue to be active in the GSA as he works closely with its fundraising efforts.

The GSA's new Treasurer is Dr. Thomas Haakenson, Associate Professor in Critical Studies and Visual Studies at California College of the Arts in San Francisco and Oakland. He received a PhD in Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society from the Department of Cultural Studies and

Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota, as well as graduate-level minors in German and the History of Science and Technology. Professor Haakenson is co-editor of the book series “Visual Cultures and German Contexts” with Bloomsbury, and is the former co-editor of the book series “German Visual Culture” with Peter Lang Oxford. He has co-edited several anthologies and is the author of numerous publications. Among many activities, he has worked closely with the Fulbright program and with the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, co-sponsored by the GSA and the Free University of Berlin.

# Archives Report

**Rainer Hering, Landesarchiv Schleswig-Holstein  
Aktuelles aus deutschen Archiven  
GSA Archives Committee Report 2019<sup>1</sup>**

## **Gliederung:**

- 1. Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln**
- 2. Internationaler Suchdienst (ITS) Bad Arolsen**
- 3. Bundesarchiv**
- 4. Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach**
- 5. Hessen**
- 6. GSA Archives Committee**

### **1. Archiv der Stadt Köln**

Der 10. Jahrestag des Einsturzes des Kölner Stadtarchivs am 3. März 2019 wurde in diesem Jahr neben dem Gedenken an die Katastrophe und ihre Opfer von zwei positiven Ereignissen flankiert: Am 2. März 2018 konnte das Richtfest des Neubaus am Eifelwall, in dem zukünftig das Historische Archiv der Stadt Köln sowie das Rheinische Bildarchiv untergebracht werden sollen, im Beisein der Kölner Oberbürgermeisterin Henriette Reker gefeiert werden. Auf einer Bruttogrundfläche von rund 22.500 Quadratmetern soll hier bis 2021, so die aktuelle Planung, das modernste Kommunalarchiv Europas entstehen. Die dann zur Verfügung stehende Nutzfläche umfasst ca. 14.500 Quadratmeter. Das Gebäude enthält neun Klimazonen und bietet im sechsgeschossigen Magazinbaukörper („Schatzhaus“) Platz für 50 lfd. Kilometer kartoniertes Archivgut. Hinzu kommen weitere Nutzflächen für Urkunden und Großformate sowie AV-Medien. Die geschätzten Baukosten betragen rund 84 Millionen Euro inklusive Risikoreserve. Eine funktionsfähige Übergabe des Neubaus an die Nutzer ist für Ende 2020 geplant. Leider müssen die derzeitigen Räume für die Zentrale des Stadtarchivs am Heumarkt in Köln zum Ende des Jahres 2019 geräumt werden, weil der Mietvertrag nicht verlängert worden ist; Ersatzräume werden derzeit noch gesucht.

Der Archiveinsturz und seine Folgen lassen sich konkret in Zahlen fassen:

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<sup>1</sup> The Archives Committee consists of Jennifer Rodgers, Malgorzata Swider, Gerhard Weinberg, Meike Werner, and Rainer Hering (chair).

Betroffenes Archivgut:

- 27.256 lfd. Kölner Meter Akten
- 62.093 Pergamente und Urkunden
- 329.274 Karten, Pläne und Plakate (Großformate)
- 11.372 Siegel
- Ca. 500.000 Fotos
- Ca. 2.500 Tonträger und Videos

1.603.024 Bergungseinheiten (Hochrechnung 01/2018)

Ca. 95 Prozent geborgenes Archivgut

Ca. 4.000 Bergungshelfer

Ca. 2.000 Einsatzkräfte von Feuerwehr und THW

Pro Tag bis zu 250 Personen in zwei Schichten

Fast 90.000 Arbeitsstunden zwischen März und Oktober 2009

Offizielles Ende der Bergung der Archivalien des Historischen Archivs am 08. August 2011

Einlagerung in Asylarchiven:

Verteilung des Archivgutes auf 20 Asylarchive zwischen Freiburg im Breisgau und Schleswig

1.161.605 erfasste Bergungseinheiten (Stand 03/2019)

Erfassungsquote bei 72,46 Prozent

Ca. 42 Prozent aller Bergungseinheiten on-demand digital oder im Original zur Nutzung aufbereitbar: 670.000 Archivalien

240.230 konservierte Bergungseinheiten (Stand 03/2019)

Quote bei 15 Prozent

42.860 Einheiten identifiziert und archivisch aufbereitet (ca. 2,7 Prozent aller Einheiten)

6.532.199 Bilder von Mikrofilmen digitalisiert

2.323.516 Bilder von Originalarchivalien

1.030.202 Aufnahmen zur Fotodokumentation

Ca. 90.000 Verzeichnungseinheiten mit Digitalisaten im virtuellen Lesesaal verfügbar

33 lfd. km kartoniertes Archivgut (9 Standardkartons / lfd. m., ca. 300.000 Standardarchivkartons)

92 Prozent Belegstand in den Magazinen

892.206 Buchungen im ersten Quartal 2019

Die Geschichte des Wiederaufbaus für die ersten zehn Jahre ist in einer umfangreichen Dokumentation festgehalten worden.<sup>2</sup>

Zur Erinnerung: Die Idee für das einzigartige Projekt, die durch den Archiveinsturz zum Teil stark fragmentierten Archivalien virtuell wieder zusammen zu setzen, entstand bereits kurz nach

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<sup>2</sup> Ulrich Fischer/Markus Späinghaus: Geschichte mit Zukunft – 10 Jahre Wiederaufbau des Kölner Stadtarchivs (Mitteilungen aus dem Stadtarchiv von Köln, Sonderband). Köln 2019.

dem Archiveinsturz 2009. Die Suche nach Unterstützung bei der Lösung dieser Aufgaben führte die Vertreter des Historischen Archivs an das Fraunhofer-Institut für Produktionsanlagen und Konstruktionstechnik (Fraunhofer IPK) nach Berlin, denn dort existierte bereits Know-how auf dem Gebiet der virtuellen Rekonstruktion zerrissener Papierdokumente. Gemeinsam mit der MusterFabrik Berlin (MFB), die als einziges Unternehmen über die notwendigen Fraunhofer-Lizenzen für die Weiterentwicklung der entsprechenden Software verfügt, brachte die Projektgruppe im Oktober 2012 das Forschungs- und Entwicklungsprojekt „Digitale Rekonstruktion Kölner Fragmente“ auf den Weg. Zum Abschluss des Forschungs- und Entwicklungsprojektes in 2017 konnte die MFB erfolgreich die Funktionsfähigkeit des entwickelten Rekonstruktions-Assistenzsystems zur digitalen und physischen Wiederherstellung des beschädigten Archivgutes nachweisen.

Weitere Projektergebnisse sind die Entwicklung eines Weichpartikelstrahl-Arbeitsplatzes (WPS) zur technisch unterstützten Reinigung der Fragmente. Hier werden die Fragmente unter einer Reinen Werkbank mit einem Hochdruckluftstrahl unter Beigabe von Cellulosepulver (beispielsweise Arbocel) schnell, schonend und effizient gereinigt. Darüber hinaus hat die MFB eine den Anforderungen der digitalen Rekonstruktion entsprechende Digitalisierungseinheit für die gleichzeitige, beidseitige, geometrie- und farbtreue Digitalisierung von Einzelblattschriftgut und insbesondere Papierfragmenten entwickelt. Im Sommer 2017 konnte mit der Unterzeichnung des „Vertrages zur Erstellung eines Gesamtsystems zur Digitalen Rekonstruktion Kölner Fragmente“ der Auftrag für das Folgeprojekt an die MusterFabrik Berlin erteilt werden. Der Weg hin in einen Wirk- und Mengenbetrieb für die Bearbeitung und Rekonstruktion der angenommenen zwei Millionen Kölner Fragmente soll über insgesamt drei Projektphasen erfolgen.

Neben den aufwändigen Wiederaufbauarbeiten ist das Historische Archiv aber auch seit längerem wieder ein Archiv mit regulärem Dienstbetrieb, das regelmäßig Unterlagen der städtischen Verwaltung sowie Nachlässe bedeutender Persönlichkeiten übernimmt, eine steigende Anzahl von Archivbenutzern aus dem In- und Ausland betreut und eine aktive Öffentlichkeitsarbeit betreibt. Pro Jahr werden mittlerweile wieder zwischen 1.500 und 1.800 Nutzeranfragen beantwortet; hinzukommen Anfragen aus dem Bereich Melde- und Personenstandswesen.

Seit 2009 übernimmt das Historische Archiv gemäß Personenstandsreformgesetz die Erstregister von Geburten-, Heirats- und Sterbeurkunden vom Standesamt Köln, die nach Abschluss der Sperr- und Fortführungsfristen an das zuständige Archiv abzugeben sind. Zusätzlich wurden 2012 die dazugehörigen Sammelakten vom Landesarchiv Nordrhein-Westfalen/Personenstandsarchiv-Rheinland übernommen. Seit der Abgabe der Einwohnermeldekarteien vom Amt für Einwohnerwesen an das Archiv im Jahr 2015 im Zuge der Novellierung des Bundesmeldegesetzes erteilt das Stadtarchiv auch alle Meldebescheinigungen und Meldeauskünfte bis einschließlich 1985.

Die Zahl der Anfragen im Bereich der biographischen Recherchen ist damit mittlerweile auf 3000 pro Jahr angestiegen. Bei diesen Anfragen geht es häufig um Familienforschung; daneben

ist es vor allem die Klärung von Fragen zu Renten, Staatsangehörigkeit, Verfolgten des NS-Regimes und Erbangelegenheiten, die sich Benutzer des Kölner Stadtarchivs erhoffen. Auch wenn die 2009 übernommenen Personenstandserstschriften vom Einsturz betroffen sind, kann Benutzern aus diesen immer häufiger Auskunft erteilt werden, da die Restaurierung dieser Bände bereits erfolgt ist.

Zum 1. Januar 2018 wurde im Historischen Archiv der Stadt Köln die elektronische Akte eingeführt. Die Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter arbeiten somit im täglichen Dienstbetrieb vollständig digital. Briefeingänge per Post werden zentral eingescannt und anschließend in den elektronischen Geschäftsgang gegeben. Der Einführung der E-Akte ging eine zweijährige Vorbereitungsphase voran, zu der die Analyse der internen Geschäftsprozesse, die Überarbeitung des Aktenplans sowie umfangreiche Mitarbeiterschulungen und Abstimmungen mit städtischen Partnern gehörten. Das Historische Archiv hat im Zuge dieses Projektes zahlreiche Erfahrungen auf dem Gebiet des E-Government gesammelt und dabei seine Kompetenzen erweitert. Gemäß den archivgesetzlichen Regelungen und der städtischen Archivsatzung gehört die Beratung der städtischen Dienststellen bei der Verwaltung ihrer Papier- und elektronischen Akten zu den Kernaufgaben des Archivs. Dieser Aufgabe wird das Kölner Stadtarchiv künftig noch kompetenter nachkommen können als bisher.<sup>3</sup>

## **2. Internationaler Suchdienst (ITS) Bad Arolsen**

Der Internationale Suchdienst in Bad Arolsen (ITS) 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.<sup>4</sup>

Über die Suche von Personen und das Klären von persönlichen Schicksalen hinaus wird die Erschließung der Unterlagen eine stärkere Rolle spielen. Der ITS wird sich weiter von einem Suchdienst hin zu einem Zentrum für Dokumentation, Information und Forschung entwickeln. Damit soll dauerhaft die Zukunft dieser Einrichtung am Standort Bad Arolsen gesichert werden.

Seit April 2019 heißt das Archiv des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Arolsen (ITS) *Arolsen Archives - International Center on Nazi Persecution*. Der neue Name und ein moderner Auftritt

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<sup>3</sup> Wiederaufbau des Historischen Archivs der Stadt Köln – Sachstandbericht 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Vgl. International Tracing Service (ITS): Jahresbericht 2015. Neue Zugänge zum Archiv des ITS. Bad Arolsen 2016.

sind der Rahmen, um mit Projekten, Ausstellungen und Bildungsangeboten mehr Menschen anzusprechen und über die Folgen von Antisemitismus, Diskriminierung und Rassenhass zu informieren. Die Basis dafür ist die Sammlung mit Dokumenten zu allen Opfergruppen des Hitler-Regimes, die in ihrer Bedeutung einzigartig ist. Es ist mit 30 Millionen Dokumenten das weltweit größte Archiv über zivile Opfer des „Dritten Reiches“ und enthält 26.000 laufende Meter Unterlagen über Konzentrationslager, Inhaftierungen und Zwangsarbeit, die über 17,5 Millionen Menschen Auskunft geben. Die Originaldokumente und die Zentrale Namenkartei wurden 2013 in das UNESCO-Register „Memory of the World“ aufgenommen.

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. Nun erhielt auch das Staatliche Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau erhält den direkten Zugriff auf die komplette Datenbank des ITS und somit auf das weltweit umfangreichste Archiv über NS-Verfolgte. Durch das Projekt wurde mehr Wissen über Namen und Schicksale der Auschwitz-Häftlinge zugänglich gemacht. Auch die von den Mormonen betriebene Webseite Ancestry.com hat mittlerweile eine Kopie der ITS-Datenbank und wird die Unterlagen auch Online zu Verfügung stellen.

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 Namenkartei 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).

Besonders hervorzuheben ist die Onlinestellung des Gesamtinventars im Januar 2017. Es bietet einen Überblick über die Archivbestände des ITS, zu denen rund 30 Millionen Dokumente über die nationalsozialistische Verfolgung und Zwangsarbeit sowie das Schicksal der Überlebenden zählen.

Durch das Gesamtinventar werden Themenrecherchen und die Vorbereitung eines Archivbesuchs für Forscherinnen und Forscher erheblich leichter. Das Inventar bietet grundlegende Angaben zu den einzelnen Teilbeständen. Dazu zählen zum Beispiel der Titel, der Umfang, die Signatur und eine kurze inhaltliche Beschreibung. Die durchsuchbare Inventarstruktur wird als navigierbarer Baum angezeigt. Daneben kann nach Stichworten recherchiert werden. Das Gesamtinventar steht in deutscher und englischer Sprache zur Verfügung.

Die Erschließung der umfangreichen Bestände ist jedoch nicht abgeschlossen. Der ITS hat sich aus Gründen der Transparenz bewusst entschlossen, auch vorläufig oder oberflächlich



erschlossene Bestände im Gesamtinventar anzuzeigen. Die bereits bestehenden Angaben zu den Teilbeständen werden schrittweise um detaillierte Bestandsbeschreibungen ergänzt, um einen tieferen Zugang zu den Dokumenten zu ermöglichen. Das Gesamtinventar auf der Website bildet den aktuellen Stand der Erschließung ab, da die Daten direkt aus dem digitalen ITS-Archiv abgerufen werden.

Link zum Gesamtinventar:

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

Im November 2018 wurde das Online-Archiv weiter ausgebaut und durch 900.000 veröffentlichten Nachkriegs-Dokumenten ergänzt, so dass über zwei Millionen Dokumente online zur Verfügung stehen; eine Namenssuche ist möglich. Die neu hinzugekommenen Dokumente enthalten etwa 405.000 Namen von Holocaust-Überlebenden, ehemaligen KZ-Häftlingen und NS-Zwangsarbeitern, die nach Ende des Zweiten Weltkriegs von der International Refugee Organization (IRO) in Österreich, Italien, der Schweiz und England betreut wurden. Die Akten aus deutschen DP-Camps hatte der ITS bereits zuvor veröffentlicht. Insgesamt ermöglicht das nun die Online-Suche nach knapp einer Million Namen von Displaced Persons, die im Rahmen des „Care and Maintenance Programms“ in DP-Camps registriert und befragt worden waren. Mit den Fragebögen sollte festgestellt werden, ob und in welcher Weise die IRO sie unterstützen konnte.

Die von den DPs ausgefüllten Fragebögen gehören zu den persönlichsten Dokumenten, die beim ITS zu finden sind. Ein Beispiel ist die Akte über die ungarische Jüdin Erzsebet Klein, die eine doppelte Verfolgungsgeschichte erzählt: Kurz nach ihrer Hochzeit 1944 verhafteten die Nazis Erzsebets Mann Imre Klein. Er wurde in das KZ Mauthausen gebracht, wo er im Mai 1945 starb. Ihr war es gelungen, in Budapest unterzutauchen. Nach Kriegsende arbeitete Erzsebet Klein dort als Verkäuferin. Wegen abfälliger Bemerkungen über die Kommunisten drohte ihr die Verhaftung. Von Freunden gewarnt, wollte sie nach Österreich fliehen, wurde jedoch in der Slowakei aufgegriffen und in ein Lager für Regimekritiker gebracht. Ihr gelang die Flucht. Im Oktober 1949 erreichte sie Wien und beantragte die Unterstützung der IRO. Das ist nur eines von vielen sehr unterschiedlichen Schicksalen, die durch die IRO-Fragebögen dokumentiert

Darüber hinaus hat der ITS eine Kartei mit Seltenheitswert erschlossen, eine Foto-Kartei zum ehemaligen Konzentrationslager Dachau aus dem ersten Nachkriegsjahr. Sie enthält rund 2.000 Bilder von Überlebenden. Die Kartei entstand, als die NS-Opfer Haftzertifikate brauchten, damit Hilfsorganisationen sie unterstützten. Um nachzuweisen, dass und wie lange sie im Konzentrationslager Dachau waren, mussten sie zwei Fotos von sich abgeben – eins für die Akten, eins zum Aufkleben auf das Zertifikat. Das sollte Fälschungen verhindern. Diese Kartei ging etwas später an den ITS. Jetzt sind die Dokumente digitalisiert und indiziert, sodass man in der Datenbank nach Namen oder Geburtsdatum suchen kann. Ab Frühjahr 2019 werden sie online zur Verfügung stehen.

Im Frühjahr 1940 beschlossen die Nationalsozialisten eine Sonderaktion zur Ermordung jüdischer Patienten in Heil- und Pflegeanstalten. Fünf Frauen, die zum Teil seit vielen Jahren im

Bathildisheim im nordhessischen Arolsen gelebt hatten, brachte man daraufhin in die „Landesheil- und Pflegeanstalt“ nach Gießen. Sie kehrten nie zurück. Das Bathildisheim hat nun die Akten der fünf Frauen dem ITS übergeben.

Seit Mai 2019 sind in Zusammenarbeit mit der Internationalen Holocaust-Gedenkstätte Yad Vashem, Israel, auf der Internetseite <https://collections.arolsen.archives.org> 13 Millionen Dokumente aus Konzentrationslagern, darunter Häftlingskarten und Todesmeldungen, über 2,2 Millionen Menschen online recherchierbar.

Nähere Informationen sind im Internet zu finden: [www.its-arolsen.org](http://www.its-arolsen.org)

### **3. Bundesarchiv**

Das Bundesarchiv erleichtert die Recherche nach Opfern der NS-„Euthanasieverbrechen“ – ab sofort ist eine personenbezogene Suche nach Patientenakten auch online möglich. Der Bestand R 179 „Kanzlei des Führers, Hauptamt IIb“ des Bundesarchivs umfasst rund 30.000 Krankenakten von Opfern der NS-„Euthanasie“ und ist über eine Datenbank erschlossen, die unter anderem Namen, Geburtsdaten und Anstaltsorte zu den Opfern der Tötungsverbrechen enthält. Diese Erschließungsinformationen hat das Bundesarchiv jetzt auch online bereitgestellt. Damit haben insbesondere Hinterbliebene von „Euthanasie“-Opfern die Möglichkeit festzustellen, ob beim Bundesarchiv Unterlagen zu ihren Angehörigen vorliegen, ohne dafür das Bundesarchiv aufsuchen oder kontaktieren zu müssen. Auch für Gedenkstätten und Erinnerungsorte wird die Recherche durch diesen Schritt erheblich vereinfacht. Die Nutzung der einzelnen Akten, die sensible Krankenunterlagen enthalten können, muss allerdings weiterhin einer sorgfältigen Prüfung und Güterabwägung im Einzelfall unterliegen.

### **4. Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach**

Literaturarchive bieten nicht nur für die Germanistik, sondern gerade auch für die Geschichtswissenschaft wichtige Quellen. Herausragend ist das 1955 gegründete Deutsche Literaturarchiv in Marbach am Neckar. Finanziert wird es von der Bundesregierung und dem Land Baden-Württemberg sowie von den Städten Stuttgart, Ludwigsburg und Marbach sowie dem Landkreis Ludwigsburg. Mit rund 1.200 Nach- und Vorlässen von namhaften Schriftstellern, Schriftstellerinnen und Gelehrten gehört die Marbacher Handschriftensammlung international zu den führenden Sammlungen ihrer Art. Sie erwirbt, erschließt und archiviert Manuskripte, Briefe und Lebensdokumente vom 18. Jahrhundert bis in die Gegenwart. Darunter fallen auch Tonträger deutscher Liedermacher. Der Zugang zu den Sammlungen steht allen offen, die Quellen für ihre Arbeit brauchen. Darüber hinaus finden sich hier auch Redaktionsarchive literarischer Zeitschriften, wie Merkur, Neue Deutsche Hefte, Text + Kritik, Texte und Zeichen, Die Wandlung, und Verlagsarchive, wie z.B. Cotta, Insel, Luchterhand, MÄRZ, R. Piper, S. Fischer und Suhrkamp. Die Bestände sind bis 1998 in

Zettelkatalogen und Bestandslisten nachgewiesen, seit 1999 in der Datenbank.

Neu in das Marbacher Archiv gelangten u.a.:

- fünf handschriftliche Briefe, drei eigenhändige und ein maschinengeschriebenes Gedicht Paul Celans aus dem Jahr 1951 an eine bislang unbekannte Frau mit Namen „Hannele“, die den dort bereits befindlichen und 116 Archivkästen umfassenden Nachlass Celans ergänzen.
- der Nachlass des Musikers, Haupttexters und Mitbegründers der von 1970 bis 1986 bestehenden Band „Ton Steine Scherben“ Rio Reiser (1950-1996; eigentlich Ralph Christian Möbius). Er umfasst Manuskripte, Briefe, Theaterstücke, Drehbücher, Videokassetten und DVDs, Youtube-Clips mit Konzertmitschnitten, Noten, Musikvideos und Filmen, an denen Reiser als Schauspieler oder Filmkomponist mitwirkte, sowie eine Gitarre und ein Keyboard.
- der Vorlass des Schriftstellers und Philosophen Peter Sloterdijk. Er enthält Manuskripte, Materialien, 140 Notizhefte mit philosophischen Aphorismen, Reiseberichten und Kommentaren zum politischen Tagesgeschehen, entwürfe, Textdateien der publizierten Bücher, Aufsätze und Vorträge sowie Audiodateien von Vorlesungen und Vorträgen, Fotos und Schriftwechsel, u.a. mit Jan Assmann, Bazon Brock, Hans-Ulrich Gumbrecht, Thomas Macho und Rüdiger Safranski.
- eine frühe, um 1900 entstandene Handschrift Hermann Hesses „Ein Kranz für die schöne Lulu. Ein Jugenderlebnis, dem Gedächtnis E.T.A. Hoffmanns gewidmet (70 Seiten).
- das Manuskript des Romans „Kreuz ohne Liebe“ Heinrich Bölls, verfasst zwischen Juli 1946 und Mai 1947 (204 Seiten mit handschriftlichen Korrekturen)
- der Nachlass des Schriftstellers Bernard von Brentano (1901-1964). Er besteht aus Manuskripten zu publizierten und ungedruckten Romanen, Erzählungen, Theaterstücken, Essays und Kritiken sowie Korrespondenzen u.a. mit Theodor W. Adorno, Gottfried Benn, Alfred Döblin, Hans Fallada, Lion Feuchtwanger, Sigmund Freud, Hermann Hesse, Theodor Heuss, Ödön von Horvath, Carl Gustav Jung, Ernst Jünger, Marie Luise Kaschnitz, Thomas Mann, Erwin Piscator, Joseph Roth, Carl Schmitt, Anna Seghers, Upton Sinclair, Peter Suhrkamp, Gabriele Wohmann, Carl Zuckmayer.
- der Nachlass Peter Härtling mit Manuskripten, Leserbriefen sowie Korrespondenzen u.a. mit Paul Celan, Uwe Johnson, Wolfgang Koeppen, Arno Schmidt.
- eine Sammlung von Autographen von Else Lasker-Schüler sowie zugehörige Materialien erwerben. Die meisten Stücke stammen aus dem Besitz des Verlegers, Kunsthistorikers und Schriftstellers Franz Glück, dessen umfangreiche Bibliothek sich bereits seit 1982 in Marbach befindet. Bei dem neu erworbenen Konvolut handelt es sich u.a. um Briefe, Postkarten und ein Telegramm an Glück und seine Frau Hilde, zudem um einen Fahnenabzug »Konzert« (105 Blätter) von Else-Lasker Schüler sowie Briefe von Schalom Ben-Chorin, Friedrich Traugott Gubler und Manfred Sturmann an den Verleger Glück. Das neuerworbene Konvolut ergänzt im Deutschen Literaturarchiv eine umfangreiche Sammlung von Autographen Else-Lasker Schülers.

## 5. Hessen

Das Hessische Hauptstaatsarchiv in Wiesbaden meldet, dass überraschend im Bestand Abt. 405 Regierungspräsidium Wiesbaden die Personalakte des Bildhauers Ernst Barlach (1870–1938) entdeckt worden ist. Barlach war 1904 als Lehrer für Modellieren und Zeichnen an die Fachschule für Keramik in Höhr(-Grenzhausen) berufen worden. Zwar befindet sich in der Akte von Barlachs eigener Hand nur die Unterschrift unter seiner Verpflichtung auf Gott und den König von Preußen. Neben dem üblichen Schriftverkehr, der bei der Personalverwaltung anfällt, darunter ein Lebenslauf und ein Personalfragebogen, ist aber auch eine vorläufige Beurteilung durch den Direktor der Keramikfachschule zu finden. Dort heißt es: „Es wird dies [eine Einschätzung] erst möglich sein, wenn der Lehrer Barlach sich etwas mehr eingearbeitet hat, wozu mindestens noch ein halbes Jahr nötig sein wird. Namentlich im Zeichenunterricht, für ihn eine ganz neue Tätigkeit, fehlt noch die Sicherheit. Es ist vorläufig mehr ein Herumtasten, Suchen. Da seine Ansichten über Zeichenmethode u. dgl. aber gesunde sind, so wird er schon das Richtige finden. Er läßt sich auch belehren und nimmt Winke von mir und dem Lehrer Goltz gerne an, ohne jedoch einfacher Nachbeter zu sei. Im Modellierunterricht hatte ich auszusetzen, daß er das Figürliche zu sehr bevorzugte. – Mit den Schülern kommt er gut zurecht. Als Mensch muß man ihn, trotzdem er etwas Sonderling<sup>5</sup> ist, achten.“ Aus gesundheitlichen Gründen verließ Barlach im März 1905 die Schule wieder.

## 6. 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)

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<sup>5</sup> <https://landesarchiv.hessen.de/personalakte-barlach> (eingesehen am 04.02.2019).

## GSA Committees and Networks 2019-20

### Committees

#### Executive Board 2020

Christina Gerhardt, University of Hawai'i Manoa (2020)  
Donna Harsch, Carnegie Mellon University (2020)  
Todd Herzog, University of Cincinnati (2022)  
Priscilla Layne, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (2021)  
Thomas Lekan, University of South Carolina (2020)  
Christiane Lemke, Leibniz-Universität Hannover (2022)  
Benjamin Marschke, Humboldt State University (2021)  
Damani Partridge, University of Michigan (2021)  
Eli Rubin, Western Michigan University (2022)  
Christy Wahl, University of Wisconsin--Madison (2020)  
Sabine Hake, University of Texas at Austin, ex officio non-voting  
Mary Lindemann, University of Miami (2020), ex officio non-voting

#### Program Committee

Program Director	Joanne Miyang Cho (History, William Paterson University)
Pre-1800 (all fields)	Dan Riches (History, University of Alabama)
19th Century (all fields)	Vance Byrd (German, Grinnell College)
20th/21st Century History	Andrew Donson (History, University of Massachusetts) Eli Rubin (History, Western Michigan University)
20th/21st Century Germanistik	Jonathan Wipplinger (German, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee) Lynn Wolff (German, Michigan State University)
Contemporary Politics, Economics, and Society	Carol Hager (Political Science, Bryn Mawr College) Eric Langenbacher (Government, Georgetown University)
Interdisciplinary / Diachronic	Ela Gezen (German, University of Massachusetts, Amherst) Julia Roos (History, Indiana University)

Single Papers

Kevin Amidon (German, Fort Hays State University)  
May Mergenthaler (German, Ohio State University)  
Ilka Rasch (German, Furman University)

Seminars

Joe Perry, Chair (History, Georgia State University)  
Elizabeth Drummond (History, Loyola Marymount University)  
Richard Langston (German, University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill)

**Nominating Committee**

Irene Kacandes, Chair (German, Dartmouth College)  
Joy Calico (Music, Vanderbilt University)  
Jared Poley (History, Georgia State University)

**DAAD/GSA Article Prize**

Monica Black, Chair (History, University of Tennessee—Knoxville)  
Matthew Handelman (German, Michigan State University)  
Kristin Kopp (German, University of Missouri)

**DAAD/GSA Book Prize (History/Social Sciences)**

James Brophy, Chair (History, University of Delaware)  
Ofer Ashkenazi (History, Hebrew University)  
Belinda Davis (History, Rutgers University)

**DAAD/GSA Book Prize (Germanistik/Cultural Studies)**

B. Venkat Mani, Chair (German, University of Wisconsin—Madison)  
Claudia Breger (German, Columbia University)  
Paul Fleming (German, Cornell University)

### **Graduate Student Essay Prize**

Libby Otto, Chair (Art History, SUNY Buffalo)

Hester Baer (German, University of Maryland)

Alice Weinreb (History, Loyola University Chicago)

### **Sybil Halpern Milton Book Prize**

Not awarded in 2020, awarded again 2021.

### **Berlin Program Selection Committee**

Deborah Ascher Barnstone (History of Architecture, University of Technology Sydney)

Atina Grossmann (History, Cooper Union)

### **Delegate to American Council of Learned Societies**

Martha Helfer (German, Rutgers University)

## **Ad Hoc Committees**

### **Emerging Scholars Workshop**

Astrid Eckert (History, Emory University)

Priscilla Layne (German, University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill)

### **Social Media**

Yuliya Komska (German, Dartmouth College)

Richard Steigmann-Gall (History, Kent State University)

## **Interdisciplinary Networks 2019**

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, SUNY New Paltz (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)



## **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 Minder, University of Groningen (2020-2022)

## **8. Family and Kinship**

Margareth Lanzinger, University of Vienna (2017-2019)  
Eleanor ter Horst, University of South Alabama (2017-2019)  
Sarah Vandegrift Eldridge, University of Tennessee (2017-2019)

## **9. GDR Studies and German Socialisms**

April Eisman, Iowa State University (2018-2020)  
Sonja Klocke, University of Wisconsin at Madison (2018-2020)

## **10. Law and Legal Cultures**

Barnet Hartston, Eckerd College (2016-2019)  
Todd Herzog, University of Cincinnati (2016-2019)

## **11. Memory Studies**

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

## **12. Music and Sound Studies**

David Imhoof, Susquehanna University (2015-2019)  
Kira Thurman, University of Michigan (2016-2019)  
Abby Anderton, Baruch College, CUNY (2020-2022)  
Jeff Hayton, Wichita State University (2019-2021)

### **13. 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)

### **14. Religious Cultures**

C.J. Jones, Notre Dame (2017-2019)

Lisa Silverman, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2018-2020)

Beverly Weber, University of Colorado-Boulder (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: Gerhard Weiss (1926-2019)

Professor Emeritus Gerhard Weiss, past vice president and president of the German Studies Association (1999-2000), died peacefully on October 2, 2019 in Minneapolis, MN. At the University of Minnesota from 1956 until his retirement in 1998, Weiss had a distinguished career as an award-winning teacher, active scholar, and skilled administrator. He served as an associate dean for humanities and fine arts in the College of Liberal Arts, an interim director of the Center for Austrian Studies, and the chair or acting chair for many departments. His wise leadership earned the respect of his colleagues and his contributions to higher education were recognized in multiple forms, including through the University of Minnesota President's Award for Outstanding Service.

Beyond the GSA, Weiss served a term as the national president of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) from 1982-83 and became the editor of the journal *Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German*. The AATG honored him with its Distinguished German Educator Award and made him an honorary member. Weiss also received the Bundesverdienstkreuz erste Klasse from the Federal Republic of Germany and the Cross of Honor, First Class, for Arts and Sciences from the Republic of Austria.

A dynamic teacher and generous faculty mentor, Weiss was known for his eloquent presentations on the history of German culture. His talent for storytelling grew out of lived experience. Weiss was born in Berlin in 1926, the child of a Jewish father and a Protestant mother. The family endured many hardships, which Weiss often recounted when he spoke publicly about his experience as a Holocaust survivor. Asked in a 2002 interview for a departmental publication what it was like to grow up in Berlin during the war years, Weiss responded with characteristic frankness, "In 25 words or less? It was very hard. In many ways, it was traumatic; yet in many ways, it was very normal. Reading my mother's notebooks from that time, you find reflections on the sheer horror of what was happening mixed with comments about doing the laundry."

Philosophically Weiss then observed, "One grows up fast in circumstances such as these. It very much shaped my entire life. Against that context, every other problem I've encountered in my life has seemed trivial." After the war, he and his parents emigrated to the United States. Weiss served in the US Army in Japan (eventually retiring from the U.S. Army Reserves in 1986 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel). That path opened the way for him to pursue B.A. and M.A. degrees at Washington University in St. Louis and then his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where he met his wife Janet. They and their three children became a vital part of the Twin Cities community.

At the University of Minnesota, Weiss emerged as an advocate for the integrated approach to interdisciplinary studies of literature, history, and language that would become the field of German studies. His efforts paved the way for many institutional partnerships as well as other opportunities for undergraduate as well as graduate students, for whom he became a model.

Advisees remember his gentle concern for everyone, patient mentorship, witty humor, and above all, his enthusiasm for his discipline.

In retirement, Weiss remained professionally active, generously accepting invitations to speak about his lived experience of history. He did so in ways that made an indelible impression on others. As Professor Leslie Morris explains, “not only was he an eyewitness to the events unfolding in Germany, but as the child of a Jewish father and a non-Jewish mother, he occupied a particular position and was able to discuss the complexity of history writ large and his own personal story. Particularly memorable for my students was that he would always come to class with a small bag that contained the yellow star of David he had been forced to pin to his clothes, his passport with his name altered according to Nazi law and with the large J stamped across it, and other documents.”

Reflecting on the life of his colleague and friend Weiss, Professor Emeritus Jack Zipes observes that “he was a wise and shrewd man with great integrity and a profound sense of fairness. And there was always a twinkle in his eyes. I shall miss him very much. I shall miss his stories about how he endured the Nazi period and then came to the US to lead one of the finest departments of German in America.” Indeed, Gerhard Weiss is remembered in this way by the many colleagues and former students he inspired—with deep appreciation for his abiding sense of humanity.

A memorial service has been held. Further information is available at the Department of German, Nordic, Slavic, and Dutch [website](#) at the University of Minnesota.

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