

Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin

The program promotes a new generation of young North American scholars with specialized knowledge of modern and contemporary Germany and Europe. The program supports scholars in all social science and humanities disciplines, including historians working on the period since the mid-18th century. Fellowships are awarded for doctoral dissertation research as well as postdoctoral research.

The Berlin Program offers a stimulating academic environment that combines excellent research opportunities at one of Germany's most distinguished research universities with intellectual and cultural interaction. Our colloquium serves as a central meeting point for all fellows to share, discuss and support each other's work. Guided by eminent scholars, the program colloquium also seeks to address current German public debates, invites distinguished guests and arranges cultural excursions.

Essential to the program's mission is our close cooperation with our North American partner, the German Studies Association (www.thegsa.org) — the largest organization of scholars, professionals, and students who focus on the study of German-speaking Europe from all periods of history and all relevant disciplines. Each year, our Summer Workshop, the GSA Distinguished Lecture at Freie Universität Berlin as well as our Alumni Panel at the GSA Annual Conference in the U.S. provide a forum for scholarly exchange and seek to strengthen ties between fellows, alumni and the academic community in Berlin and beyond.

GSA Memory Studies Network

The Interdisciplinary Memory Studies Network seeks to bring together scholars working on remembrance in Germany and beyond from many different perspectives, institutions and regions.

Berlin Program events in recent years have been:

Summer Workshop 2017:

Continuities and Ruptures: Reflections on Crucial Concepts

GSA Distinguished Lecture 2017:

Sabine Hake, University of Texas at Austin:
The Proletarian Prometheus

Alumni Panel 2016:

Refugees, Migrants, Citizens: Germany's Recurring Complexities of Becoming a Country of Immigration

Summer Workshop 2016:

Becoming TransGerman: Transnational, Transdisciplinary, Transgender, Transhuman

GSA Distinguished Lecture 2016:

Irene Kacandes, Dartmouth College:
Memory Work for/in the 21st Century

Mark Your Calendar

for the next fellowship competition.

Deadline: **December 1.**

Applications will be accepted as of
November 1, 2017.

For further information, visit our website at
<http://www.fu-berlin.de/bprogram>

Credits:

Digital design: Daniel Calzada

Cover Image: „Ernst-Reuter-Platz“ by René Staedtler

‘The Christian, Democratic Values of the West?’:

Humanitarianism and Memory in Postwar Germany

Berlin Program Alumni Panel
at the 41st Annual GSA Conference in Atlanta
Friday, October 6, 2017, 4:15 PM – 6:00 PM
Grand Salon E



'The Christian, Democratic Values of the West?': Humanitarianism and Memory in Postwar Germany

(Alumni Panel of the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, co-sponsored by the GSA Memory Studies Network)

Moderator:

Suzanne Marchand, Louisiana State University

Commentator:

Michael Meng, Clemson University

Participants:

René Staedtler, University of Maryland

War Criminals and Humanitarianism – The Red Cross as an Interlocutor in the Politics of Justice between France and West Germany after World War II

Jennifer L. Rodgers, University of Pennsylvania

The Archives of Humanity: The International Tracing Service, the Holocaust, and Postwar Order

Peter Gengler, UNC Chapel Hill

Appeals to the World Conscience: Expelles and the Construction and Leveraging of German Victimhood, 1945-1955

The enormous suffering caused by World War II, the Holocaust, and its aftermath led to a steep increase in an interest into universalist ideas such as human rights and humanitarianism. These ideals were promoted as “safeguards of civilization” which would protect “civilian populations from the horrors of another war” (1947 International Red Cross Conference). However, the conflicting intersections between humanitarianism and divergent memories of a violent past opened opportunities to pursue self-interest and implement political agendas. We will explore how and why state and non-state actors

such as the Federal Government of Germany, the Red Cross, the International Tracing Service (ITS), and the West German Expellee Organization utilized a humanitarianism which claimed to represent universal Christian, democratic, and western values to legitimize attempts to revise the postwar order and to negotiate the history of Nazism and the war.

Suzanne Marchand is Boyd Professor of History at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, where she specializes in European intellectual history. She is author of *German Orientalism in the Age of Empire: Religion, Race, and Scholarship* (2009) and *Down From Olympus: Archaeology and Philhellenism in Germany, 1750-1970* (1996). In addition to numerous scholarly articles, Suzanne Marchand has coauthored the innovative world history textbook *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A History of the World From the Beginnings of Humankind to the Present* (W.W. Norton, 2002) and a new European history textbook, *Many Europes: Chance and Choice in Western Civilization* (McGraw Hill, 2013).

Michael Meng is Associate Professor of History at Clemson University. His first book, *Shattered Spaces: Encountering Jewish Ruins in Postwar Germany and Poland*, appeared with Harvard University Press in 2011. The book won the Hans Rosenberg Prize of the Central European History Society. A volume co-edited with Erica Lehrer, *Jewish Space in Contemporary Poland*, appeared in 2015 with Indiana University Press. He has published articles in *Central European History*, *Contemporary European History*, *German History*, *New German Critique*, and *The Journal of Modern History*. Michael was a Berlin Program Fellow 2006/07.

René Staedtler is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at the University of Maryland, College Park. His dissertation project focuses on the relationship

between Franco-German reconciliation and justice for the victims of Nazi crimes in France. By examining emerging Franco-German networks which lobbied for a shift from retributive justice to amnesty, he argues that justice against perpetrators was forsaken in the interest of Franco-German reconciliation and European integration. René was a Berlin Program Fellow in 2015/16.

Jennifer Rodgers is a 2013-2014 alumna of the Berlin Program. She received her PhD in History from the University of Pennsylvania in 2014. Following her tenure in Berlin, Rodgers was a postdoctoral fellow at the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, the American Council on Germany, and the University of South Florida. She is currently an adjunct professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania, where she will be teaching courses on gender in World War II Europe and the history of Berlin. Rodgers is finishing a manuscript based on her dissertation titled *The Archives of Humanity: The International Tracing Service, the Holocaust, and Postwar Order* and also has begun work on a second monograph that explores the history of childbirth in Germany from 1871-1990.

Peter Gengler is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he also received his M.A. in 2013 with a master's thesis on the Ravensbrück concentration camp memorial between 1945 and 1990. His research broadly focuses on postwar German cultural memories of war and dictatorship. Peter is currently completing his dissertation, *'Flight and Expulsion': Expellee Victimhood Narratives and Memory Politics in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1944-1990*, which was supported by the Berlin Program and the DAAD during the academic years 2015-2016 and is advised by Professor Konrad H. Jarausch. Peter was a Berlin Program Fellow in 2015/16.