

## Matthew Robert Childs, Ph.D.

Department of German and Russian  
Wake Forest University

### Education

---

2015–2024	University of Washington, Department of German Studies <u>Degree</u> : Doctor of Philosophy in German
2013–2015	Florida State University, Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics <u>Degree</u> : Master of Arts in German
2009–2013	Florida State University, Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics and Department of Classics <u>Degree</u> : Bachelor of Arts in German and Classical Civilizations

### Dissertation

---

Title	<i>Era of Uncertainty: Catastrophe in Nineteenth-Century German Literature</i>
Dissertation Chair	Jason Groves (University of Washington)
Committee Members	Ellwood Wiggins (University of Washington) Sabine Wilke (University of Washington)

### Teaching Experience

---

2024–Present	<b>Visiting Assistant Professor</b> , Department of German and Russian, Wake Forest University (Winston Salem, NC) <u>Description</u> : responsible for developing and teaching German and English language courses, including material preparation and assessment (3/3 teaching load) <u>Course(s)</u> : “German 153: Intermediate German”; “German 340A: German Masterworks in Translation – Catastrophe and Critique”; “German 340B: German Masterworks in Translation – Industrialization and the German Imagination”
2023–2024	<b>Pre-Doctoral Instructor</b> , Department of German Studies, University of Washington (Seattle, WA) <u>Description</u> : 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). <u>Course(s)</u> : “German 103: First-Year German”; “German 101: First-Year German”; “Vampires, Vamps, and Villains: Introduction to Weimar Film” (Teaching Assistant)
2022–2023	<b>English Language Instructor</b> , Sprachenzentrum, Universität Münster (Münster, Germany)

- 2017–2022**
- 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).
- Course(s): “Academic Writing”; “Debating in English”; “From Seattle to New York: Cultural Studies U.S.A.”
- Pre-Doctoral Instructor**, Department of German Studies, University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
- 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.
- Course(s): “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”
- 2019–2020**
- German Language Instructor**, Language Strides German Language School (Seattle, WA)
- 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).
- Course(s): “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)
- 2016–2017**
- English Language Instructor**, Sprachenzentrum, Universität Münster (Münster, 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).
- Course(s): “Academic Writing”; “Debating in English”; “English Conversation for the Humanities and Social Sciences”; “Language Skills for the Humanities and Social Sciences”
- 2013–2015**
- Graduate Language Instructor**, Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL)
- 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).
- Course(s): “Elementary German I”; “Elementary German II”; “Intermediate German”

2012–2015      **Intern and Substitute Language Instructor**, German School of Tallahassee (Tallahassee, FL)  
Description: organized courses for adults and children and substituted for instructors when they were absent.

## **Administrative and Editorial Experience**

---

2023–2024      **Co-Editor**, *Process: Journal of Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Scholarship* (Digital Journal)  
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.

2021–2022      **International Program Coordinator for Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, and Scandinavia**, NorthWest Student Exchange (Seattle, WA)  
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.

2020–2021      **Lead Teaching Assistant for the German Language Program**, Department of German Studies, University of Washington (Seattle, WA)  
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.

## **Publications**

---

### **Article(s) in Double-Blind Peer-Reviewed Journals**

2024      “The Consolation of Literature: The Discard of Society in Wilhelm Raabe’s *Pfisters Mühle: Ein Sommerferienheft*.” *On\_Culture*, 2024.  
(revise and resubmit)

### **Article(s) in Peer-Reviewed Journals**

2021      “Kleist, Rousseau, and *Das Erdbeben in Chili*: Catastrophe as the Road to Reconciliation.” *Lessing Yearbook/Jahrbuch*, 2021, pp. 151–66.

### Forum Publication(s)

2024 “Goethe’s *Faust* and *Sorge* in the Age of Imperialism and Colonialism.”  
*Goethe Yearbook*, vol. 31, 2024, pp. 151–57.

### Non-Peer-Reviewed/Public-Facing Publication(s)

2023 “Rethinking the West: Promise and Crisis of a Concept.”  
*Transatlanticism*. ([link](#))

2023 “East Comma West - Münster.” *Rethinking the West: Promise and Crisis of a Concept*. ([link](#))

### M.A. Thesis

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

### Book Review(s)

2025 Tautz, Birgit. *Translating the World: Toward a New History of German Literature around 1800*. *Goethe Yearbook*, vol. 31, 2024. ([forthcoming](#))

2024 Turner, Bryan S. *A Theory of Catastrophe*. *Kult\_Online*, 2024. ([in progress](#))

2024 Ebach, Malte. *Goethe in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Enlightened Solutions for Modern Hubris*. *Goethe Yearbook*, vol. 31, 2024, pp. 180–82.

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

### Additional Projects in Progress

2027 *Catastrophe and Critique: A Dialectic of German Modernity*  
(Dissertation Book Project, inquire for details)

2026 *Race and Germany: History, Discourse, Pathways*  
(Co-authored with Jonathan Warren, University of Washington, inquire for details)

2025 *Critical Catastrophe Studies*  
(Volume of essays co-edited with Christoph Weber, inquire for details)

2025 “The Catastrophe Paradigm: Kleist, Critique, and the New World Order.”  
*Critical Catastrophe Studies*, edited by Matthew Childs and Christoph Weber.

2025 “Conclusion: Catastrophe and Critique in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” *Critical Catastrophe Studies*, edited by Matthew Childs and Christoph Weber.

### Conference Papers, Presentations, and Guest Lectures

---

2024 Seminar Participant: “The Diversities of Care in the Long Nineteenth Century.” German Studies Association Annual Conference (upcoming)

2024 “Kuhle Wampe, oder Wem gehört die Welt? Brecht, Epic Theater, and Film.” Guest Lecture for Prof. André Schütze, Department of German Studies, University of Washington

2024	"Sugar High: Capitalist Energies in Wilhelm Raabe's <i>Pfisters Mühle: Ein Sommerferienheft</i> ." Inaugural Workshop of Ohio State University's <i>Umwelt Center for Germanic Studies and Environmental Humanities</i>
2024	"Energetic Waterways: The Flow and Ebb of Germany's Rivers from <i>Werther</i> to <i>Pfisters Mühle</i> ." Modern Languages Association Annual Conference
2023	"Catastrophic Transformations: Changing Perspectives on Catastrophe in Nineteenth-Century German Literature." Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association Annual Conference
2023	"Bild und Wort. Bildende Kunst und literarischer Text im 18. Jahrhundert am Beispiel der Laokoon-Gruppe." Guest Lecture for Prof. Kai Sina, Germanistik-Institut, Universität Münster
2023	"Foggy Pasts, Shifting Presents, Uncertain futures: Wilhelm Raabe's <i>Pfisters Mühle: Ein Sommerferienheft</i> ." ESCCS and TransHumanities Joint Summer School, Justus Liebig Universität Giessen
2023	"The Ethics of Narrating Catastrophe: Kleist's <i>Das Erdbeben in Chili</i> ." 72 <sup>nd</sup> National Postgraduate Colloquium in German Studies, University of London
2019	"'Zuckungen' and 'Gefühlsader': The Desire and Impossibility of Literary Realism in Georg Büchner's <i>Lenz</i> ." German Studies Association Annual Conference
2018	"On Dipesh Chakrabarty's 'The Climate of History: Four Theses.'" Guest Lecture for Prof. Sabine Wilke, Department of German Studies, University of Washington

## **Awards and Fellowships**

---

2023	German Studies Grant (PAMLA)
2022	Heidelberg University Association Scholarship
2022	Simpson Center for the Humanities Society of Scholars Summer Fellowship (University of Washington)
2020–2021	Antoinette Wills Endowed Scholarship (University of Washington)
2020	Gloria Flaherty Scholarship (Goethe Society of North America)
2019–2020	Joff Hanauer Fellowship for Excellence in Western Civilizations (University of Washington)
2015–2016	Max Kade Foundation Fellowship
2015	Sauerlander Scholarship Award (University of Washington)
2015	Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics Graduate Student Excellence Award (Florida State University)
2013	Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics Community Service Award (Florida State University)

## **Professional and Professionalization Activities**

---

2024	<b>Attendee</b> , "Goethe's Welt/Welten." Atkins Goethe Conference, Goethe Society of North America (San Antonio, TX) (upcoming)
------	--

2021–Present	<b>Participant</b> , “Race and Imperialism.” Virtual Reading Group, Goethe Society of North America (Online)
2024	<b>Participant</b> , “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 and the Transatlantik-Programm der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Leipzig, Germany)
2024	<b>Co-Organizer</b> , “Culture and Conflict.” Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
2023	<b>Co-Organizer</b> , Panel Series on “Catastrophe and Critique.” German Studies Association Annual Conference (Montréal, Canada)
2023	<b>Participant</b> , “Hyak Teaching Conference and Workshop.” American Association of Teachers of German, Washington State Chapter (Hyak, WA)
2022	<b>Participant</b> , “Internationaler Ferienkurs für deutsche Sprache und Kultur der Universität Heidelberg.” Heidelberg University (Heidelberg, Germany)
2021	<b>Lead Organizer</b> , “Conceiving the (Un)quiet Mind: Representations of Mental Health in Literature, Media, and Art.” Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
2021	<b>Co-Organizer</b> , “Transcultural Approaches to Europe.” Interdisciplinary Colloquium, University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
2020	<b>Participant</b> , Goethe Society of North America Dissertation Workshop (Online)
2019	<b>Co-Organizer</b> , “Residues and Remnants: (re)Presenting Cultural Memory, Contamination, and Destruction.” Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
2017–2019	<b>Co-Organizer</b> , Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Studies Graduate Research Cluster. University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
2018	<b>Participant</b> , “DaF in den USA: Grundzüge und Perspektiven.” DAAD-Fortbildungskurs, University of California (Berkeley, CA)

## **Service**

---

2023–2024	<b>Graduate Student Representative to the Diversity Committee</b> , Department of German Studies, University of Washington
2021–2022	<b>Arts and Sciences Advisory Council for Students Graduate Student Representative</b> , College of Arts and Sciences, University of Washington
2019–2021	<b>Graduate Student Representative to the Graduate Student Recruitment Committee</b> , Department of German Studies, University of Washington
2020–2021	<b>Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty</b> , Department of German Studies, University of Washington
2019–2020	<b>Graduate Student Representative to the Graduate Curriculum Committee</b> , Department of German Studies, University of Washington
2019–2020	<b>Graduate Student Representative to the Diversity Committee</b> , Department of German Studies, University of Washington

2017–2020            **Co-Organizer for Kaffeestunde**, Department of German Studies,  
University of Washington  
2018–2019            **Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty**, Department of  
German Studies, University of Washington  
2015–2016            **Co-Organizer for Germanics Film Series**, 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**

---

Jason Groves, University of Washington	206.221.2566   <a href="mailto:jagroves@uw.edu">jagroves@uw.edu</a>
Sabine Wilke, University of Washington	206.543.4580   <a href="mailto:wilke@uw.edu">wilke@uw.edu</a>
Klaus Brandl, University of Washington	206.543.6887   <a href="mailto:brandl@uw.edu">brandl@uw.edu</a>
Ellwood Wiggins, University of Washington	206.543.4189   <a href="mailto:wiggins1@uw.edu">wiggins1@uw.edu</a>