

Matthew Childs

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EDUCATION AND DEGREES

Ph.D. in German Studies (Completion June 2024)

Department of German Studies
University of Washington
Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

M.A. in German Studies (2015)

Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL, U.S.A.

B.A., Double Major in German Studies and Classical Civilizations (2013)

Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics & Department of Classics
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL, U.S.A.

DISSERTATION

Era of Uncertainty: Catastrophe in Nineteenth-Century German Literature
(in progress, completion date June 8, 2024)

Committee Members: Prof. Jason Groves (Chair), Prof. Ellwood Wiggins, Prof. Sabine Wilke,
Prof. Gary Handwerk (GSR)

PUBLICATIONS

Completed and Forthcoming**Peer-Reviewed Publications**

“Kleist, Rousseau, and *Das Erdbeben in Chili*: Catastrophe as the Road to Reconciliation.” In:
Lessing Yearbook/Jahrbuch, 2021.

Forum Publications

“Goethe’s *Faust* and *Sorge* in the Age of Imperialism and Colonialism.” In: *Goethe Yearbook*, vol. 31, 2024. (forthcoming)

Non-Peer-Reviewed/Public-Facing Publications

“Rethinking the West: Promise and Crisis of a Concept.” In: *Transatlanticism*, 2023.

URL: <https://www.transatlanticism.uni-muenster.blog/rethinking-the-west/>

“East Comma West - Münster.” In: *Rethinking the West: Promise and Crisis of a Concept*, 2023.

URL: <https://rethinkingthewest.de/east-comma-west/>

Book Reviews

Ebach, Malte. *Goethe in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Enlightened Solutions for Modern Hubris*. In: *Goethe Yearbook*, vol. 31, 2024. (forthcoming)

Riedel, Peter Philipp. *Gelassene Teilnahme: Formen urbaner Muße im Werk Goethes*. In: *Focus on German Studies*, vol. 29, 2022.

M.A. Thesis

An Analysis of Light Metaphors in Goethe’s Faust. Proquest Dissertations Publishing, 2015.

In Progress

Books

Race and Germany. Co-authored with Jonathan Warren.

This monograph explores race discourse in Germany from its beginnings in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to the present. It makes the case for deprovincializing the discussion in Germany, resisting the temptation to see it as an extension of American discourse, and utilizing Germany’s discourse of guilt (*Kollektivschuld*) and the remembrance culture (*Erinnerungskultur*) to fashion new solutions that would bring about valuable and innovative forms of thinking that can transcend the limitations of race discourse one encounters elsewhere.

Edited Volumes

Critical Catastrophe Studies. Co-edited with Christoph Weber.

This volume builds on the discussions had at the GSA annual conference in Montréal for the panel series “Catastrophe and Critique.” Contributions, including my own, explore topics ranging from their usage in Ancient Greece to Expressionist poetry around 1900, from World War II to catastrophe’s ‘domestication’ in contemporary German fiction.

Double-Blind, Peer-Reviewed Publications

“Human Waste: The ‘Trash-formation’ of Society and its Reparation on the Example of Wilhelm Raabe’s *Pfisters Mühle: Ein Sommerferienheft*.” In: *On_Culture*, 2024. (under revision)

Peer-Reviewed Publications in Collections

“The Catastrophe Paradigm: Kleist, Critique, and the New World Order.” In: *Critical Catastrophe Studies*, edited by Matthew Childs and Christoph Weber.

“Conclusion: Catastrophe and Critique in the 21st Century.” In: *Critical Catastrophe Studies*, edited by Matthew Childs and Christoph Weber.

Book Reviews

Tautz, Birgit. *Translating the World: Toward a New History of German Literature around 1800*. In: *Goethe Yearbook*, vol. 31, 2024.

CONFERENCE PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, & GUEST LECTURES

Seminar Participant: “The Diversities of Care in the Long Nineteenth Century.” German Studies Association Annual Conference 2024, Atlanta, GA, U.S.A.

"Sugar High: Capitalist Energies in Wilhelm Raabe's *Pfisters Mühle: Ein Sommerferienheft*." Inaugural Workshop of Ohio State University's *Umwelt Center for Germanic Studies and Environmental Humanities* 2024, Columbus, OH, U.S.A.

“Energetic Waterways: The Flow and Ebb of Germany’s Rivers from *Werther* to *Pfisters Mühle*.” Modern Languages Association Annual Conference 2024, Philadelphia, U.S.A.

“Catastrophic Transformations: Changing Perspectives on Catastrophe in Nineteenth-Century German Literature.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association Annual Conference 2023, Portland, U.S.A.

“Bild und Wort. Bildende Kunst und literarischer Text im 18. Jahrhundert am Beispiel der Laokoon-Gruppe.” Guest Lecture for Prof. Kai Sina, 2023, Germanistik-Institut, Universität Münster, Münster, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany.

“Foggy Pasts, Shifting Presents, Uncertain futures: Wilhelm Raabe’s *Pfisters Mühle: Ein Sommerferienheft*.” ESCCS and TransHumanities Joint Summer School 2023, Justus Liebig Universität Giessen, Giessen, Germany.

“The Ethics of Narrating Catastrophe: Kleist’s *Das Erdbeben in Chili*.” 72nd National Postgraduate Colloquium in German Studies, 2023, University of London, London, UK.

“Irony and Colonial Subversion in Goethe’s *Faust*.” Modern Languages Association Annual Conference 2020, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

“‘Zuckungen’ and ‘Gefühlsader’: The Desire and Impossibility of Literary Realism in Georg Büchner’s *Lenz*.” German Studies Association Annual Conference 2019, Portland, OR, U.S.A.

“On Dipesh Chakrabarty’s ‘The Climate of History: Four Theses.’” Guest Lecture for Prof. Sabine Wilke, 2018, Department of German Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

PAMLA German Studies Grant (2023)

Heidelberg University Association Scholarship (2022)

Simpson Center for the Humanities Society of Scholars Summer Fellowship (2022)

Antoinette Wills Endowed Scholarship, University of Washington (2020–21)

Gloria Flaherty Scholarship, Goethe Society of North America (2020)

Joff Hanauer Fellowship for Excellence in Western Civilizations (2019–20)

Max Kade Foundation Fellowship (2015–16)

Sauerlander Scholarship Award, University of Washington (2015)

Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics Graduate Students Excellence Award, Florida State University (2015)

Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics Community Service Award, Florida State University (2013)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Pre-Doctoral Instructor (2023–Present)

Department of German Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

Description: sole instructor (unless otherwise noted) responsible for preparation of teaching materials, instruction, and assessment. Teaching intermediate and advanced German language and culture courses. Course load is 1-1-1 (quarter system).

Courses: “German 103: First-Year German”; “German 101: First-Year German”; “Vampires, Vamps, and Villains: Introduction to Weimar Film” (Teaching Assistant)

English Language Instructor (2022–23)

Sprachenzentrum, Universität Münster, Münster, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

Description: sole instructor responsible for preparation of teaching materials, instruction, and assessment. Taught advanced English language and American culture courses on a variety of themes. Course load was 3-3 (semester system).

Courses: “Academic Writing”; “Debating in English”; “From Seattle to New York: Cultural Studies U.S.A.”

Pre-Doctoral Instructor (2017–2022)

Department of German Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

Description: sole instructor responsible for preparation of teaching materials, instruction, and assessment. Taught intermediate and advanced German language and culture courses. Courses taking place during the 2020–2021 academic years were taught online. Course load was 1-1-1 (quarter system) with an occasional double-teaching load.

Courses: “German 100: Intensive First-Year German”; “German 101: First-Year German”; “German 102: First-Year German”; “German 103: First-Year German”; “German 111: Basic German Review”; “German 201: Second-Year German”; “German 202: Second-Year German”; “German 203: Second-Year German”; “German 423: Studies in Twentieth-Century German Literature and Culture – Crisis and Catastrophe in Twentieth-Century German Literature”

German Language Instructor (2019–2020)

Language Strides German Language School, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

Description: sole instructor responsible for preparation of teaching materials, instruction, and assessment. Taught introductory and intermediate language courses for non-traditional students and professionals. Course load was 1-1-1 (quarter system).

Courses: “Deutsch 4” (Beginner, A 1.2); “Deutsch 5” (Beginner, A 1.2); “Deutsch 6” (Beginner, A 2.1); “Intensive German for Beginners” (Beginner, A 1.1–1.2)

English Language Instructor (2016–17)

Sprachenzentrum, Universität Münster, Münster, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

Description: sole instructor responsible for preparation of teaching materials, instruction, and assessment. Taught advanced English language and American culture courses on a variety of themes. Course load was 3-3 (semester system).

Courses: “Academic Writing”; “Debating in English”; “English Conversation for the Humanities and Social Sciences”; “Language Skills for the Humanities and Social Sciences”

Graduate Language Instructor (2013–15)

Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, U.S.A.

Description: sole instructor responsible for preparation of teaching materials, instruction, and assessment. Taught beginning and intermediate German language and culture courses. Course load was 1-2 (semester system).

Courses: “Elementary German I”; “Elementary German II”; “Intermediate German”

Intern and Substitute Instructor (2012–2015)

German School of Tallahassee, Tallahassee, FL, U.S.A.

Description: organized courses for adults and children and substituted for instructors when they were absent.

ADMINISTRATIVE & EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Editor (2023–2024)

Process: Journal of Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Scholarship

Description: solicit contributions from undergraduates for publication, review and edit submissions, format and curate materials for publication, and coordinate editorial staff in efforts to improve the publication.

International Program Coordinator for Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, and Scandinavia (2021–22)

NorthWest Student Exchange, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

Description: coordinated international exchanges for high school age students (15–18 years of age) from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, and Scandinavia. Duties included contacting and coordinating with schools in the United States; facilitating the flow of information between students, families, and schools across international boundaries; collecting and inputting student and host family documentation for U.S. Department of State regulations; providing support for students and host families in the United States; having familiarity with U.S. educational and exchange regulations.

Lead Teaching Assistant for the German Language Program (2020–21)

Department of German Studies, University of Washington

Description: assisted in the coordination of the German language program; preparation and distribution of teaching, assignments, and test materials; test design and review; curriculum design and review; classroom observation; Language Learning Center (LLC) collaboration; Moodle (online homework platform) curation; language program marketing; assisted with extracurricular activities such as the Kaffeestunde, Film Series, and German Club; maintained open lines of communication between TAs and program coordinator.

PROFESSIONAL & PROFESSIONALIZATION ACTIVITIES

Member (2021–present)

“Race and Imperialism” Virtual Reading Group. Goethe Society of North America. (Online)

Participant (2024)

“Diversity and Social (In)Justice in German as a Foreign Language.” Professionalization Seminar at InterDaF at the Herder-Institut of the Universität Leipzig. Supported by AATG, the Transatlantik-Programm der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Leipzig, Germany.

Co-Organizer (2024)

“Culture and Conflict.” Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

Co-Organizer (2023)

Panel Series on “Catastrophe and Critique.” German Studies Association Annual Conference, Montréal, Canada.

Participant (2023)

“Hyak Teaching Conference and Workshop.” American Association of Teachers of German, Washington State Chapter, Hyak, WA, U.S.A.

Participant (2022)

“Internationaler Ferienkurs für deutsche Sprache und Kultur der Universität Heidelberg 2022.” Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany.

Lead Organizer (2021)

“Conceiving the (Un)quiet Mind: Representations of Mental Health in Literature, Media, and Art.” Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

Co-Organizer (2021)

“Transcultural Approaches to Europe.” Interdisciplinary Colloquium, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

Participant (2020)

Goethe Society of North America Dissertation Workshop (Online)

Co-Organizer (2019)

“Residues and Remnants: (re)Presenting Cultural Memory, Contamination, and Destruction.” Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

Co-Organizer (2018–19)

Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Studies Graduate Research Cluster. University of Washington, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

Participant (2018)

“DaF in den USA: Grundzüge und Perspektiven.” DAAD-Fortbildungskurs, University of California, Berkeley, CA, U.S.A.

SERVICE

Graduate Student Representative to the Diversity Committee (2023–24)

Department of German Studies, University of Washington

Graduate Student Representative (2021–22)

Arts and Sciences Advisory Council for Students, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Washington.

Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty (2020–21)

Department of German Studies, University of Washington

Graduate Student Representative to the Graduate Student Recruitment Committee (2019–21)

Department of German Studies, University of Washington

Graduate Student Representative to the Graduate Curriculum Committee (2019–20)

Department of German Studies, University of Washington

Graduate Student Representative to the Diversity Committee (2019–20)

Department of German Studies, University of Washington

Co-Organizer for Kaffeestunde (2017–20)

Department of German Studies, University of Washington

Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty (2018–19)

Department of German Studies, University of Washington

Co-Organizer: Germanics Film Series (2015–16)

Department of German Studies, University of Washington

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Teachers of German
Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment
English Goethe Society
German Studies Association
Goethe Society of North America
Modern Languages Association
Northeast Modern Languages Association
Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association

REFERENCES

Asst. Prof. Jason Groves, University of Washington
Prof. Klaus Brandl, University of Washington
Prof. Sabine Wilke, University of Washington

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