



GSA

**GERMAN STUDIES
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

XLVII, NUMBER 2 - WINTER 2022

GSA 2022

2022

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Welcome to the Winter 2022 edition of the GSA Newsletter!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 46th annual conference of the GSA in Houston, TX this past September.

Are you as excited as we are to meet again in Montréal at #theGSA2023?

@theGSA on Twitter

@GermanStudiesAssociation ~ YouTube

@GermanStudiesAssociation ~ Instagram & Facebook

@GermanStudiesAssociation ~ LinkedIn

www.thegsa.org

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the GSA,

At the end of my second year as Executive Director, my big takeaway from the year isn't all that earth-shattering: if you think you know what to expect, you are wrong. Although 2022 has seemed a lot less fraught when compared with 2021, it has still contained much that was new and unexpected, and for all the help and generous support I've received I am very grateful.

As we look ahead, we will again be doing something for the first time, namely holding our annual conference outside the United States. The conference in Montréal (like our most recent conference in Houston) has been eight years in the planning, and I hope all of you are as excited as I am to spend some time in Québec this coming autumn.

As you will have seen from recent communications and from portions of this newsletter, we are sticking with a submission schedule that begins after the New Year. I hope that the second time around this will be less jarring for those of you who still remember how things used to be prior to 2020. Additionally, we are beginning some exciting new initiatives, so do stay tuned for those once January comes around.

I want to thank the following people most particularly for all their hard work behind the scenes this year: for operations, Benita Blessing and her successor Jennifer L. Jenkins; for social media and other initiatives, Nina Mondré Schweppe; and our team at the conference itself: Charles Fulton, Craig Hendrick, and Sara Schmidt.

I wish you all a wonderful and productive 2023,

Margaret E. Menninger, Texas State University
Executive Director

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been a true honor to serve as the President of the German Studies Association these past two years. In 2023, during my fellowship with the American Council on Education and my participation in the American Council of Learned Societies' Leadership Institute for a New Academy (LINA), I will continue to serve as an advocate for advancing the humanities and for augmenting the GSA's future.

I'm grateful to everyone in our professional organization who has served on the Executive Board, Executive Council, and on committees, and participated in any of the career-enhancing activities that the GSA makes possible. Our professional organization is an internationally highly respected force in the field because of the dedication of so many of you over the decades -- thank you for your selfless service. And for those of you looking to build your professional service portfolio and wishing to contribute more fully to the GSA, please do get engaged with our multifaceted and valuable range of [service opportunities](#). The GSA is truly a place where you can bring your vision into the light and help change things for the better.

Maintaining community during the pandemic has been a challenge, but we've come through it well as an organization, and the strategic planning that we began this fall is now most helpful as we enter a new landscape. Moving forward, how will our conferences look as we reconsider our carbon footprint and the challenges of travel? How will we maintain the vibrancy of the GSA as institutions' post-pandemic

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

travel funds become ever scarcer? How can we ensure full access and affordability for all our members, including graduate students, post-docs, contingent faculty, and junior faculty? How do we make our commitment to DEIB goals and standards increasingly integral to our mission and transparent in our operational practices? How can we be most effective in strengthening the future pipeline of undergraduates who study German, and in sustaining German studies programs at our institutions? How can we ensure that our highly varied and yet deeply connected fields that come together under the GSA's welcoming umbrella are better able to serve our students and inform public understanding (an ever-growing need)? All of these "how" questions require careful reflection and interactive discussion, and I'm pleased that the strategic planning process is now underway, since it will provide a structure for extensive engagement with these matters from among all the GSA's constituencies. I invited Board members Marie Sumner Lott (Georgia State) and Todd Herzog (U Cincinnati) to take the lead on the Board's initial discussions of the GSA's mission, vision, and first steps toward our strategic planning process, the overall shape of which will be expertly guided by incoming President Sara Hall and incoming Vice President Damani Partridge along with Executive Director Margaret Menninger. If you would like to contribute to one of the future working groups in the strategic planning process, please look out for e.g., the upcoming membership survey soliciting your input, led by GSA Secretary David Imhoof with Operations Director Jennifer L. Jenkins and Nina Mondré Schweppe, Communications and Strategic Initiatives Manager.

In short, we will engage the challenges ahead by evolving toward new signature strengths and in tandem with our 2026 50th-anniversary fundraising goals. We are cognizant of the intellectual, creative, and outreach innovations achieved by our conferences' unique panels, incisive roundtables, far-ranging interdisciplinary networks, in-depth multi-day seminars, much-needed training workshops, Arts Night events, DEFA film screenings, and sponsored keynote speakers. We have incredible editorial leadership teams for both our *German Studies Review* journal and our *Spektrum* book series with Berghahn (hats off to Katharina Gerstenberger and David M. Luebke!). Our association ranks as highly as it does with members and beyond due in no small part to the outstanding work of our staff, our appointed and elected officers, and our standing and ad hoc committees. We further thrive thanks to our interactions with major supporting agencies and related organizations – including 1014, ACLS, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Austrian Cultural Forum, DAAD, German Historical Institute, Goethe Institute, JHUP, and Max Kade Foundation; our Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies with the Free University of Berlin; other German studies associations and groups like AATG, American Friends of the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach, BGHRA, DDGC, German Studies Collaboratory, GSC/EAC, and WiG; the vital German and European studies centers located on university campuses; multiple German-American societies and companies in the states and cities where our conferences meet; and of course the representations of the Austrian, German, and Swiss embassies and their regional consulates. We have many more partnerships yet to build; please take a look at our Resources URL and feel free to send us your additions and ideas:

<https://www.thegsa.org/resources/resources-german-studies>. To all who are deeply dedicated to the German Studies Association's future, we thank you. *Guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr!*

Janet Ward, GSA President, 2021-2022

Brammer Presidential Professor of History and Faculty Fellow for Strategic Initiatives (DFCAS),
University of Oklahoma

American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow, Yale University, 2022-2023

Member, ACLS Leadership Institute for a New Academy (LINA), 2023

Email: janet.ward@ou.edu / janet.ward@yale.edu

LETTER FROM THE OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Dear GSA Members and Friends,

We are now deep into the planning stages of our 2023 conference in Montréal, and are particularly excited to be organizing the GSA's first-ever conference outside the US. We're very much looking forward to seeing you in Canada next October - you've likely seen that we've announced the calls for [seminar proposals](#) as well as for [panel, roundtable, and individual paper submissions](#) in the last few weeks and have posted preliminary conference-related information on the [GSA website](#).

Some important notes (*advisory only and subject to change!* Refer to the [Government of Canada website](#) for official information) about travel to Canada for business purposes, which includes attending a conference:


- US citizens and [US green card holders](#) will need to present a passport (and green card, if a US permanent resident), but do not need a visa or an eTA (electronic travel authorization) to enter Canada.
- Nationals of [visa-exempt countries](#) (including e.g. Austria, Australia, Germany, Switzerland, UK) do not need a visa (as the name implies), but they **do** need an [eTA](#) (which costs CAD \$7 and can be applied for online) unless they are traveling to Canada by land or sea, in which case no eTA is required.
- Nationals of [visa-required countries](#) (including e.g. China, Israel, Morocco, South Africa, some Balkan countries, most South American countries) must apply for a visitor visa to travel to Canada; costs start at CAD \$100.

Approximate processing times of visitor visas vary depending on country of origin, which you can check [here](#). Note that **processing times for visitor visas are very high for some countries**: As of this writing, the estimated processing time for e.g. Brazil is 448 days, Morocco 190 days, Israel 139 days, South Africa 102 days; please keep this information in mind where applicable in planning your conference participation.

With all my best for the new year,

Jennifer L. Jenkins
Operations Director, German Studies Association

CALL FOR 2021-22 DISSERTATIONS IN GERMAN STUDIES



Help us spread the word about [recent dissertations](#) in the field(s) of German studies (completed in 2021 or through early December 2022)!

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>

BERLIN PROGRAM FELLOWS

Congratulations to the 37th cohort of Berlin Program research fellows! The GSA offers special thanks to the the [Max Kade Foundation](#) for [renewing its support](#) for two post-doc fellowships in 2023/24!

German Studies Association GSA

Freie Universität Berlin 

BERLIN PROGRAM
for Advanced German & European Studies

Dillon Banis
Apr 2023 – Feb 2024

Columbia University, History
Sugar, Globalization, and the German Administrative State, 1871–1919

Marisol Bayona Roman
Oct 2022 – July 2023

The University of Texas at Austin, Germanic Studies
The Difference Between a Break and a Breakdown: Life and Work in Twenty-First-Century German-Language Novels

Jonathon Catlin
Oct 2022 – July 2023

Princeton University, History
Thinking against Catastrophe: A Concept in Twentieth-Century German Thought

Mimi Cheng
Oct 2022 – Sept 2023

University of Rochester, Visual Studies
(Max Kade Postdoc)
Dissertation revision: China on the Horizon: German Orientalism and the Colonial Built Environment, 1860–1914
New project: Cartographic Orientalism

Duygu Ergun
Oct 2022 – July 2023

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Comparative Literature
The Making of an Aesthetic Domain: Reframing Lived Relations in Turkish-German Postwar Media Networks

Clemens Finkelstein
Apr 2023 – March 2024

Princeton University, History and Theory of Architecture
Architectures of Vibration: Environmental Control, Seismic Technology, and the Frequency of Life, 1898–1944

BERLIN PROGRAM FELLOWS CONTINUED

Till Knobloch
Oct 2022 – Sept 2023

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, History
The Human Element in Diplomacy

Paul Kurek
Oct 2022 – Sept 2023

University of California, Los Angeles,
German Literature (FU Postdoc)
Dissertation revision: Heavy Load-Bearing
Modernity: A Cultural Geology of Albert Speer's
Berlin/Germania

Sloane Nilsen
Oct 2022 – Sept 2023

University of California, Berkeley, History
Nazi Nights: A Time of Spectacle and Terror
(1933–1939)

Alexander Petrussek
Oct 2022 – Sept 2023

Rutgers University, History (Max Kade Postdoc)
Dissertation revision: Real Existing Ideals:
East Germany and the Socialist Imaginary, 1945–1991
New project: Red Stars in the Southern Cross:
Socialism, Apartheid, and the Struggle for Namibian
Independence

Johnathon Speed
Oct 2022 – July 2023

Vanderbilt University, History (FU Postdoc)
Dissertation revision: The Swabian Children and
Public Welfare in the Eastern Alps

Sarah Wheat
Oct 2022 – Sept 2023

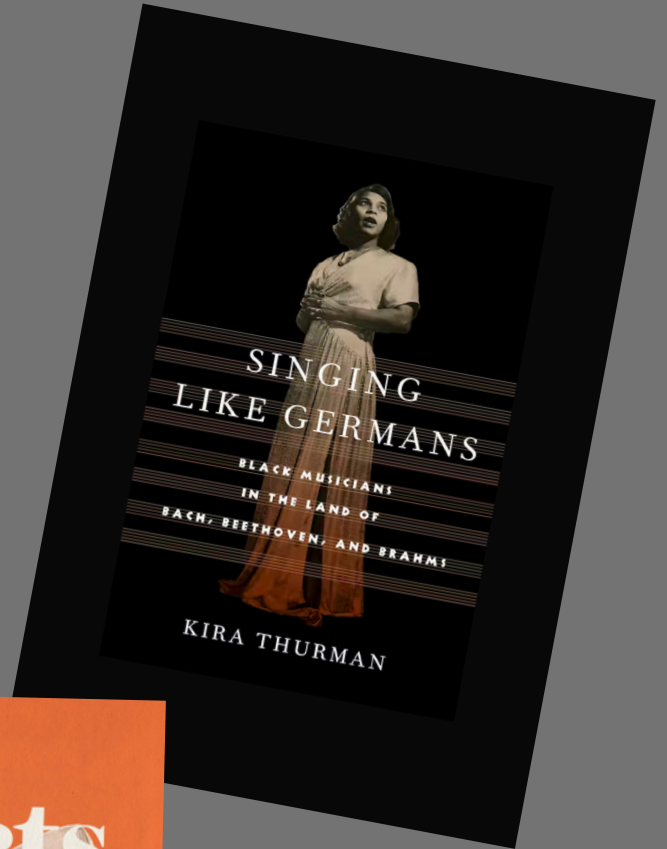
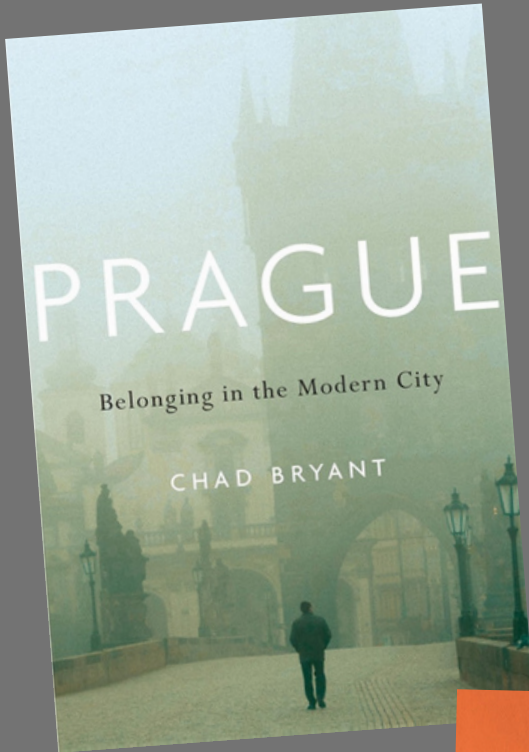
University of Michigan, History of Art
Commoditizing the Harem Mystique:
Orientalism and Popular Architecture ca. 1900

German
Studies
Association **GSA**

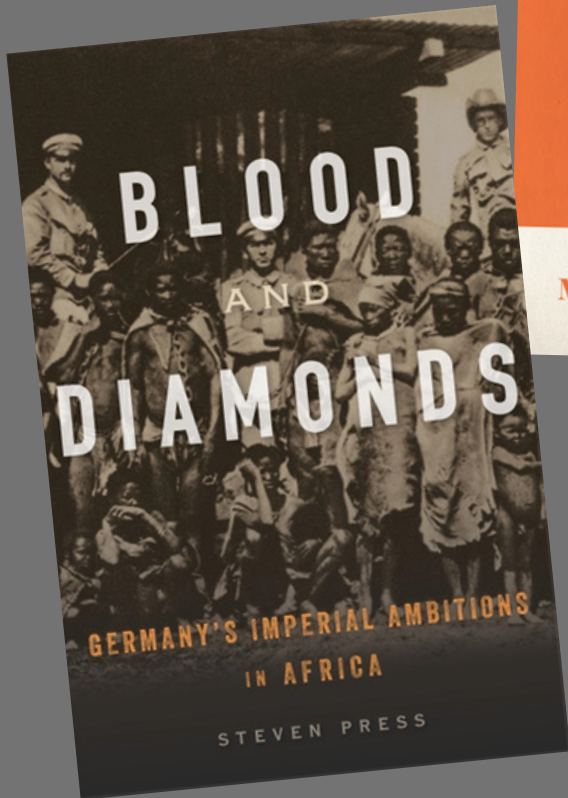
Freie Universität  Berlin

BERLIN PROGRAM
for Advanced German & European Studies

GSA 2022 BOOK PRIZE WINNERS



Click on the cover images for prize information and winner *laudationes*



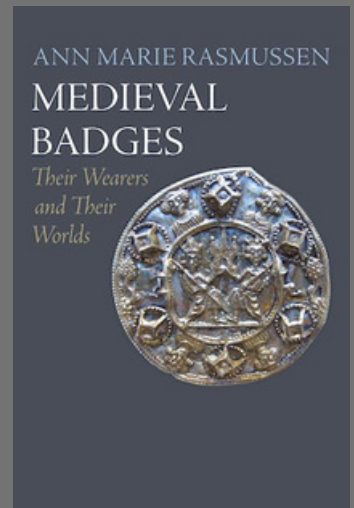
GSA 2022 PRIZE WINNERS CONTINUED

2022 Honorable Mention,
[DAAD/GSA Book Prize for the Best Book
in Literature/Cultural Studies:](#)

Ann Marie Rasmussen

[Medieval Badges: Their Wearers and Their Worlds](#)

(Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2021)



2002 Winner of the [DAAD/GSA Best Article Prize:](#)

Peter Scheppe (Montana State University)

[“Writing upon History: West German Graffiti and 1968.”](#)

German Studies Review, Vol. 44 Number 3, October 2021

2022 Winner of the [GSA Prize for the Best Essay in German Studies
by a Graduate Student:](#)

Qingyang Freya Zhou (University of California-Berkeley)

“‘A Temporality of Imminent, Never-Consummated Arrival’: Contemporary German Documentaries on North Korea”

2022 Honorable Mention, [GSA Prize for the Best Essay in German Studies
by a Graduate Student:](#)

David Takamura (University of North Carolina-Duke University)

“Answering Egoism: Tieck’s Alternative Theory of Romantic Irony”

GSA member and AATG Executive Director Dr. Michael Shaughnessy was recognized at the GSA 2022 conference in Houston as the [2022 recipient of the DAAD Alumni Association USA Award for International Exchange](#)



Congratulations to all 2022 award recipients!
Information for nominations for 2023 awards will
be posted to the [GSA website](#) in the new year.

GSA 2023 CONFERENCE

The Forty-Seventh Conference of the German Studies Association October 5-8, 2023 | Montréal, Québec, Canada

The German Studies Association's annual conference brings together over a thousand scholars to engage with research, teaching and public scholarship on German-speaking countries' diverse histories, cultures, languages, and politics in global contexts. 2023 marks the first year that the GSA conference will be held outside the US; we look forward to welcoming you in Montréal next October!

We invite proposals for seminars, roundtables, (series of) panels, and individual papers. *Please note that seminar submissions run on a different deadlines schedule than other presentation formats.*

For information on submitting a proposal for a seminar, please consult our [call for seminar proposals](#). The deadline for submitting a seminar proposal is **January 16, 2023**. Approved seminars will be announced on the GSA website on **February 10, 2023**. Applications to participate in a seminar will be due on **March 3, 2023**.

For information on submitting a proposal for a roundtable, panel (series), or an individual paper, please consult our [call for non-seminar proposals](#). The deadline for submitting a proposal is **March 27, 2023**.

GSA 2023 SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

2 January

conference submission portal opens for seminar proposals

16 January (11:59pm PST)

seminar topic proposals due

10 February

approved seminars announced on GSA website

3 March (11:59pm PST)

seminar participation applications due

27 March (11:59pm PDT)

all paper, panel, and roundtable proposals due





GSA ELECTIONS 2022

Results

ELECTED OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

DAMANI J. PARTRIDGE, Vice President (2yrs): Dr. Damani Partridge (Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, 2003) is Professor of Anthropology and Afroamerican and African Studies and a German Department affiliate at the University of Michigan. For the GSA, he has regularly co-organized seminars, panels, conducted public interviews, and a special webinar on Holocaust Memory, Coloniality, and Black Lives. Having completed his term on GSA's Board, Damani serves on its Committee for Institutional Transformation and Social Justice. He plans to continue work towards making the GSA into an organization in which a diverse set of members will systematically thrive.

ALICIA ELLIS, Board - Germanistik (3yrs): Dr. Alicia Ellis (Ph.D. and MA in African American Studies, Yale University) is Associate Professor of German at Colby College where she chairs the Department of German and Russian. Alicia recently joined the GSA Community Fund Committee and is committed to the organization's diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. A member of the Committee on Institutional Transformation and Social Justice, she has also been involved in discussions that tackle questions about race and racialization in the GSA and beyond. As Board member, she aims to explore how focused expansion of the meaning of "German Studies" would benefit the organization and encourage a deeper discourse about the field.

TIFFANY FLORVIL, Board - History (3yrs): Dr. Tiffany Florvil is Associate Professor of European History at the University of New Mexico. She has been a member of the GSA since 2010 and co-founded the Black Diaspora Studies Network in 2015. Since 2020, Tiffany has been a member of the Committee on Institutional Transformation and Social Justice (ITJS) (formerly the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee) and Chair of the Committee since 2022. As Board member, she will continue to make the GSA an inclusive space that is more attentive to issues of racism, ableism, sexism, classism, transphobia, and homophobia. The GSA is capable of more structural changes that reflect a commitment to equity and equality for all members and Tiffany welcomes the opportunity to use her position on the Board to advocate for members who need support and community.

JONATHAN OLSEN, Board - Social Science (3yrs): Dr. Jonathan Olsen is professor of political science and the chair of the Department of Social Sciences and Historical Studies at Texas Woman's University. He serves on the editorial board of *German Politics & Society* and *German Politics*, and on the executive board of the International Association for the Study of German Politics (IASGP). He also serves on the executive board of the DAAD Alumni Association (USA). Jonathan's long association with the German Studies Association spans over 25 years. His area of research is in German political parties, and he aims to attract more political scientists to the organization and to find ways to offer cross-disciplinary collaborations.

LIZ SCHOPPELREI, Board - Graduate (2yrs): A Penn State Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Literature, Liz Schoppelrei works to support the GSA in developing policies that foster feminist, anti-racist, trans-friendly, and accessible environments. They have been involved in the GSA since 2018 and will serve the GSA in three main ways: backing social justice initiatives, encouraging greater accessibility, and expanding mentorship. Liz supports the Committee for Institutional Transformation and Social Justice's recommendations to the board, aims to ensure open communication channels, and will encourage efforts to make future programs more attentive to accessibility needs. They also seek expansion of the Community Fund to support graduate students and those precariously employed and would like to establish caring, intentional mentorship networks crucial to growing a more diverse German Studies.

GSA INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Consider joining our roster of [GSA institutional members](#)!

Institutional memberships offer a means to publicize centers, institutes and departments that have a strong focus on German Studies, while also opening the door for graduate students and non-tenure track faculty. In these ways, your institutional membership will help sustain German Studies research, scholarship, teaching, and advocacy.

The benefits include:

- **Institutional membership:**

- Recognition in the biannual GSA newsletter, the annual conference program/app, and on the GSA website
- One 1/4-page advertisement in the *German Studies Review*

- **Graduate institutional membership** further includes:

- One 1/2-page ad in the *German Studies Review*
- **Six** complimentary 1-year GSA memberships for graduate students and/or non-tenure track/contingent faculty at your institution

 Register your institution online [here!](#) 

GSA INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

DAAD



austrian cultural forum^{nyc}



Thank you to our institutional and graduate institutional members!

- [AATG](#)
- [Austrian Cultural Forum New York](#)
- [Austrian Studies Association](#)
- [Central European History Society](#)
- [Coalition of Women in German](#)
- [DAAD](#)
- [DEFA Film Library](#)
- [Landesarchiv Schleswig-Holstein](#)
- [Texas State University](#)
- [The University of Oklahoma](#)
- [University of Miami](#)
- [University of Michigan](#)



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 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 access form to submit details

Contact: *media@thegsa.org*

GSA 2022 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

GSA Board Meeting Highlights

Thursday, September 15th, 2022: 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM CT
Breakout Room 330, 3rd floor, Hilton Americas – Houston, Texas
(and Zoom)

PRESENT for some or all: Monica Ann Black, Joanne Cho (Miyang), Alicia E. Ellis, Tiffany Florvil, Katharina Gerstenberger, Ela Gezen, Tom Haakenson, Sara Hall, Todd Herzog, David Imhoof, Kevina King, Christiane Lemke, B. Venkat Mani, Margaret Menninger, Jonathan Olsen, Damani Partridge, Eli Rubin, Liz Mae Schoppelrei, Marie Sumner-Lott, Johannes von Moltke, Janet Ward, Jonathan Zatlín

Executive Director's Report (Executive Director Margaret Menninger) noted lower numbers for this year's conference: about 800 all in person (cf. 1600 participants in 2019). She also noted that she hopes soon to pay more attention to strategic planning, longer-term development, coming up with new ways to serve members, learning how to do other work for GSA, and connecting with other German-speaking areas and working with other German-oriented organizations. The last 18 months have required dealing with pressing immediate matters (new ED, other positions, COVID, virtual and hybrid conferences). She recognized that our 2023 conference in Montreal will require additional money and effort.

Treasurer's report including budget report and Finance Committee report (Treasurer Tom Haakenson, with members of Finance Committee):

- The endowment is strong, cash on hand looks good, but there are big expenses around conference time. Haakenson expressed some concern about the more expensive 2023 conference in Montreal, especially AV costs.
- Unanimous approval to increase lifetime membership cost from \$1000 to \$2500, effective immediately. This price would be more in line with similar organizations, and the GSA lifetime membership has been \$1000 for many years.
- Note that we just filed 2020 taxes and will be completing 2021 taxes soon. Slight drop in revenue in 2021 and fairly significant drop in participation from 2019 to 2022. We need to plan now for a more expensive Montreal conference (AV, greater labor hours, etc.)

Unanimous approval of eight proposals from the Finance Committee and Treasurer:

- Extend the contract of the current Communications and Strategic Planning Specialist (CSPS) through October 2023, which will help support the GSA's first international conference in Montreal.
- Change the name of the "North American Travel Fund" to the "GSA Conference Community Fund"

GSA 2022 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

- Establish a seventh endowed fund, in addition to the six funds authorized at the GSA Board meeting in October 2021, specifically for the Radomír Luža Prize.
- Include in this year's budget a cost-of-living increase for the Executive Director (considered in context of the GSA's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Texas State and the assumption that it's best for our ED to remain a faculty member, not a full-time GSA employee.
- Provide annual professional development stipend to the ED, pending the budget's approval by the Board, to offset the increased labor hours and to move toward parity with previous ED compensation structure.
- Include \$5,000 annually in the budget for both the work of the Arts Night and the Institutional Transformation and Social Justice (ITSJ) committees.
- Approve the 2023 budget.

Also note that the GSA awarded over \$67,000 to help people attend this year's conference!

Bylaws Updates and Other Proposals

After extensive discussion about proposed changes to the bylaws (mainly to include new committees), members of the Board agreed that the Bylaws need to be more thoroughly revised to reflect the structures and processes of governance in the GSA, as well as adding and changing committees. The Board unanimously decided to table this vote on proposed changes and continue the discussion on bylaws with members, first, in a General Meeting and, then, in a special meeting open to GSA members to discuss bylaws

Approval by a vote of 8:2 of the following proposal from the Committee on Institutional Transformation and Social Justice (ITSJ) for a Local Activists Fund:

- The ITSJ committee proposes to authorize an honorarium not greater than \$2,000 to be granted to local grassroots activist organizations in Houston; these organizations will be identified by the ITSJ committee in consultation with the Board and the EC, and will be invited to take part in a roundtable or other similar event designed to highlight their work and its connection to the scholarly work of the GSA and its members. Furthermore, we propose that the Board authorize the ITSJ Committee to grant a similar honorarium in future conferences, relative to local organizations in each respective city.”
(Note that this \$2,000 is part of the just-approved \$5,000 for the ITSJ in the budget.)

GSA2022 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Preparation and Implementation Stages of the GSA Strategic Plan

The Board proposes a two-step process for drafting new Mission and Vision Statements for the GSA in Fall 2022:

- Step 1: Board members draft new Mission and Vision statements.
- Step 2: Board establishes a Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC), which would include members of the Board and GSA standing committees.

Unanimous approval of a motion from the Finance Committee to establish a pilot program for Regional Symposia Micro-Grants:

These grants would allow the GSA to support two kinds of smaller scholarly gatherings:

- **Treffen**
 - Modeled on the Midwest German Historians Workshop, regional Treffen would bring participants from the region together and should promote informal sharing of ideas, not necessarily formal paper presentation, or some combination of these formats. Each group must contain at least one graduate student or contingent faculty member, as well as at least one full-time faculty member, and all must be GSA members in good standing. Participants would then be responsible for submitting a summary of the event to a GSA committee overseeing this program. After three years, participants would then present the multi-year work at the GSA conference.
 - The GSA will sponsor each regional Treff with a grant of \$1500 for three years. At the end of the three yearly meetings, the Treff will also be eligible to receive up to \$1000 towards the cost of travel to the annual GSA meeting. It is intended that this money be prioritized for participants who experience financial precarity. The total budget would be around \$10,000 annually. The GSA will also help publicize the meetings through its website and social media accounts.
- **GSA-Sponsored Zoom Conferences**
 - Each conference or workshop will have between 12 and 20 active participants, half of whom must be GSA members in good standing. Organizers will have flexibility in how they structure the conference, but there should be some central theme to the endeavor. There may be auditors joining as an audience, who are not presenting or speaking, beyond the 12–20-person group.
 - The GSA would provide a stipend of \$500 to the conference organizers to help defray any costs as well as time and labor involved in organizing. The GSA would also publicize the event on its website and its social media accounts.
 - It is strongly encouraged that at least one member be a member of an underrepresented or disadvantaged community. This committee will help schedule Treffen and virtual meetings, promote the meetings, help develop criteria for funding, communicate with the Finance Committee about disbursing funds, and report to the GSA Executive Board at the annual meeting about progress on this pilot project.

GSA2022 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Rejection by a vote of 5:6 of a proposal to remove institutional affiliation from conference badges The close vote indicates that there was strong support for this idea. But ultimately more Board members concluded that, while removing affiliation would benefit some participants, it would harm others and might not ultimately democratize the conference in the spirit of the proposal.

Unanimous approval of a motion to make the Emerging Scholars event a permanent feature of the GSA annual conference This space, intended only for graduate students, has been piloted successfully for three years and does not cost the GSA anything to continue.

German Studies Review update Katharina Gerstenberger initiated a discussion of moving the journal to online publication. A future survey of members will gather information about how members feel about such a change. That change would require help from our publisher Johns Hopkins University Press but would likely save the GSA money.

3.10 CDT: Meeting adjourned.

JOIN OUR SOCIAL COMMUNITIES



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[@GermanStudies Association](https://www.instagram.com/GermanStudiesAssociation)



[@GermanStudies Association](https://www.youtube.com/GermanStudiesAssociation)



[@GermanStudies Association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/GermanStudiesAssociation)



[@TheGSA](https://twitter.com/TheGSA)

REMEMBERING

ROBERT DEAM TOBIN

(1961-2022)

Robert Deam Tobin, 60, of Worcester, Massachusetts, passed away on August 10, 2022. A highly regarded scholar, teacher, mentor, activist, and all-around bon vivant, Tobin was known for his commitment to the life of ideas, his charismatic personality, and his spirit of generosity. The cause of death was liver cancer, diagnosed only two months before his untimely passing. He was predeceased by his mother, Tary (Ferris) Tobin, and he is survived by his father, David Tobin; his brother Joseph Tobin; his sisters Jean Tobin, Mary-Sue Tobin, Teresa Tobin, Anastasia Tobin, and Rebekah Whittaker; and his husband, Ivan Raykoff.

Born in 1961 in Urbana, Illinois, Tobin grew up in Eugene, Oregon, and graduated from South Eugene High School. He studied German literature at Harvard College, graduating in 1983, and after two years of dissertation research in Freiburg, Germany, he completed his Ph.D. degree in German literature at Princeton University in 1990.

Tobin began his teaching career at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, in 1989, and he taught there for 18 years before moving to Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. At Whitman he achieved his goal of becoming “full by 40” when he was promoted to full professor in 2002. At Clark he held the inaugural Henry J. Leir Chair in Language, Literature, and Culture, teaching courses in comparative literature and developing the language department’s core course, *The National Imagination*.

Tobin’s wide-ranging and influential scholarly work delves deeply into traditional disciplinary fields such as 18th-century German literature while also broadening our understanding of those historical authors and works through insights on medicine and literature, queer theory, gender and sexuality, culture and politics, and human rights. He researched and lectured nationally and internationally, especially in Berlin and Vienna, and his archival work took him as far afield as Samoa and Namibia. His most recent book is *Peripheral Desires: The German Discovery of Sex* (2015).

His research also embraced contemporary European and American popular culture. With Ivan Raykoff he co-edited *A Song for Europe: Music and Politics in the Eurovision Song Contest* (2007), and he was often interviewed about the music show by international media outlets. In 2019 he co-curated an extensive exhibit tracing Worcester’s queer history and co-authored its catalog, *For the Record: LGBTQ+ Worcester*, receiving a key to the city for this achievement.

Instead of a funeral, Tobin wanted his ashes scattered in five places he had lived with deep and lasting connections to family, friends, colleagues, and students: Eugene, Oregon; Walla Walla, Washington; Worcester, Massachusetts; New York City; and Freiburg, Germany.

Ivan Raykoff

REMEMBERING

JOHN A. MCCARTHY

(1942–2022)

We mourn John A. McCarthy who passed away peacefully at home in Portland, OR, on August 20, 2022, surrounded by his family. Having become emeritus professor at Vanderbilt University in 2013, his academic home since 1991 after nineteen years at the University of Pennsylvania, John and his wife of over fifty years Mecki (Mechthild) moved to Portland to be closer to their daughter Kristin and her children. Although fully ensconced in the role of grandfather, John continued his research until a few days before his death, culminating in the book, *Confronting/Defining the Self: Formation and Dissolution of the "I" from Montaigne to Grass*, to be published by Brill, Leiden (Netherlands).

John McCarthy, a member of the GSA Executive Committee from 1996 to 1998, has been one of the most visible and influential scholars of European Enlightenment and German eighteenth-century literature. As an American Lessing scholar with a near-native command of German in speaking and writing, McCarthy was equally well known and sought after in Germany. Over the years I got the impression that in his case the American origins of his approach to Enlightenment provided him with even stronger arguments as he did not tend as dutifully to the Klassik-canon of Weimar that German scholars had a hard time to relinquish. McCarthy deserves credit for having been one of the promoters of the higher estimation which corresponds with the international view of the Enlightenment. As a dynamic president of the Lessing Society in 1997–1999, he staged a conference at Vanderbilt on Lessing's reception in the world. Not surprisingly, it drew the most eminent Lessing experts from the U.S. and abroad.

The GSA can call itself fortunate to have in McCarthy not only a frequent participant and prominent discussant but also a promoter of strengthening the eighteenth-century literary and interdisciplinary panels in the annual conferences. Reflecting his broad interests McCarthy contributed substantially to debates about Lessing, Goethe, Schiller, Kleist as well as the value of eighteenth-century research and the state of the humanities in general. He joined younger scholars in the GSA Seminars "For a New Enlightenment," "Philosophy in Literature," and "Goethe as a Heterodox Thinker."

Following his idol Lessing, McCarthy did not shy away from confrontations. He took on the most critical representatives of the disapproving concept of the Enlightenment that found a strong resonance among the Sixty-Eighters: Theodor W. Adorno and Max Horkheimer in their treatise *Dialektik der Aufklärung*. In the book *Crossing Boundaries: A Theory and History of Essay Writing in German, 1680–1815* (1989) he criticized Adorno and Horkheimer for simplifying the Enlightenment "as rational reductionism in the pursuit of happiness" and concluding that "the Age of Enlightenment did not truly value autonomous, experimental thought, but was interested only in applicability for devising a well ordered, prosperous world" (68). He was promptly attacked in the journal that adhered to Adorno's critical theory, *New German Critique* (no. 51, 1990), for his own reductionism and one-dimensionality.

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REMEMBERING JOHN A. MCCARTHY CONTINUED

By inviting debates and controversies, McCarthy furthered new and fruitful perspectives on the essence of literature and philosophy. This habit was less fruitful at certain moments when he sensed infringement of his academic territory by colleagues or academic administrators. I got to know those disagreeable moments from afar, learned to marginalize them in view of his uncanny networking ability, his unswerving commitment to teaching and mentoring younger colleagues, and many other talents that made him a great and well-respected force in the field. He became a leader in furthering the professionalization of language instruction and moving the discipline of German from the traditional philology-based Germanistik into the interdisciplinarity-based German Studies.

While John inspired fellow reformers and invested much organizational energy in the Modern Language Association, its Association of Departments of Foreign Languages, and the American Association of Teachers of German, his most impressive undertaking in energizing the profession was his staging the symposium on the future of Germanistik in the United States at Vanderbilt in 1994 at which prominent scholars tried to lay out, in the words of Heidy Byrnes, “an action agenda for the 21st century.” It was the last time outside of the annual conferences of the German Studies Association that an attempt was made to have the discipline be represented in one location through prominent speakers in an at times confrontational debate. John was able to involve the colleagues in a constructive, though not always harmonious endeavor – which remained without a comparably extensive follow-up.

McCarthy was an inimitable force in the classroom, a superb teacher of the German language. With his wit and genuine interest in widening the students’ horizon, his teaching had an electrifying flair which carried over into his classes about literary works, comparative literature, and its theories. He extended his focus on European literatures towards a more political view of Europe and the European Union as partners and competitors across the Atlantic, led student groups to the EU headquarters in Brussels and built at Vanderbilt, after an ingenious fundraising campaign, the Max Kade Center for European and German Studies, which he directed from 2005–2009.

Having overcome many hindrances on his way from deciding not to pursue the life of a cleric to the study of German at Oakland University in Rochester, MI, and the PhD at the State University of New York at Buffalo, McCarthy retained a strong awareness of the imponderables of the academic career all his life. As much as he loved the collegial debate about the nature of literature, as much attention he paid to the non-academic parts of everyday existence – a great base for lively friendships and intensive family life.

And yet, having John McCarthy as a participant in a debate or brainstorming session, one could be sure that the panel would experience some of his quick-witted wisdom with the assurance that it originated in an impressive body of literary and historical knowledge. John McCarthy remains in our memory as a great purveyor of the Enlightenment who was able to activate it with wit and an electrifying grasp of our less-than-harmonious world.

Frank Trommler, University of Pennsylvania