



Berlin Program Alumni Panel
**INTEGRATION IN THEORY AND
PRACTICE, 1960 - 2010**

SEPTEMBER 2014 | REPORT

Berlin Program Alumni Panel Report
at the 38th Annual GSA Conference in Kansas City, Missouri
September 20, 2014, 4:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Century A

Integration in Theory and Practice, 1960-2010

Integration is, and has been, a buzzword, a main component of journalistic discourse, as well as the foundational concept for public policy and federal immigration policies both in Germany and across Europe. Yet, in debating the necessity of integration or discussing its meaning, scholarly research needs to set the conceptual ideal of integration alongside its practice. This panel seeks to connect the theory of integration to integrative practices across Germany by conceiving of integration policies as an apparatus of governmentality. Bringing together papers connecting different theories of integration to examples of integrative measures in practice, this panel demonstrates how plans to integrate foreigners were often simultaneously supported and undermined through the very local and national initiatives designed to implement the theoretical goal of integration. To do so, these papers consider not only how integration was conceptualized, but also how material considerations and practical concerns influenced efforts to reach an integrative ideal.

MODERATOR: Jennifer Miller, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Dept. of History

COMMENTATOR: Jeffrey Jurgens, Bard College, Dept. of Anthropology

SESSION ORGANIZER: Brittany Lehman, UNC, Chapel Hill, Dept. of History

The Demands of Integration

Johanna Schuster-Craig, Cornell College, Dept. of German

Integration and Public Schools: Vorbereitungsklassen for Migrant Children, 1960-1985

Brittany Lehman (Berlin Program 2013-2014), UNC Chapel Hill, Dept. of History

Staging Integration: Berlin-Wedding's Volkshochschule and the Youth Theater Workshop, Kulis, in the 1980s and 1990s

Sarah Thomson Vierra, New England College, Dept. of History

The 2014 Berlin Program Panel, "Integration in Theory and Practice, 1960-2010," featured three papers by Johanna Schuster-Craig, Brittany Lehman, and Sarah Thomsen Vierra. It was moderated by Jennifer Miller with comments by Jeffrey Jurgens. Seeking to bring the rhetoric of integration into conversation with specific institutional and quotidian practices, the three presenters examined the ambiguities, tensions, and occasional successes of the Federal Republic's engagement with migrant populations. Schuster-Craig sought to move beyond the commonplace notion of integration as a discourse in order to theorize it as an apparatus of intersecting idioms, administrative measures, regulatory decisions, and scientific statements. She emphasized the multiple "senses of urgency" to which the apparatus of integration responded, and she drew attention to the ways it helped to

constitute particular modes of identity and subjectivity. Lehman, meanwhile, highlighted the significant gaps between policy formulation and institutional practice that defined the efforts of *Länder* governments to promote the integration of migrant children through primary school programs in the 1960s and 1970s. She argued that underfunding and understaffing may have prevented widespread success, but that the programs were helpful when they were available and adequately implemented. Finally, Vierra traced the history of the Deutsch-Türkisches Jugendtheater, a theater troupe affiliated with the Wedding *Volkshochschule*, in order to explore how young people of both migrant and non-migrant backgrounds negotiated the terms of cross-ethnic engagement in the 1980s and early 1990s. On the basis of this group's collaborative work, she pointed to some of the ways that integration was imagined and practiced not on the level of state policy, but in and through the intensive commitment of local actors. Taken together, the papers worked from complementary angles to offer useful insights into the complexities of migrant incorporation in Germany. They underscored the analytical challenges and rewards of relating the work of governance to everyday social life.

Report by **Jeffrey Jurgens, Bard College, Berlin Program Fellow 1999-2000**
Brittany Lehman, UNC Chapel Hill, Berlin Program Fellow 2013-14

MODERATOR

Jennifer Miller is associate professor of Modern German History at the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and holds a PhD in Modern European History with minor fields in Global and Comparative History and Women's and Gender History from Rutgers University. Her research focuses on the history of modern Germany, the Holocaust, Europe since 1945 and modern Turkey as well as migration in Europe. Jennifer Miller was a Berlin Program Fellow 2006-2007.

COMMENTATOR

Jeffrey Jurgens received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Michigan. He is currently Fellow for Anthropology and Social Theory at the Bard Prison Initiative and Academic Co-Director of the Consortium for the Liberal Arts in Prison. Both projects are Bard College programs that aim to provide an ambitious liberal arts education to incarcerated students in New York State and around the U.S. Jurgens specializes in topics related to migration, citizenship, public memory, urban space, and secularism among (post)migrants from Turkey in Berlin. His publications have appeared in *American Ethnologist*, *Policy and Society*, and *Transit*, among other journals and edited volumes. Jeffrey Jurgens was a Berlin Program Fellow 1999-2000.

PARTICIPANTS

Johanna Schuster-Craig is an assistant professor of German Studies at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, where she directs the German Studies program. She is at work on a book entitled *The Demands of Integration: How One Word Shapes a Nation* which explores the development of integration policies since the 1970s, institutional performances of "integration," as well as cultural responses to *Integrationspolitik*. She is a previous recipient of a German Chancellor Fellowship from

the Alexander von Humboldt foundation and participated in the first Fulbright-DAAD Sommerakademie für amerikanische Germanistikprofessoren this summer.

Brittany Lehman is a doctoral candidate in modern European History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2004, she completed a B.A. at University of California, Santa Cruz in European History and in 2007 an M.S. in Library and Information Science at Simmons College. Funded a fellowship with the Berlin Program and grants from the DAAD, and the Central European History Society, her dissertation “Teaching Migrant Children: The Evolution of Education Policy in the FRG and Europe, 1949-1992” is an interdisciplinary look at school initiatives for foreign nationals in Germany after the Second World War. Brittany Lehman was a Berlin Program Fellow 2013-14 and organized this panel.

Sarah Thomson Vierra is an assistant professor at New England College in New Hampshire. A Humboldt Scholar, Vierra completed her dissertation “At Home in Almanyā?: Turkish-German Spaces of Belonging in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1961-1990” in 2011 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for which she was awarded the 2012 Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize. Her Master’s Thesis, “Representing reality: Literature, film, and the construction of Turkish-German identity,” was completed in 2006.

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- Summer Workshop 2013: Germany Looks East
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- Alumni Panel 2012: A New Era of German Bevölkerungspolitik? Legacies and Myths in German Discourses on Demography

Upcoming events – Mark your calendar!

- Summer Workshop 2015: War, Civil Disobedience and the Rise of Neoliberalism
- GSA Distinguished Lecture 2015: Arnold Schoenberg’s *A Survivor from Warsaw in Postwar Europe*: Musical Remigration and Holocaust Commemoration

Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies
 Freie Universität Berlin | Garystraße 45 | 14195 Berlin | Germany
<http://www.fu-berlin.de/bprogram>

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