

Max Kade Berlin Fellowship



A photograph of a person walking away from the camera on a large, white, curved architectural structure that resembles a giant's foot or a series of large, curved steps. The person is wearing a dark jacket and light-colored pants. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds. The structure is made of light-colored panels with visible joints.

The Fellowship

The [Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies](#) at [Freie Universität Berlin](#) is proud to offer two postdoctoral fellowships each academic year funded by the [Max Kade Foundation](#) since 2017. We are indebted to the [German Studies Association](#) (GSA), our North American cooperation partner and co-sponsor for their initiative to secure the foundation's support in order to strengthen postdoctoral research opportunities in the Berlin Program.

The Max Kade Foundation, an endowed private foundation, has a strong commitment to foster a cross-cultural understanding between German-speaking countries and the United States. Founded in 1944, by Max Kade and his wife Annette, the foundation's initial goal was to help Germany recover from the effects of World War II—in Max Kade's words “to sow the seeds of friendship where there had been enmity.” In their mission to enable international understanding the Foundation supports multi-level academic exchange, i.e. undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral and faculty exchange but also supports the renovation and construction of learning centers, student residences and cafeterias. Here in Berlin, the Foundation has been instrumental in supporting the renovation of the university's main lecture hall, the [Henry-Ford-Bau](#), from 2005 to 2007.

The support by the Max Kade Foundation has allowed the program to increase the number of our postdoc fellows from two to four in a group with ten fellows working on dissertation projects. This has led to a more intense transfer of knowledge in our research colloquium, which serves as a central platform for all fellows to present, discuss, and support each other's work. In this vital forum, the postdocs have been instrumental in the progress made by all fellows during their research stay. As more advanced scholars in our group, they share their knowledge and experience regarding questions of research design, research planning, archival work, interviews, and academic writing. Postdocs keep guiding our group on how to tackle difficult challenges e.g. narrowing the research focus, structuring findings, and avoiding common pitfalls. In short, our Max Kade fellows have been pillars in our program and we hope to continue our highly productive relationship with the Max Kade Foundation for many years to come.



Fellows & their Projects

Fellows 2024/25

Alexander L. Compton

Emory University, History

Dissertation revision: *A World without Race: Decolonization and the Global Politics of Integration in Cold War Germany, 1949-1975*

New project: *Ecologies of Liberation: Race and Environmental Justice in Multicultural Europe, 1975 - Present*

Noelle McMurtry

Johns Hopkins University, Voice and Musicology

Dissertation revision: *Cornflowers and Heather: The 'In-Between' Songs of Luise Adolpha Le Beau*

Fellows 2023/24

Sarah Jacobson

Michigan State University, History

Dissertation revision: *Southern Italian Migrants and Housing Activism in Italy and West Germany during the Long 1970s*

New project: *The Construction of Transnational Migrant Social Assistance Networks Between Italy and West Germany, 1950s-1970s*

Duncan Lien

Pennsylvania State University, Comparative Literature

Dissertation revision: *Allotropes of Realism: The Bilingual Political Imaginary of Turkish-German Literature (1972-2015)*

New project: *Nachhaltig Mehrsprachig?*

Fellows 2022/23

Mimi Cheng

University of Rochester, Visual Studies

Dissertation revision: *China on the Horizon: German Orientalism and the Colonial Built Environment, 1860-1914*

New project: *Cartographic Orientalism*

Alexander Petrusek

Rutgers University, History

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*

A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows a paved road at dusk. In the background, a tall water tower with a spherical top is visible against a pink and purple sky. A yellow road sign with black text is partially visible near the base of the water tower.

Fellows 2021/22

Mary E. Hennessy

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, German Studies

Dissertation revision: *Handmaidens of Modernity: Gender, Labor, and Media in Weimar Germany*

New project: *Behind the Scenes: Women, Work, and German Cinema*

Laura R. Phillips

Yale University, Art History

Dissertation revision: *Realism as Aesthetic Education in the Work of Adolph Menzel*

New project: *Modernism in Munich: Franz von Stuck and the Music of the Spheres*

Fellows 2020/21

Lauren K. Cubellis

Washington University in St. Louis, Anthropology

Dissertation revision: *Valuing Crisis: Anxiety, Cost, and Care in German Psychiatry*

New project: *Discerning Need—Peer Professionals and the Implementation of the Federal Participation Law for People with Psychiatric Disabilities in Berlin*

Marta R. Faust

UC Santa Barbara, Art History

From Obsolescence to Fine Art: Woodcut Revivals in Eighteenth-Century Europe

Fellows 2019/20

Emily E. S. Barthold

Georgetown University, German Literature

Dissertation revision: *The Thirty Years' War as Unifying Heritage: How Historical Fiction Writers Portrayed Religion, Machtpolitik, and Nation (1871–1920)*

New project: *The Imagery of Germany at War*

Carolyn D. Taratko

Vanderbilt University, History

Feeding Germany: Food, Land, and the Social Question, 1871–1923



Fellows 2018/19

Nichole M. Neuman

Kansas State University, German & Cinema Studies

Itinerancy in/of German Film

Joshua C. Rahtz

University of California, Los Angeles, History

The Politics of Order: Ordo-Liberalism from the Inter-war Period through the Long 1970s

Fellows 2017/18

Maureen O. Gallagher

Lafayette College, German Studies

Reading German Whiteness: Race, Gender, and Wilhelmine Youth Culture in a Global Age

Scott H. Krause

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, History

Transatlantic Campaigns for a Progressive Germany. Informal German-American Networks in Berlin and Washington, 1933–1998

New project: *Red Stars in the Southern Cross: Socialism, Apartheid, and the Struggle for Namibian Independence*



Imprint

Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies

Freie Universität Berlin
Ehrenbergstr. 26/28
14195 Berlin
Germany

Tel.: +49 30 838 56671

Email: bprogram@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Website: www.fu-berlin.de/bprogram

German Studies Association

Email: operations@thegsa.org

Website: www.thegsa.org

Journal: [German Studies Review](#)

Photo Credits

Cover photo by Stefan Müller-Naumann,
FU Berlin; Photos on p. 2 by Ole Witt
on Unsplash; pp. 3 & 4 by Jonas Tebbe
on Unsplash; p. 5 by Sophie Franke,
Berlin Program.

Text by Karin Goihl

Editorial Design by Sophie Franke &
Lea Kröner

© Copyright Freie Universität Berlin
2025