

The cover features a minimalist design with large, curved shapes in red and teal. The top half is split by a diagonal curve, with red on the left and teal on the right. The bottom half is also split by a diagonal curve, with red on the left and teal on the right. The text is placed within these colored areas.

LI, NUMBER 2
SUMMER 2026

**GERMAN STUDIES
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

2026

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER 2026 EDITION OF THE GSA NEWSLETTER!

[@GermanStudiesAssociation ~ YouTube](#)
[@GermanStudiesAssociation ~ Instagram](#) & [Facebook](#)
[@GermanStudiesAssociation ~ LinkedIn](#)
[@thegsa.bsky.social ~ Bluesky](#)
www.thegsa.org



C N T E N T S



Letter from the Executive Director	3-4
Letter from the President	5-6
Meet the Editor	7-8
Election Results	9-10
Berlin Program Fellows	11-12
Fundraising Call	13
Mentoring Initiatives	14-15
Arts Night Activities	16-19
Conference Meal Speakers	20-22
Accessibility Guidelines	23-24
Things to Do in Phoenix	25
Reserving ADA Rooms and GSA Participant List	26
Regional Conference Report	27-29
CGES First Book Prize	30
Global Minds Initiative Germany	31
Get Involved with the GSA	32
Call for Recent Dissertations in German Studies	32

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members and Friends of the GSA,

I know many of you are still in the midst of summer, even if the semester is starting to peep over the horizon. I am excited to welcome those planning to be in Arizona for the GSA conference during our 50th anniversary year. Phoenix was the site of the formation of the GSA, and we are delighted to be returning this year.

For those of you joining us at the conference, please take a look at the list of “must-sees” in Phoenix curated by local GSA members. Do bear in mind that Phoenix is a car-centric city, so some of these are a bit distant from our hotel. Nonetheless, given the near unanimity of the recommendations as I polled our Arizona colleagues, I conclude that these sites are worth sharing a ride to go see if you have time.

We are thrilled to be welcoming Maxi Obexer to Arts Night. Also featured will be films from DEFA and a Games Night featuring games from the 1970s in honor of our 50th anniversary. There are also extra film events after Arts Night this year; be sure to check out the information in this newsletter, which will be repeated in the conference program and conference app.

Also in this newsletter you will have an opportunity to meet the new editor of *German Studies Review*, Tanvi Solanki. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Katharina Gerstenberger for her work as GSR editor, shepherding the journal into a (mostly) digital format with new covers. Katharina has not only been an outstanding editor but also a cherished colleague as part of the GSA team. Please join me in wishing her all the best for her retirement from the GSR and the University of Utah. She will be enjoying her new habitat in the Pacific Northwest during the conference this year, but I look forward to welcoming her back next year and in the years beyond. Herzlichen Dank Katharina!

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

Since policies and regulations regarding travel to the United States continue to change rapidly, please contact your local U.S. consulate for the most up-to-date information. I can also provide a letter of invitation from the GSA if needed. If you request one, please remember to include your institutional affiliation, address, your roles at the GSA conference (paper presenter, moderator, commentator, seminar participant, etc.), and the titles of your panels, papers, and/or seminars in which you will participate.

Finally, I wish you all smooth travels; stay hydrated and bring sunscreen! Please reach out if you have any questions about the conference or about the GSA in general—it belongs to all of us. I'm just the stage manager. As such, I am always happy to offer a "backstage tour."

Ich freue mich auf unser Wiedersehen.

Margaret

GSA Executive Director
director@thegsa.org



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear GSA Members,

Celebrating German Studies at 50 seems significant in the sense that we are celebrating a field in a form that we might not have been able to imagine 50 years ago.

Then in the midst of the Cold War, in the wake of global social revolution, in the aftermath of the MacArthur Plan, Europe and the US were connected in a way that seems difficult to reconstruct at the moment. These days, Germany is still working through its understanding of a post-industrial future, while the US and China plow ahead with AI.

German Studies at the GSA is an ever more transforming field. The GSA now has members not only from North America and Europe, but also from Africa and Asia.

In the most recent Montreal Meeting, thanks to the scholarship of Renae Watchman and the work of scholars such as Michael Rothberg, we were able to think indigenous histories in North America in relation to post-Holocaust Memory in Europe. It is not that these are equivalent, but they find connection, and we can learn from both histories simultaneously.

German studies is also more explicitly Black and Queer and able, through Critical Disability Studies, to persist as a scholarly enterprise while it also engages the infrastructures of disabilization at its own meetings.

We have moved beyond simple land acknowledgements to learn how to engage indigenous and other local and activists communities in the contexts in which our conferences take place more broadly.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT.)

We have learned to understand German Studies as a transnational enterprise that includes not only the nation-state representatives of Germany, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Austria, and Switzerland, and even parts of Belgium among other countries, but also in terms of those who define themselves against the nation-state and who move through the world in spite of its ideological and physical barriers.

At the most recent conference in Arlington, a graduate student, originally from Nigeria, asked about the perspective of the of the absent African Father in a film, *Ivie wie Ivie* (2021), about a young Afro-German woman from Leipzig and her sister from another mother of African descent. She has entered the field from a perspective that has not been adequately represented in the scholarship until now.

As we imagine and transform German Studies, we are grateful for an organization that keeps bringing us together and will also continue to change all of us over time.

As we re-imagine German Studies, we see a field that is also under threat, but we gain strength through constant innovation, new transnational members, and an energy that is never-ceasing.

Needless to say, I look forward to seeing you in Phoenix as we continue to push against marginalization in favor of a scholarly practice of transnational engagement.

Sincerely,
Damani J. Partridge
GSA President

MEET THE EDITOR: TANVI SOLANKI

I am honored to begin serving as Editor of German Studies Review. I am deeply grateful to the mentors, colleagues, collaborators, students, authors, reviewers, and readers whose intellectual generosity and encouragement have shaped my scholarly path and made this appointment possible. I look forward to working with the GSA community to build on the journal's longstanding tradition of scholarly excellence.

I am currently Associate Professor of German and Comparative Literature at Yonsei University's Underwood International College in Seoul. Born in India and educated in both India and the United States, I received my BA from the University of Chicago, earned my PhD at Princeton University, held the Taylor Postdoctoral Fellowship at Cornell University, and was a visiting fellow at the University of Cambridge, the Institute of Classical Studies at the University of London's School of Advanced Study, Humboldt University of Berlin and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.

My research spans German literary, intellectual, and cultural history, philology, media and sound studies, and comparative work on German-Indian intellectual and cultural encounters. Much of my work explores how practices of listening have shaped modern cultures of interpretation and changing understandings of language, sound, and cultural difference across literary, scholarly, media, and state institutions. Working with scholars in comparative literature, media studies, intellectual history, the history of science, and related fields, as well as with curators and artists, has reinforced my conviction that German Studies is enriched by sustained engagement with neighboring disciplines while remaining grounded in close historical and textual scholarship.

MEET THE EDITOR: TANVI SOLANKI (CONT.)

As editor, I hope to build on German Studies Review's longstanding strengths while fostering a journal that reflects the intellectual and geographical breadth of German Studies. German-speaking cultures have long been shaped through translation, migration, intellectual exchange, and cultural encounter. In that spirit, I hope German Studies Review will remain a home for outstanding scholarship across the full range of German Studies.

In October 2026, the GSA's 50th Anniversary issue will reflect on the past, present, and future of German Studies. In addition to traditional research articles, I welcome proposals for interviews, forums, roundtables, and position pieces that build on these reflections and extend conversations initiated in conference panels, roundtables, and other scholarly exchanges into the pages of the journal.

Beginning in late October 2026, GSR will welcome a newly constituted editorial board representing a wide range of scholarly approaches and geographical regions. As the transition will take place after the 2026 GSA conference, the incoming board will first be reflected in the journal and Association materials beginning in Winter 2026.

I warmly invite scholars at all career stages and from all areas of German Studies to consider German Studies Review as a home for their work.

-Tanvi Solanki
GSR Editor



GSA BOARD ELECTIONS RESULTS

Voting ran from May 15 to June 15, 2026.

Turnout reached 41% of eligible voters with about 560 ballots cast. Please contact us if you are interested in a more detailed breakdown of results.

Congratulations to the winners!

Incoming GSA Board Members

terms begin 1/1/2027

Historical & Social Sciences (3 years):

Subfield: Medieval/Early Modern/19th Century

Adam Blackler (University of Wyoming)

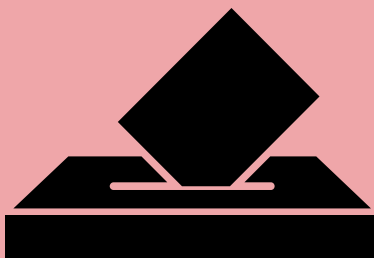
Historical & Social Sciences (3 years):

Subfield: 20th/21st Century

Heidi Tworek (University of British Columbia)

Literature & Cultural Studies (3 years):

Agnes Mueller (University of South Carolina)



GSA BOARD ELECTIONS RESULTS (CONT.)

Voting ran from May 22 to June 12, 2026.

Turnout reached 41% of eligible voters with about 560 ballots cast. Please contact us if you are interested in a more detailed breakdown of results.

Congratulations to the winners!

Incoming GSA Board Members

terms begin 1/1/2027

GSA Vice President (2 years):

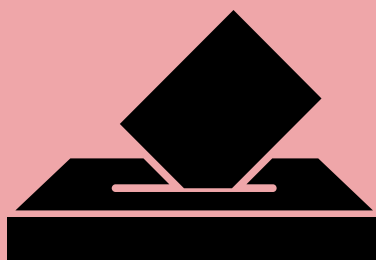
Thomas Lekan (University of South Carolina)

GSA Secretary (3 years):

Jonathan Wipplinger (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Graduate Student Member (2 years):

Laura Stahl (University of Michigan)



BERLIN PROGRAM FELLOWS 2026-2027, 41ST COHORT

Ambika Athreya, *University of California, Berkeley*, German Studies
Sonic South: A Translation History of Germans in the Tropics

Carrie Bly, *Princeton University*, Architectural History and Theory
New project: Techniques of Devaluation: The Closure of Municipal
Markets and Restructuring of Public Space in Berlin

Jiahao Cao, *Northwestern University*, History
Between Machines and Mobilities - The Socialist Elective Realities

Danyang Cheng, *Beijing Foreign Studies University*, German Literature
Der archäologische Blick des Erzählens. Zu Peter Handkes Versuchen
in den 1990er Jahren

Elijah-Matteo Ferrante, *Columbia University*, History
Migration and the Psy-Sciences in West and Reunified Germany

Jacob Forbes, *Vanderbilt University*, History
The Oldest Among Them: The Postwar Plight of
Elderly Jewish Holocaust Survivors, 1945-1960

Hunter Hilinski, *University of California, Irvine*, Political Science
Between Norm and Utopia: Critical Theory and the Social Imagination

Jacquelyn Olson, *Stanford University*, History
The Politics of Global German War Cemeteries, 1945-1995

Jochen Schmon, *New School for Social Research*, Political Science
A Long Nineteenth Century of Abolitionism: The Beginning
of Modernity and Universal Emancipation

BERLIN PROGRAM FELLOWS 2026-2027 (CONT.)

Ashleigh Williams, *George Mason University*, History
Picture Perfect Solidarity? Race, Internationalism, and
Postcolonial Worldmaking in East Germany

Christopher Wolff, *Concordia University*, Interdisciplinary Humanities
Dissertation revision: International Trans Media Activism: Newsletters
and the Circulation of a Community
New project: Trans-National Networks: Modes of Communication
Among Trans People in Post-War Europe

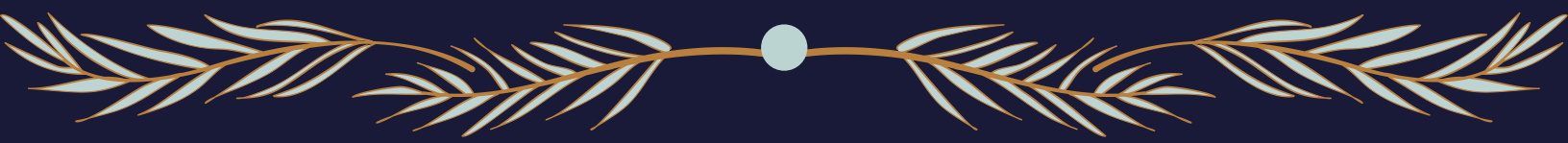
Yuanyuan Zhu, *Southwest Jiaotong University*, Chinese Language and Literature
Der klassische chinesische Räuberroman Shuihu Zhuan im deutschsprachigen
Raum: Übersetzung, Transformation und Rezeption (1834-2024)

Max Kade Berlin Postdoc Fellows

Jesse Siegel, *Rutgers University, New Brunswick*, History
Dissertation revision: Gambling Against the Dark:
German-Czechoslovak Businessmen in Europe, 1918-1948

Sharon 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

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://www.thegsa.org/donate>



GSA 2026 MENTORING INITIATIVES

Call for nominations for the GSA Mentoring Award

We have all benefitted from mentoring during our undergraduate and graduate studies and throughout our careers. In order to recognize the often overlooked time and energy spent guiding undergraduate students, graduate students, and colleagues as they progress through their studies or in their careers, the GSA is initiating an annual Mentoring Award. Mentoring often happens without formal institutional recognition. We would like to acknowledge publicly this vital and influential work.

Please consider nominating a mentor, colleague, or yourself for the inaugural Mentoring Award, which carries an award of \$500 and will be presented at the 2026 GSA Conference Banquet.

Please submit a nomination letter of no more than 1000 words here by August 20, 2026. The nomination letter should state your relationship to the nominee (self-nominations are accepted) and outline the nominee's mentoring activities. Award criteria are listed below. It is understood that mentoring may take different shapes in different disciplines and institutional settings. Therefore it is not expected that nominees will fulfill all criteria. Submissions will be judged by the Mentoring Taskforce/Committee.

MENTORING AWARD CRITERIA

- Promoting intellectual growth through programming, innovation, teaching, and transparency.
- Fostering the development of undergraduate and/or graduate students' skills.
- Effective direction of dissertations, including timely evaluation, guidance, and feedback.

(continued on next page)

GSA 2026 MENTORING INITIATIVES (CONT.)

MENTORING AWARD CRITERIA (continued):

- Being accessible to students and/or colleagues for discussion of intellectual or professional questions and concerns, communicating with them effectively and respectfully, and encouraging such interactions.
- Educating students in the culture of the discipline and helping them to network with other professionals.
- Providing career counseling and placement assistance, including possibilities outside the academy.
- Promoting a climate of respect and collegiality that enhances the graduate experience or work environment and increases chances of success.
- Providing guidance to colleagues or peers, also in related fields, about research, service, and/or teaching.

Participating in service activities (such as the peer review of article or book manuscripts, peer reviews of teaching, or external reviews of tenure and promotion cases) that promote the career advancement of graduate students and faculty.

1:1 Mentoring Sessions at 50th Annual Conference in Phoenix

The mentoring committee will offer 1:1 mentoring sessions again at this year's GSA Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. These sessions are for mentoring at all career stages. Possible topics include: the job market (academic jobs and careers alongside and beyond academia), early career concerns, mid-career concerns, publishing, transitioning from a faculty to an administrative role, interpersonal conflicts. Mentors and mentees may use the following forms to sign up for 30-minute time slots. Sessions will be in-person (at the conference) or on Zoom.

Sign-up deadline: September 1, 2026

Sign Up to Meet with a Mentor: <https://forms.gle/wPkDyM7q1UcZ2P2X6>

Sign Up to Be a Mentor: <https://forms.gle/BftgadDZHDCbMPDs7>

GSA 2026 ARTS NIGHT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Join us for GSA Arts Night on Thursday evening, September 24! Inspired by “First Night” celebrations on December 31st in many cities, this will be our twelfth annual Arts Night, celebrating the creative, performing, and literary arts as an important part of German studies.

Arts Night events are **free and open to the public** and will be held Thursday, September 24, 2026, 6:30–10:30pm, in the Cowboy Artists, Ellis East/West, and Phoenix rooms. We have several long-term programmers returning with film and literature events, and some exciting new contributors as well.



Schedule Overview

6:30-8:45 PM, Phoenix

***Erster Verlust* screening** (First Loss, dir. Maxim Dessau, 1990, 96 min, English subtitles)

7:00-8:00 PM, Ellis East/West

Reading and discussion with writer Maxi Obexer

8:00-10:00 PM, Cowboy Artists

Game Night!

See next page for more information about the scheduled events!

GSA 2026 ARTS NIGHT (CONT.)

6:30-8:45 PM, Phoenix

Film Screening, sponsored by the DEFA Film Library and the DEFA Stiftung Berlin

Erster Verlust screening (First Loss, dir. Maxim Dessau, 1990, 96 min, b&w, English subtitles)

- Introduced by Ruben Schwaben (DEFA Film Library, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*)
- *Erster Verlust* is loosely inspired by Brigitte Reimann's 1956 short story "The Woman in the Pillory." It was Maxim Dessau's first released DEFA film and was among the studio's final productions.

7:00-8:00 PM, Ellis East/West

Reading and discussion with writer Maxi Obexer

Co-sponsored by the DAAD

- Maxi Obexer will read excerpts from her novel *Unter Tieren* and her essay collection *Odysseus' Hund*. A discussion will follow.
- Introduction and moderation by Sonja Klocke, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*
- Conversation between Obexer, Peter Rehberg (*University of Cincinnati*), and Regine Strätling (*Université de Montréal*)
- This event is organized in tandem with a DAAD-sponsored roundtable including Obexer, North American DAAD German Studies professors, and other GSA member scholars on Saturday, September 26, at 3:55 PM in Regency A

8:00-10:00 PM, Cowboy Artists

Game Night!

- To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the GSA, the ad hoc Arts Night games subcommittee (Jeremy Best, Alex Hogue, Lauren Stokes, Evan Torner) will bring a range of their favorite analog games from or about 1976! Along with those, they'll bring some additional favorite short board, card, and role-playing games to share.
- Attendees are encouraged to bring their own games to share—whether related to the theme or not.

GSA 2026 ARTS NIGHT (EXTRA EVENTS)

Friday Screening: *Berlin Narratives, Ethnographic Journeys* (2025)

September 25, 3:55 PM, Borein A

- *Berlin Narratives, Ethnographic Journeys* (Narrativas berlinenses, percursos etnográficos, dir. Cornelia Eckert and Ana Luiza Carvalho da Rocha, 2025).
- Discussion moderated by Annick Essoh, University of Toronto.

Saturday Screening: *Rote Sterne überm Feld*

September 26, 7:00 PM, AMC Arizona Center 24, Theater 5

Sponsored by the Goethe-Institut and the German Film Office and GSA Arts Night

- The Goethe-Institut and the German Film Office will present a free screening of *Rote Sterne überm Feld* (*Red Stars Upon the Field*) on **Saturday, September 26, 7:00 PM** at **AMC Arizona Center 24, Theater 5**, located within walking distance from the conference at 565 North 3rd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004.
- The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Laura Laabs.
- ***Rote Sterne überm Feld*** (*Red Stars Upon the Field*, dir. Laura Laabs, 2024, 133 mins, German with English subtitles)

SATURDAY SCREENING SPOTLIGHT

Saturday Screening: *Rote Sterne überm Feld*

September 26, 7:00 PM, AMC Arizona Center 24, Theater 5

Sponsored by the Goethe-Institut and the German Film Office and GSA Arts Night

In Laabs' German Critics Association Award-winning debut feature, on-the-lam activist Tine returns to her rural Eastern German hometown just as the villagers discover a strangely well-preserved skeleton in the swamp. All sorts of speculation about its origins ensue: perhaps he was a young deserter from WWII, or an agent tasked with hunting members of the Red Army Faction, or maybe a recalcitrant cooperative farmer from the GDR's sunset years. As they chase the possibilities, Tine and her neighbors careen through a madcap tour of the past one hundred years of German history, one that forces Tine to confront her place amongst it all.



Rote Sterne überm Feld

(Red Stars Upon the Field, dir. Laura Laabs, 2024, 133 mins, German with English subtitles)

Screening at:
565 North 3rd Street,
Phoenix, AZ 85004

CONFERENCE MEAL SPEAKERS

FRIDAY, 25 September (12:15 PM – 1:30 PM)

LUNCHEON (Regency CD)

“Food for Thought”: Annual Showcase Event (organized by Anna-Maria Senuysal, *Ohio State University*)

Introduction: Todd Herzog, GSA Vice-President, *University of Cincinnati*

The presenters are, in alphabetical order:

- **Jorge Ernesto Clavo Abbass**, PhD Candidate, *Ohio State University*
- **Melissa Drew**, PhD Candidate, *University of Minnesota*
- **Emir Faruk Kayahan**, PhD Candidate, *University of Chicago*
- **Duncan Lien**, Instructor, *Arizona State University*
- **Erica Passoni**, PhD Candidate, *Princeton University*
- **Lou Silhol-Macher**, Postdoctoral Fellow, *Brown University*
- **Ella Wilhelm**, Assistant Professor, *University of Michigan*
- **Shiqi Xu**, PhD Candidate, *Duke University/UNC Graduate Program*

CONFERENCE MEAL SPEAKERS (CONT.)

FRIDAY, 25 September (7:30 PM – 9:30 PM)

ANNUAL BANQUET OF THE ASSOCIATION (Regency CD)

****Announcement of DAAD/GSA Book and Article Prize Awards, the Prize for the Best Essay in German Studies by a Graduate Student, the David Barclay Book Prize, the Radomír Luža Prize, the GSA Mentoring Award, and the GSA/DeGruyter Dissertation Prize****

Featured Speaker:

Dr. Damani Partridge, GSA President, *University of Michigan*

German Studies from the Global South: Establishing the Future of a Field

Moderated by Dr. Todd Herzog, GSA Vice President, *University of Cincinnati*



SATURDAY, 26 September (12:15 PM – 1:30 PM)

LUNCHEON (Regency CD)

Featured Speaker: Frank Bösch, *Leibniz-Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam*

Dealing with Dictatorships: German Interactions with Worldwide Autocracies since the 1950s

Introduction: Todd Herzog, GSA Vice President, *University of Cincinnati*

Moderator: Isabel Richter, *GHI Pacific Office Berkeley*

SATURDAY LUNCHEON SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

SATURDAY, 26 September (12:15 PM – 1:30 PM)

Dealing with Dictatorships: German Interactions with Worldwide Autocracies since the 1950s

Germany's cooperation with dictatorships has been widely criticized over the past decade. However, the export-oriented Federal Republic of Germany is dependent on many autocracies, which makes it difficult to advocate for human rights and sanctions. Historian Frank Bösch's talk illustrates how an economy-oriented pragmatism created various long-term connections in the Middle East, Latin America, and even socialist Eastern Europe. After National Socialism, anti-communist dictatorships often became partners. Since the late 1960s, moreover, advocacy for human rights has successfully put pressure on individual dictatorships. The lecture thus offers a new perspective on the history of German democracy: it supplements the history of Westward integration and Ostpolitik with a look at relations with global dictatorships.

Frank Bösch is Professor of 20th-Century European History at the University of Potsdam and Director of the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF). His most recent book is *Deals mit Diktaturen. Eine andere Geschichte der Bundesrepublik* (2024). Previous publications include *Mass Media and Historical Change* (2015) and *Zeitenwende 1979. Als die Welt von heute begann* (2019). He is currently writing a book on the Jewish migration from the Soviet Union, 1970-2005.

This lecture is part of the Gerda Henkel Lecture Series, organized by the Pacific Office of the German Historical Institute Washington in cooperation with the Gerda Henkel Foundation. The program brings German historians to the West Coast to present their research and engage in dialogue with their colleagues in the US and Canada.



GSA CONFERENCE ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES

These guidelines have been developed by the GSA Accessibility Task Force as part of the association's commitment to improving conference accessibility. They include small things all of us can do to make the conferences spaces for equitable and active engagement for all body minds. Below you find Accessibility Guidelines to be used by conference panelists, participants, and organizers. Implementing these guidelines will help to break down existing power imbalances and lessen barriers that are burdensome to disabled people but invisible for most able-bodied and able-minded participants.

1. Conference Accessibility Etiquette

- Elevators might be strained during peak times. If you are physically able to take the stairs, consider doing so to increase access to the elevator for people who need it.
- If there is a limited number of chairs available during a reception or similar, consider the needs of other people before occupying them. When making hotel reservations, do not reserve an accessible room unless you need it.

2. Panel Accessibility

a. Panel Planning and Presentations

- Panel organizers should encourage panel participants to provide 5 large print copies of their talk. (If presenters would like their copies back after the talk-panel, they should indicate where to return these handouts and papers)
- If the participants intend to use handouts, make 5 large print copies available and avoid printing handouts on colored paper.
- If possible, the panel participants should discuss what presentation style is most comfortable for everyone before the beginning of the panel (podium or seated at table).
- Presenters should speak loudly and clearly, at a pace that allows the audience to follow the presented arguments.
- If a microphone is available, presenters should always use the microphone.
- Ensure that the question and answer period is accessible. If there is a microphone for questioners, make sure they use it. Otherwise, repeat the questions, so everyone can hear them.

GSA CONFERENCE ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES (CONT.)

- Keep the aisles clear, so that audience members with mobility devices can navigate it.
- Some people read lips, so the audience should have a direct and clear view of the speaker's mouth and face.

b. Electronic Accessibility

- If using a presentation software (Power Point, Google Slides, or similar), use Alternative Text (content) and Captions (purpose) which help more of your audience access your presentation. (Instructions for alt text in [Power Point](#) and [Google Slides](#); instructions for subtitles in [Power Point](#), and [Google Slides](#)).
- Use color combinations that are high contrast and that can be distinguished by those who are colorblind.
- Keep your design simple.
- Minimize the amount of text on slides. When you advance a slide, pause to let people read it before saying anything.
- Read the text on the slide to make sure audience members who are visually impaired can follow along.
- Audio presentations should also be described.
- If presenters show images, they should verbally describe them.
- If presenters show quotations, they should be numbered and presenters should make 5 large-print handouts with those quotations available to the audience.

3. Rooms are set up in advance of the conference so all of these guidelines are met. We ask for your cooperation in maintaining this setup.

- A table from where presenters can speak should be available, even if there is a podium in the room.
- Rows should be set up with enough space to accommodate audience members with mobility devices. Please do not change this room setup.

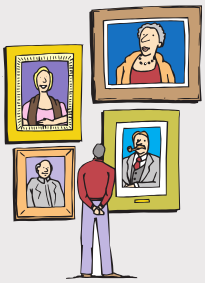
OUR FAVORITE THINGS IN PHOENIX 2026

Courtesy of local GSA members:



Phoenix Botanical Garden, 1201 N Galvin Pkwy, Phoenix, AZ 85008

This is a bit far away but is accessible by public transportation. The trip takes around an hour each way; sharing a cab or similar is recommended.



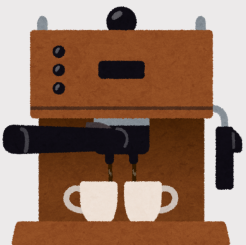
Heard Museum, 2301 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004

This museum showcases Indigenous art and culture and is about a 20-minute bus ride away from the conference hotel.



Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E Mayo Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85050

Almost two hours away by public transit, sharing a cab or similar is recommended.



Cartel Roasting, 1 N 1st St, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Located only one block away, Cartel Roasting is a tried-and-true staple in the Arizona coffee scene, serving excellent cold brews and espresso.

FIND YOUR PEOPLE!

As we work with JHUP to put the finishing touches on the conference program, you can find a list of conference participants at the link below. We will update the list as reasonable and indicate when updates have been made at the top of the document. The current list does not reflect cancellations after July 27:

2026 GSA Participant List

2026 CONFERENCE HOTEL: 3D VIEW

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 July 31, 2026:***

New Special Event Form:

<https://forms.gle/S4DckmH35zUxfprG7>

Are you curious to check out the conference rooms and accommodations at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix before booking your hotel room?

[Click here](#) for a virtual tour!

And remember to register **by August 26** for the conference to get the link our room block (room rate \$199.00 per night before taxes and fees) in your Zeffy confirmation email!

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/jv2NxFoZ79bgdmc58>

2026 REGIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Image, Text, Politics: A Regional Conference of the German Studies Association *University of Missouri-Columbia and the Saint Louis Art Museum*

From March 13 to 14, 2026, fourteen scholars gathered in Saint Louis and Columbia, Missouri for “Image, Texts, Politics: A Regional Conference of the German Studies Association,” which was co-organized by two Associate Professors at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Seth Howes (German) and James van Dyke (Art History). The participants ranged from early stage doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows to prominent full professors. They traveled from ten colleges and universities in Tennessee, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, and Colorado to present new research on German literature, film, art and visual culture in the conference’s five thematic sessions.

The conference began on the afternoon of the first day with a curatorial tour by Dr. Melissa Venator of works on display from the Saint Louis Art Museum’s world-class collection of modern and contemporary German and Austrian art and design. The tour was followed by the first session, “Communist Art and Anti-Fascist Theory,” which took place in the museum’s education wing. Art-historical in its focus, the session comprised papers by Joe Bucciero (Oberlin College) on George Grosz’ dialectical portrait of Felix Weill, the wealthy patron of the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt, by Annie Borneuf (School of the Art Institute of Chicago) on Aby Warburg’s reflections on Fascism in the complex collages of his Mnemosyne project, and by Dana Szczecina (University of Missouri) on the politics of an early example of John Heartfield’s work for theater in East Germany.

The conference continued the next day on the campus of the University of Missouri in Columbia with four thematic sessions: “Iconic Images of the Contemporary German Right,” “Images of Self and Other,” “Women and Community,” and “Constructions of Gender.”

REGIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT (CONT.)

The first of the two morning sessions paired a paper by Susanna Vees-Gulani (Case Western Reserve University) on the AfD's recent use of images of the 1945 bombing of Dresden with one by Brad Prager (University of Missouri) on three recent provocative commemorative projects and their public reception. The second morning session offered three papers on the question of the representation of selfhood and otherness. Kristine Nielsen (Illinois Wesleyan University) discussed the biography of an object, namely a nineteenth-century colonial monument. Temitayo Babayeju (University of Colorado, Boulder) analyzed Burhan Qurbani's post-colonial adaptation of *Berlin Alexanderplatz* through the critical lens of Lauren Berlant. Carsten Strathausen (University of Missouri) offered a deconstructive argument on the relationship of source and adaptation on the basis of illustrations of the first paragraph of Kafka's "The Metamorphosis."

After a midday break, the conference concluded with its two final sessions. The penultimate group of three papers revolved around women and community. Katerina Korola (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities) reconstructed the political functions of images of East German women who worked at the film factory in Wolfen. Sara Blaylock (University of Minnesota-Duluth) addressed the complex artistic response of a small collective of women in Erfurt to German Reunification. Omotoyosi Obalanlege (University of Tennessee-Knoxville) offered an immanent analysis of Rainer Maria Fassbinder's vision of antagonism and ostracism in *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul*. The final session grouped three papers focused on queerness in painting, photomontage, and film. Hazel Rhodes (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities) offered a prolegomena to research on gender dysphoria perceptible in the work of Egon Schiele. Tabitha Love (University of Missouri) offered a close reading of a photomontage of Kai Althoff, focusing on its queer exoticism. Andrei Fischer (Washington University in Saint Louis) unpacked the complex structures and referential relationships found in Werner Schroeter's *Der Tod der Maria Malibran*.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT (CONT.)

The cohesion of this session, like the four that preceded it, was remarkable. The discussions that followed each set of papers were always lively, engaged, and constructively critical.

This conference was the result of the GSA's pilot program for regional conferences, which was announced in Spring 2025. The grant that that program provided allowed the co-organizers to solicit additional funding from their academic units partially to defray participants' travel costs and to support the social component of the conference. The initial grant made it possible to request logistical and administrative assistance from university staff. The result was an intimate conference that provided an opportunity for extended interdisciplinary scholarly exchange and professional development across its two days.

Erin Hochman

Regional and Virtual Meetings Working Group Chair



Center for German
and European Studies

FIRST BOOK PRIZE

CFA: CGES BOOK PRIZE

The Center for German and European Studies at the University of Minnesota is pleased to announce the next cycle of their book prize in the field of German and European Studies.

Assistant professors coming up for promotion are invited to apply!

Award winners will receive: domestic travel to UMN Twin Cities, hotel accommodation, a honorarium of \$600, most importantly, the opportunity to give a talk on their book and to conduct a workshop with graduate students.

Eligibility: assistant professors coming up for promotion with their first book in the humanities and social sciences in the field of German and European Studies.

Please submit a CV, the book title and synopsis, date of publication and publisher and a brief abstract (max. 300 words) explaining the intervention your book makes to cges@umn.edu. Please submit as one PDF.

Submission Deadline: **November 14, 2026** (for on-campus visits in 2027)

Maximum three prizes awarded per-calendar year.

RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: GLOBAL MINDS INITIATIVE GERMANY

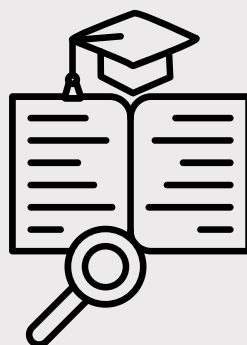
Germany launched the Global Minds Initiative Germany in 2025 to strengthen its role as a hub for international research talent. The initiative is led by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) and provides career prospects for outstanding researchers from across the world while strengthening the German and European research area.

Building on the existing programs of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), the German Research Foundation (DFG), and complemented by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the initiative opens pathways for researchers at all career stages. Opportunities range from postdoctoral fellowships to senior academic positions across all academic disciplines, including the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Funding is based on academic excellence, with flexible options for both short- and long-term stays at universities and research institutions in Germany.

The Global Minds Initiative Germany will support the following programs offered by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation:

- Humboldt Research Fellowships for postdocs and experienced researchers
- Humboldt und Bessel Research Awards
- Alexander von Humboldt Professorship
- Humboldt Research Professorship (the newest program of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation)

In addition to the opportunities offered through Global Minds, German academics who wish to conduct research with a host in the United States are eligible to apply for a Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship.



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>





German
Studies
Association

GSA