

LI, NUMBER 1
SPRING 2026

**GERMAN STUDIES
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

2026

WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2026 EDITION OF THE GSA NEWSLETTER!

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Letter from the Executive Director.....	3
2026 GSA Conference, Website Updates	4
GSA Board Elections	5
Book Prizes and Calls for Nominations	6
New AFM Book/Article Prize and CfA	7
Reserving ADA Rooms and Special Events in Phoenix	8
Max Kade Berlin Postdoc Fellows 2026-27.....	9
Call for Committee Volunteers	11
Goethe Film Archive: New Titles Added	12
In Memoriam, Sarah Vandegrift Eldridge.....	13-14

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear members and friends of the GSA,

Like many of you, I am marking the shift into spring (and wish a happy autumn to those in the southern hemisphere). Regardless of where we live, we are confronted with a world that seems to grow in uncertainty with every passing day. It is challenging to find repose or calm when the earth keeps shifting under your feet.

Nonetheless, or perhaps despite the state of things, I look forward to celebrating the GSA's 50th anniversary year with those of you planning on coming to Phoenix in September. If the crises of the late 1970s seem quaint at this distance, they were certainly real to those experiencing them. That first conference, hosted by Arizona State University, included panels discussing the current political issues in both the Federal Republic and Central Europe more generally. Both such titles echo with panels soon to be set for our upcoming conference.

The aim of the Western Association of German Studies then was the same as the aim of the GSA now—to help create a community where the humanities and social sciences could flourish and where scholars in all stages of their careers could find allies. That work will continue even in conditions that make it difficult for all of our members to be there with us in Arizona. Indeed, I would argue the work is more important now than ever.

With best wishes,
Margaret E. Menninger,
Executive Director



GSA 2026 CONFERENCE

The Fiftieth Conference of the German Studies Association
September 24–27, 2026 | Phoenix, AZ

Conference registration will open in mid-May. Please note that, as was announced in the Winter 2025 newsletter, that the board voted to raise registration rates to help with the budgetary deficit created by increased conference costs.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

The GSA is aware of way that current decisions taken by the U.S. administration affect and may continue to affect international travel, but we are unfortunately not in the financial position to pivot to a hybrid conference due to the additional costs doing so would incur. If any GSA member has immediate concerns about their physical safety when traveling to the U.S., please contact GSA Executive Director Margaret Menninger directly (director@thegsa.org). Additionally, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us directly if you would like to learn more about the logistical details or why we are unfortunately unable to accommodate a hybrid conference format.

GSA WEBSITE UPDATE

You will notice that our website has a new look! JHUP has kindly helped us update the security protocols, for which we are grateful. We took the opportunity to try out a new look. You may find some information has not been updated or is missing. Please let us know if you find something that has not been successfully migrated to the new site.

GSA BOARD ELECTIONS

Voting will run from May 8 to May 29, 2026.

Information and ballots will be sent to current GSA members via email.

The ballot will include candidates for the following six positions:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Graduate Student Board member
- Board member 1
- Board member 2
- Board member 3

For questions regarding the election, please contact David Imhoof
[secretary@thegsa.org].

For questions regarding nominations, please contact the chair of the
nominating committee, Janet Ward [janet.ward@stonybrook.edu].



GSA BOOK PRIZES & CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

Graduate Student Essay Prize

This prize is awarded to the best unpublished, article-length manuscript written by a graduate student. Deadline for nominations and submissions: **24 June 2026**.

David Barclay Book Prize

This prize is awarded to the best monograph on the social, cultural, economic, political, or labor history of nineteenth-century and twentieth-century Germany or Central Europe. Deadline for nominations and submissions: **30 May 2026**.

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

Deadline for nominations and submissions: **31 May 2026**.

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

Deadline for nominations and submissions: postmarked **31 May 2026**.

Radomír Luža Prize

This prize is awarded by the American Friends of the Documentation Center of Austrian Resistance for outstanding work in the field of Austrian and/or Czechoslovak history in the 20th Century. The prize has a special focus on Austrian/Czechoslovak Studies in the World War II Era.

Deadline for nominations and submissions: **30 June 2026**.

ANNOUNCING NEW BOOK & ARTICLE PRIZE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF MARBACH

The American Friends of Marbach are excited to announce the launch of two new prizes—both an article and book prize—for work that draws substantially on the holdings of the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach. The awards will be announced at the annual banquet of the GSA and offered on a biannual basis. More details are available in the competition announcements on each prize page.

American Friends of Marbach Book Prize

This prize is awarded to the best book that draws substantially on the holdings of the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach. The award will be announced at the annual banquet of the GSA and will include a prize of \$1,000. Deadline for nominations and submissions: **1 June 2026**.

American Friends of Marbach Article Prize

This prize is awarded to the best article that draws substantially on the holdings of the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach. The award will be announced at the annual banquet of the GSA and will include a prize of \$500. Deadline for nominations and submissions: **1 June 2026**.

CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENT FORM

Planning a reception or other special event for GSA 2026 in Phoenix, AZ? Please let us know by completing this form for your event no later than **June 30, 2026**:

New Special Event Form: <https://forms.gle/xpjpePUvvur6tiVw5>

DAAD TRAVEL GRANTS

Affiliates of German universities (see the [FAQs](#) for eligibility requirements) can apply for travel funds under the DAAD program "Kongressreisen" to attend the GSA Annual Conference. The announcement for this program can be found here: www.daad.de/kongressreisen

Kindly note that available funds are limited. Therefore, please submit your application as soon as possible and by **May 26, 2026** at the latest. We also recommend using the program's [step-by-step guide](#) to applying from the beginning, as this will make the application process easier.

ADA ROOM RESERVATIONS

Please let us know if you need an ADA accessible hotel room at the [2026 GSA conference in Phoenix, AZ](#), as soon as possible by completing this form:

ADA Room Reservation Form: <https://forms.gle/xpjpePUvvur6tiVw5>

MAX KADE BERLIN FELLOWS

The GSA and the Max Kade Foundation are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2026-2027 Max Kade Postdoctoral Fellowships for the Berlin Program at the Freie Universität Berlin!

Max Kade Berlin Postdoc Fellows

Jesse E. Siegel, Rutgers University, History. Dissertation revision: “Gambling Against the Dark: German-Czechoslovak Businessmen in Europe, 1918-1948.”

Sharon T. Zelnick, University of California, Los Angeles, Comparative Literature. Dissertation revision: “Shoah Shadows: Israeli Migrants’ Aesthetic Interventions in Germany.” New Project: “Recuperation and Return in the Work of Philip Roth and Yael Bartana.”


Both Sharon and Jesse are putting the final touches on their dissertations as we speak and plan to receive their Ph.Ds in May and June, respectively. Congratulations to both on these outstanding achievements!!!

GSA CONFERENCE COMMUNITY FUND




FUNDRAISING CALL

Help Support our GSA Community through the GSA Conference Community Fund. The Conference Community Fund is the GSA's only funding source for North American travel.



These grants are funded by you,
our members.



The GSA Conference Community Fund seeks to support precariously employed and contingent faculty – including lecturers, adjuncts, non tenure-track colleagues, tenured faculty without research funding, and visiting faculty – as well as recent PhDs who are presenting at the annual GSA conference.

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

<https://thegsa.org/members/join>



GET INVOLVED

Support the GSA

The Association is grateful for financial support. It relies on member dues and donations to cover its operational costs, Book Prizes, and The Conference Community Fund.

Volunteer with the GSA

Committees, Elected Positions, Conference Moderators/Commentators

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Do you have publication news or event announcements to share?

Let us know!

Please use this form to submit details

Contact: *media@thegsa.org*

CALL FOR RECENT DISSERTATIONS IN GERMAN STUDIES



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

Please submit relevant information on this Google Form, either for your own dissertation or on e.g. an advisee's behalf: <https://forms.gle/g3K4PGZcxiPm55Rw7>

GOETHE FILM ARCHIVE: NEW TITLES ADDED!

GOETHE FILM ARCHIVE

- 600+ culturally relevant feature and documentary films
- All films come with English (and German) subtitles and non-commercial screening rights

To rent a film, please contact
karin.oehlschlaeger@goethe.de

More info:



The Goethe Film Archive features over 600 culturally relevant feature and documentary films available for research and campus/classroom screenings. The collection contains a comprehensive survey of German film history, from expressionist films to the most recent features of contemporary German cinema.

All films are available on digital format (DVD and blue ray). Some are available via a digital link and all have English and almost always German subtitles.

The films are available for rental for non-commercial screenings by all cultural and educational institutions within the United States, **free of charge**.

To order, email:

Karin.oehlschlaeger@goethe.de

New titles are added continuously, such as this recent addition:

Red Stars Upon the Field (Rote Sterne überm Feld) explores 100 years of German history through an experimental essay film by Laura Laabs.

Trailer: [Red Stars Upon the Field - Official Trailer](#)

IN MEMORIAM: SARAH VANDEGRIFT ELDRIDGE (1984-2026)

With deep sadness, I am sharing the devastating news of Sarah Vandegrift Eldridge's death after her heroic struggle with cancer. Sarah spoke openly about her illness with many of us in recent years, but we are nevertheless shocked and deeply pained by her passing. Sarah passed away on January 2, 2026. She was an intellectual light in our Goethe Society community, a scholar and friend who was deeply respected and loved. As we try to work through this tragic news, we, members of the board as well as our greater membership, are discussing ways in which we can honor Sarah's immense contributions to the fields of the Goethezeit in particular and German Studies in general. We plan to establish, together with Sarah's family members, an essay prize or lecture series in her name.

There is no way to fill the gap that Sarah's death leaves in our Society. She was a brilliant and prolific scholar working, in particular, on the 18th- and 19th-century German novel and its correspondences and intersections with questions of narratology, philosophy, subjecthood, gender, race, and kinship. Her meticulously researched work is exquisitely written, opening up entirely new avenues of thought about some of the most canonized works in German literature (such as Goethe's *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre*) as well as lesser-known works by more popular authors. The fact that she was the winner (together with her also brilliant sister, Hannah) of the 2020 Goethe Society Essay Prize (a prize chosen each year from a pool of ca. 40 published articles in the field) highlights the immense resonance of her scholarship. Her recently published second monograph, *Composite Selves: Subjecthood in the German Novel, 1700-1795* (Oxford University Press), has been eagerly awaited by our membership and appeared on January 2, the day of her death. The fact that Sarah was able to complete this work under such difficult conditions is truly inspirational and yet another testament to the fact that she was an exceptional person and scholar.

IN MEMORIAM: SARAH VANDEGRIFT ELDRIDGE (1984-2026), CONT.

Sarah was a highly distinguished scholar who was consistently sought out by members of our community for her assessment of her peers' work as well as for high profile roles in the profession. The most visible of these roles was her service to the Goethe Society of North America as co-editor (with Eleanor ter Horst) of our flagship journal, the Goethe Yearbook. Sarah's appointment as co-editor underscores the exceptionally high respect she enjoyed within our community. As co-editor, together with Eleanor ter Horst, Sarah not only continued the journal's tradition of excellence but likewise spearheaded a number of exciting innovations, including most recently a forum focusing on publishing in 18th-century German Studies. We at the Goethe Society know Sarah as a deeply generous intellectual of the highest order, one who has consistently brought fresh ideas to our community. Most recently, she organized the production of Goethe Yearbook t-shirts for the German Studies Association conference in September 2025; it was truly a pleasure to see so many of us sporting our "Sarah-gear"!

We are devastated by Sarah's passing. We already miss her intensely. She was a wonderfully engaged colleague, a beloved friend to so many, and one of our most exciting intellectual interlocutors. We are struggling to accept the fact of her passing. We send our most heartfelt condolences to Sarah's husband, Steve, her daughters Elena and Isabelle, her sister Hannah, her brother Jonathan, and her parents, Joan Vandegrift and Richard Eldridge. Our hearts are with you.

Heidi Schlipphacke, President, Goethe Society of North America

Eleanor ter Horst, Co-Editor, Goethe Yearbook

Members of the GSNA Board

Membership of the Goethe Society of North America

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