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**Ellwood Holler Wiggins, jr.**


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 February, 2025

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**EDUCATION**


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- 2008-2011 **Yale University, Department of German**  
 PhD, German Language and Literature (Dec. 2011)  
 Dissertation: "To Grasp the Minds of Men: Performing Recognition"  
 Adviser: Rüdiger Campe (Committee: Carol Jacobs, Kirk Wetters)
- 2007-2008 **Freie Universität, Berlin**  
 DAAD Research Scholarship, Gerhard Neumann (advisor)
- 2003-2007 **Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD**  
 Masters of Arts, German Language and Literature (May, 2006)
- 2006, Spring **University of Toronto, Canada**  
 Visiting scholar in the Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama
- 2002-2003 **St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM**  
 Masters of Arts, Eastern Classics (August, 2003)
- 2001-2002 **University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**  
 Post-baccalaureate in Classics
- 1995-1996 **Charles University, Prague; Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Rep.**  
 NSEP Fellowship to study Czech and German History and Literature
- 1993-1998 **St. John's College, Annapolis, MD**  
 Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Arts (May, 1998)

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**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**


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- 2023- Chair, Department of German Studies, University of Washington
- 2019- Associate Professor of German Studies, University of Washington
- 2012-2019 Assistant Professor of German Studies, University of Washington
- 2011-2012 Visiting Assistant Professor of German and Humanities, Centre College, KY
- 2000-2001 English Instructor, Birobidzhan State Pedagogical University, Russia

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**FIELDS**


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Sympathy Studies; Affect Theory; Theatre history and practice; Performance Theory;  
 Reception Studies (specifically: Greek Antiquity, Shakespeare, and Eastern Thought);  
 Philosophy & Literature; Science & Literature; Revolution & Art; GDR Theater; Arc TV

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**PUBLICATIONS (\* denotes peer review)**


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**Scholarly Books and Monographs**

\**Odysseys of Recognition: Performing Intersubjectivity in Homer, Aristotle, Shakespeare, Goethe, and Kleist.* Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell University Press, 2019. 319pp.

Reviews:

- John T. Hamilton, *Modern Language Quarterly* 81.2 (2020): 243-245.
- Kristina Mendicino, *The German Quarterly* 93.1 (2020): 144-147.
- Eleanor ter Horst, *German Studies Review* 43.3 (2020): 605-606.
- Jessica Resvick, *Goethe Yearbook* 27 (2020): 383-385.
- Christian Weber, *Lessing Yearbook XLVII* (2020): 230-231.

### Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals

- \*“Sophocles’ *Philoctetes* and the Hidden Structure of Lessing’s *Laocoon*: The Moral Aesthetic of the Scream,” *Lessing Yearbook* 51 (2024): 51-71.
- \*“The Tragic Idealism of Double Consciousness: W.E.B. Du Bois’s *Souls of Black Folks* and Friedrich Schiller’s *Naive and Sentimental Poetry*,” *Monatshefte* 115/3 (2023) 344-64.
- \*“The Latent Radicalism of Aristotle and J.M.R. Lenz,” *German Life and Letters*, 76.1 (2023): 150-172.
- \*“Radical and Moderate Sturm und Drang” (with Martin Wagner) Introduction to Special Issue of *German Life and Letters*, 76.1 (2023): 1-20.
- \*“The Stage of Exception: Politics in Shakespeare’s *Troilus and Cressida*,” *Early Modern Literary Studies* 22.2 (2022) <https://journals.shu.ac.uk/index.php/EMLS/issue/view/19>
- \*“Enduring Myth: The Survival of the Unfit in Sophocles, Heiner Müller, Ursula Krechel, and Hans Blumenberg,” *The Germanic Review* 95.2 (Spring, 2020): 94-113.
- “German Politics and Aesthetics, 1770-1800” (with Martin Wagner), in “Forum on Eighteenth-Century German Studies,” *German Quarterly* 93.2 (Spring, 2020): 276-84.
- \*“Reflecting and Performing Selves: The Fate of Recognition in Kleist’s *Penthesilea*,” *Germanic Studies Review*, 41.2 (2018): 253-74.
- \*“The Myth of Tragedy: Fictions of Dialogue in Mendelssohn’s *Briefe über die Empfindungen* and Shaftesbury’s *The Moralists*,” *Lessing Yearbook/Jahrbuch*, 43 (2016): 35-54.
- \*“Cold War Compassion: The Politics of Pity in Tom Stoppard’s *Neutral Ground* and Heiner Müller’s *Philoktet*,” *Literatur für Leser*, 4/15 (2015): 255-269.
- \*“Kleist’s Four Causes: Narration and Etiology in *Das Erdbeben in Chili*,” *Modern Language Notes*, 130/3 (April 2015): 580-606.
- \*“Depicting Artist and Viewer: Performed Aesthetics in Kālidāsa’s *Śakuntalā*” *The International Journal of the Arts in Society*, 6/6 (Sept. 2012): 179-192.
- \*“Dramas of Knowledge: The ‘Fortunate Event’ of Recognition” *Goethe Yearbook*, 17 (2010): 203-222.

### Book Chapters

- \*“Introduction” (with Martin Wagner), in J. M. R. Lenz. *Works: Plays, Stories, Poems, and Essays*. Ed., trans. Martin Wagner and Ellwood Wiggins. (Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2019), 1-22.
- “Pity Plea: Sympathy and Spectatorship in G.E. Lessing and Adam Smith” in: *Performing Knowledge in the Long Eighteenth Century*, ed. Mary Helen Dupree and Sean Franzel (De Gruyter: Berlin/Boston, 2015) 85-112.

### Translations

- \*J. M. R. Lenz. *Works: Plays, Stories, Poems, and Essays*. Ed., trans. Martin Wagner and Ellwood Wiggins. (Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2019).
- Reviews:
  - David Hill, *Translation and Literature* 29.2 (2020): 261–65.
  - Mary Helen Dupree, *Goethe Yearbook* 29 (2022): 288–91.
- Rüdiger Campe, *The Game of Probability: Literature and Calculation between Pascal and Kleist* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2013).
- Essays, articles, and talks by Rüdiger Campe, Bettine Menke, and Benno Wagner (2004-10).
- Libretto of Händel’s Oratorium *Balshazaar* (English to German, for surtitles during performance), Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Berlin (June, 2008).

### Invited Book Reviews

- Stellvertretung: Zur Szene der Person*, Katrin Trüstedt (Göttingen: Konstanz UP, 2022), *Seminar* 60.1 (2024): 65-68.
- Antikerezeption in Deutschland von der Renaissance bis in unsere Zeit*, Niklas Holzberg (Baden-Baden: Rombach Wissenschaft, 2022), *Monatshefte* 115.3 (2023): 468-70.
- The Problem of the Actress in Modern German Theater and Thought*, S.E. Jackson (Rochester: Camden House, 2021), *German Studies Review* 45.3 (2022): 579-581.
- Four Fools in the Age of Reason: Laughter, Cruelty, and Power in Early Modern Germany*, Dorinda Outram (Charlottesville and London: University of Virginia Press, 2019), *German Studies Review* 43.2 (2020): 397-99.
- Persistence of Folly: On the Origins of German Dramatic Literature*, Joel B. Lande (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2018), *Goethe Yearbook* 27 (2020): 370-72.
- Connected by the Ear: The Media, Pedagogy, and Politics of the Romantic Lecture*, Sean Franzel (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2013), *German Studies Review* 40/1 (2017): 183-85.
- Goethe's Faust and Cultural Memory: Comparative Interfaces*, ed. Lorna Fitzsimmons (Bethlehem: Lehigh University Press, 2012), *Comparative Literature Studies* 53/3 (2016) 621-624.
- Security: Politics, Humanity, and the Philology of Care*, John T. Hamilton (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2013), *MLQ* 75/3 (2015) 393-396.

### Public Facing Scholarship

- [“The Transatlantic Origins of Double Consciousness: W.E.B. Du Bois in Berlin”](#) (Solicited blog post for Transatlantic Literary History, October 2021)

### Editorial

- German Life and Letters*, vol 76, vol 1, 2023, co-editor with Martin Wagner of Special Issue on “Radical and Moderate Sturm und Drang.”

### In Progress

- “Strange Pity: Philoctetes and the Ethics of Sympathy from the Trojan to the Iraq Wars” (Monograph in progress)
- “Speaking for Dionysus: Empathy and Choral Advocacy in Aristotle and Nietzsche” (Article under review)

### INVITED TALKS

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- “Mozart’s *Magic Flute* and the Limits of (the) Enlightenment,” Seattle Opera, February 4, 2025
- “The Ethics and Aesthetics of Sympathy in Sophocles’ *Philoctetes*” Friday Night Lecture Series, St. John’s College, Annapolis, MD, October 11, 2024
- “Props to Goethe: Staging Things” Invited Lecture, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, October 13, 2024
- “Adapting (to) Philoctetes: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Sympathy,” Invited Lecture, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, June 23, 2022
- “Adapting (to) Philoctetes: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Sympathy,” Invited Lecture, WWU Münster, June 21, 2022
- “Seductive Screams: Lessing and the Aesthetics of Sympathy in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century,” Invited Lecture, University of Calgary, School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, March 3, 2017

“Old is the New New: Reinventing Catharsis from Bourgeois Tragedy to Postdramatic Theater,” Performing Arts Lecture Series: Revisiting New Drama, UW School of Drama, Seattle, WA, February 16, 2016

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected)

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- “From Hausfreund to Weltfreund: Constructing the World in Johann Peter Hebel’s *Kalendergeschichten*,” Goethe Society of North America (GSNA) Atkins Conference, San Antonio, Texas, Nov 7-9, 2024
- “Sympathy and Catharsis in Sophocles and Aristotle,” Ancient Philosophy Workshop PNW, University of Washington, Seattle, Sept 20-21, 2024
- “Neoptolemus on the Emotional Frontier: Passions and Enculturation in Sophocles’ *Philoctetes*,” Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest (CAPN), Eugene, Oregon, March 15-16, 2024
- “Speaking for Dionysus: Advocacy and Tragic Sympathy,” Speaking for Others and Oneself. Triangular Communication: History and Critique, Yale University, Sept 8, 2023
- “Props to Goethe: Stage Objects between Function and Symbol,” Goethe Society of North America (GSNA) Atkins Conference, Chicago, Nov 4-6, 2021
- “Refracted Revolutions in Büchner’s Paris and Shakespeare’s Rome and Vienna,” German Studies Association (GSA) Annual Conference, Oct 1-4, 2020
- “Radical and Moderate Aristotles: Lessing and Lenz Take Action,” Lessing Society Roundtable, Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Conference, Jan 2020.
- “Performing the Swoon: States of Unconscious between Lessing and Herder,” GSA Annual Conference, Portland Oregon, Oct 4-6, 2019
- “Agonistic Pain and Identity in Adam Smith, G. E. Lessing, and J. G. Herder” International Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS), International Congress on the Enlightenment, Edinburgh, July 15-19, 2019
- “From Compassion to Empathy: The Bifurcation of Sympathy in Fénelon’s *Adventures of Telemachus*” Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association (PAMLA), Annual Conference, Bellingham, WA, November 9-11, 2018
- “Endurance is Dead; Long Live Survival!” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), Annual Conference, UCLA, March 29-31, 2018
- “Reorienting Catharsis: Wilhelm Meister’s Mousetrap of Hamlet,” Goethe Society of North America (GSNA) Atkins Conference, Penn State University, November 3-4, 2017
- “Hosts of Recognitions: Anagnorisis and the Political in Johann Peter Hebel’s *Kalendergeschichten*,” GSA, Annual Conference, San Diego, Sept 29-October 2, 2016
- “Seeing I, Echoing Eye: Reflections of Self in Kleist’s *Penthesilea*,” Visions: Feminism and Classics VII, University of Washington, Seattle, May 19-22, 2016
- “Too Late! The Nostalgia of Epic Reversal and Recognition,” ACLA, Cambridge, MA, March 17-20, 2016
- “The Myth of Tragedy: The Roles of Fiction in Mendelssohn’s *Letters on the Sentiments*,” The Roles of Fiction in Early-Modern Philosophy, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, April 17-18, 2015
- “A Strange or Terrible Pity: Philoctetes and the Aesthetics of Sympathy,” ACLA, Seattle, WA, March 23-24, 2015
- “Performing Aporeia: Subject and Object of Catharsis in Postdramatic Theater,” American Society for Theater Research (ASTR), Baltimore, MD, November 20-23, 2014
- “Figures of Recognition: Performing Goethe’s *Iphigenie*,” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS), Annual Conference, Williamsburg, VA, March 19-22, 2014

- “Stage of Exception: Politics and Theatricality in Shakespeare’s *Troilus and Cressida*,”  
ACLA, Toronto, April 4-7, 2013
- “A Show of Pity: Sentimental Theatricality in Lessing and Smith,” GSA, 36<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Conference, Milwaukee, October 4-7, 2012
- “Natural Artistry: Images of Imagery in Kālidāsa’s *Śakuntalā*,” 6th International Conference  
on the Arts in Society, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities,  
Germany, May 9-10, 2011
- “The Theory of Post-Dramatic Theatre: Aristotle, for Example,” Introductory presentation for  
a colloquium with Hans-Thies Lehmann, Yale University, German Department and  
Drama School, April 31, 2010
- “Shakespeare’s German Apprenticeship: Wilhelm Meister’s Mousetrap,” Theater,  
Performance, Destination, ASTR 2009 Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November  
12-15, 2009
- “Before the Eyes of the Spirit: the *Anagnorisis*-Scene between Goethe and Schiller,” Goethe  
and the Post-Classical, GSNA, University of Pittsburgh, November 6-9, 2008
- “Narration, Society and Causality in *Das Erdbeben in Chili*,” Containment and Subversion:  
The Work and Person of Heinrich von Kleist, University of London, October 4-5,  
2007
- “A Rhetorics to Live By: Adam Müller’s Recasting of Plato,” The International Conference  
on Romanticism, Arizona State University, November 9-12, 2006
- “Caution – You are entering the Theatrical Zone: three East German *Hamlets*,” German  
Space(s): Graduate Student Conference, University of Toronto, November 2-3, 2006
- “Morphology of Plants and Men: a reading of Goethe with Mencius,” The Permanence of  
Change: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual German Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison,  
April 1-2, 2005
- “Using Drama in Literature Classes,” Workshops on Teaching Methodologies, Peace Corps  
Russian Far East, Vladivostok, Russia, 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2001