

FACULTY NEWS

Manuela Achilles spent the past academic year on Sabbatical in Charlottesville, during which she completed a manuscript on constitutional patriotism in Weimar Germany and started a new book project on Hitler and the Holocaust. Manuela, Director of both the Center for German Studies and the European Studies M.A. program, holds a dual appointment in the German and History Departments. Her recent teaching highlights included a new graduate research methods seminar for UVA's emerging Regional Studies Consortium, as well as a new undergraduate class on Fascism in Global Perspective (taught with Kyrill Kunakhovich). In addition, Manuela organized and participated in a number of interdisciplinary and transregional initiatives. Together with German Department Chair Jeffrey Grossman, Manuela conceptualized and co-organized UVA's German American Campus Weeks collaboration with the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. The semester-long series of events revolved around exhibits on Jewish Life in Germany; Sophie Scholl and the White Rose Resistance Movement, and a number of informational panels about the 2021 German election. Working with colleagues Asher Biemann (Religious Studies) and Marcel Schmid (German), Manuela organized and co-hosted an international symposium on "The State as Experiment," in honor of Austrian Jewish social philosopher Josef Popper-Lynkeus. The three-day conference opened with a keynote lecture by renowned sociology professor George Steinmetz

(University of Michigan) and closed with a public conversation with His Excellency Martin Weiss, Ambassador of Austria to the United States. During UVA's 2022 spring break, Manuela co-organized a Study Tour to Weimar and Berlin, focused on the themes of Memory and Democracy. Facilitated and funded by the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Washington D.C., this tour took a diverse group of UVA faculty, students, and Charlottesville community leaders to prominent German memorial sites, such as the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin and the Concentration Camp Buchenwald Memorial in Weimar. The study tour was part of an ongoing collaboration between the Heinrich Böll Foundation and UVA's Center for German Studies, created by Manuela (with Hannah Winnick) in 2017, in response to the far-right rally on our university's grounds and in downtown Charlottesville. More information on the Center for German Studies' collaboration with the Heinrich Böll foundation may be found on the Center-for-German-Studies Facebook page. Manuela's research papers, including a publication about the Memory and Democracy Partnership, may be found here: <https://virginia.academia.edu/ManuelaAchilles>



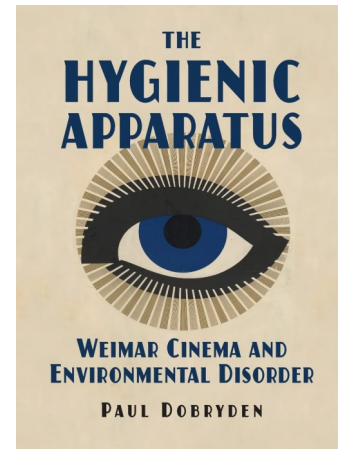
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Lore Amlinger, who received her Ph.D. in German from UVA in 1986 and taught in our German Department, as well as at Washington & Lee and the Virginia Military Institute, died in April 2021 at age 94. Lore's publications include *Germany and the United States: Changing Perceptions-Danger and Hope* (1985).

Benjamin Bennett has several irons in the fire. His book manuscript *Gender Ascendant: The Dawn of Feminist Theory in Eighteenth-Century German Writing* is being looked at by a publisher; his next book *The Case against Literature: A Chapter in the Politics of Intellect* is, in Ben's words, "about a third done." Finally, Ben has an article forthcoming in *Mosaic*, "Experimental Reading: For the Anarchic Reading of Poetry."



Paul Dobryden's book, titled *The Hygienic Apparatus. Weimar Cinema and Environmental Disorder*, was published by Northwestern University in the spring of 2022. Following publication, the Weimar Film Network organized a virtual book launch; Paul participated in a number of events, including a podcast for the New Books Network hosted by historian Paul Lerner of USC; a presentation at the Virginia Film Festival; and a conversation with film scholar Anjeana Hans of Wellesley College, hosted by UVA's Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures. According to the publisher, Paul's book traces "how the environmental effects of industrialization reverberated through the cinema of Germany's Weimar Republic... Examining classic films—including *The Last Laugh*, *Faust*, and *Kuhle Wampe*—as well as documentaries, cinema architecture, and studio practices, Paul Dobryden demonstrates how cinema envisioned and interrogated hygienic concerns about environmental disorder." In addition, Paul recently taught a new course, "Infectious: Contagion and Culture," which looked at "everything from the art of the Black Death to vampires and zombies and internet memes."





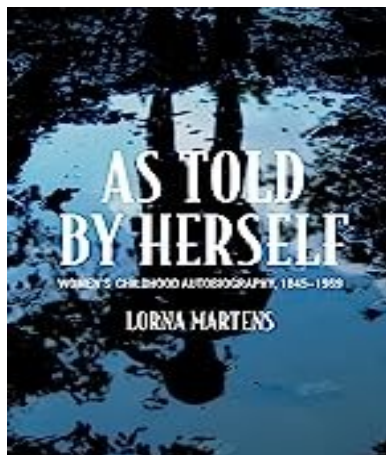
Our Department Chair, **Jeffrey Grossman**, has just completed a long-awaited sabbatical, which he devoted to his book with the working title *Wandering Texts: Yiddish Translation and Jewish Self-Fashioning in German Culture*. Jeff's recent publications include a 2021 article titled "Freeing the Shtetl from the Ghetto Prism: Sholem Asch and Dovid Bergelson German Translation," in *Nexus: Essays in German Jewish Studies*. Jeff also published several reviews, as well as a guest column/op-ed piece in a February 2022 issue of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, with the title "Anti-Semitism Envoy Should Chart New Course." The piece presents the argument that historian Deborah Lipstadt, recently-appointed Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, should adopt the Jerusalem Declaration on anti-Semitism, rather than the definition adopted by International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Finally, Jeff's article, "The Knowledge of Ghetto Tales," has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming multivolume handbook titled *Deutschsprachig-jüdische Literatur von der Aufklärung bis zur Gegenwart - Neue Forschungszugänge in Paradigmen*.

During Jeff's sabbatical, **Chad Wellmon** served as Acting Chair.



Julia Guterman's article "A Secret Thing: Forgetting the Author in Anette von Droste-Hülshoff's 'Das erste Gedicht'" is forthcoming in the *The German Quarterly*. Her book-in-progress, tentatively titled "Spielarten des Heimlichen: Anette von Droste-Hülshoff wiedergelesen mit Walter Benjamin," is under contract with Walter de Gruyter. In addition, Julia has begun a research project concerning contemporary German literature and its intersections with disability studies. She is currently completing an article entitled "Shaking Mermaid. On Epilepsy as Metaphor in Sasha Marianna Salzmann's *Außer sich*" and will present on this topic at the 2023 German Studies Association Conference as well as at the 2025 congress of the International Association for Germanic Studies (Graz, Austria). Moreover, Julia has developed two new classes that satisfy the literature requirement for the German major and minor. In Fall 2022, she offered the upper-level undergraduate seminar "New Voices," which focused on texts by Saša Stanišić, Khuê Pham, Katja Petrowskaja, and Fatma Aydemir. In reading these authors, students explored how contemporary German literature is situated at the intersections of multilingualism and transnationalism and learned to re-imagine traditional conceptions of German cultural production and identity. Sharon Dodua Otoo's novel *Adas Raum* (2021) formed the cornerstone of her seminar "Black German Literature" in Fall 2021. In Spring 2022, Julia also designed and taught the University Seminar "Dream-Life," which invited first-year students across all departments to investigate the topic of dreams in texts by authors ranging from Descartes to Freud and Kafka. The seminar featured her collaborative translations of German Jewish poet Gertrud Kolmar's *Animal Dreams*, which have appeared in the *Asymptote Journal of Translation* (2019).



Lorna Martens writes: "The book that I have been working on for years finally appeared!" The book, *As Told by Herself: Women's Childhood Autobiography, 1845-1969* (University of Wisconsin Press), recently received a highly positive review from Hull University English professor Valerie Sanders. Sanders writes that "[o]ne of the most pleasurable aspects of reading Martens' jargon-free prose is her knack of summarizing themes or characteristics in a succinct, sometimes witty phrase... Where Martens especially excels, and is particularly helpful to historians and critics of this genre, is in her succinct but detailed summaries of each period of childhood autobiography history and development. Each looks back to the decades just discussed but also addresses the continuities of style and subject as well as the innovations associated with this kind of writing." Concluding her review, Sanders writes that Lorna's "encyclopaedic study ensures that we will never again overlook the importance of this genre, or its ability to recount extraordinary girlhoods." In other news, Lorna attended the International Narrative Conference and gave a paper with the title "Silence as Device," in June 2022. International Conference on Narrative, Chichester UK June 28, 2022.

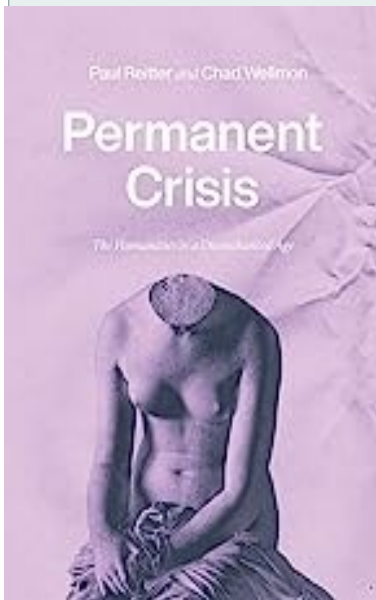
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This fall, **Bill McDonald** is offering his popular King Arthur course titled “Medieval Stories of Love and Adventure.” In addition, Bill recently published “The Dimensions of Attila the Hun: Concerning Adaptations of Jordanes, especially in German Chronicles of the Early Modern Period, in: *Amsterdamer Beiträge zur älteren Germanistik* and The ‘Jew in the Latrine:’ Exploring the Transmission of an Early German Anti-Jewish Narrative, in: *Medieval Encounters*. Bill, currently living in Richmond, has also become active in outreach as part of the “Black Suffering” discussion group on Facebook. The panel explores the state of African American life in the USA, as inspired by the book *Black Suffering: Silent Pain, Hidden Hope* by Richmond pastor James Henry Harris. In a 2021 review in *The Afro*, Timothy Cox writes that the book “explores many timely atrocities, such as the Memorial Day 2020 police killing of an unarmed black man, George Floyd, and the plight of Black people amid the COVID-19 world-wide pandemic. Nat Turner, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and even Job of the Bible are part of his call to consciousness.” An interview with Dr./Rev. Harris—who holds a Philosophy of Religion M.A. from UVA—may be found here: https://www.opednews.com/articles/Black-Sufferance--Insuffe-by-John-Hawkins-American-Culture-Black-Agenda-Report-Black-People-Hate-Racism-Bigotry-220707-296.html?fbclid=IwAR26vdorn6DA4bUGN2M-kbsA8JuHwaGEBw8YYgEK0WZHJ-Enrn2N2_4Oels



Marcel Schmid, together with Manuela Achilles and Asher Biemann, co-organized the international symposium “The State as Experiment: Visions, Voices, Margins, A Centenary Symposium in Memory of Josef Popper-Lynkeus (1838-1921),” that was held in April 2022 at UVA. He also co-edited a volume on the contemporary Swiss novelist Christian Kracht (*The Case of Christian Kracht: Authorship, Irony, and Globalism*) for the Brill Series German Monitor. The volume is set to appear in the fall 2023. Marcel is currently working on a book project on car culture. Under the project title *Horse Plane Phone Sex – Paradigms in Car Aesthetics*, the book explores cultural paradigms that are reflected in car design.



Chad Wellmon's book titled *Permanent Crisis: The Humanities in a Disenchanted Age (Studies in the History of the University)*, co-authored with **Paul Reitter**, was published by the University of Chicago Press in 2021. This book is available on Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Permanent-Crisis-Humanities-Disenchanted-university/dp/022673806X/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=permanent+crisis&qid=1620413961&sr=8-1. **That same year**, **Chad** completed his three-year term as Co-Director (with Sarah Betzer of Art History) for the College Fellows program—the cohort of faculty who teach the Engagements courses for UVA's new College Curriculum. Chad was one of the developers of the **New Curriculum**, launched in the Fall of 2017. According to a 2019 report in *UVA Today*, adoption of the New Curriculum, which heavily emphasizes the liberal arts, represents “the first significant, comprehensive changes to the College's undergraduate student curriculum in more than 40 years.” In an email to the UVA community, Arts & Sciences Dean Ian Baucomb expresses his gratitude to the outgoing Co-Directors. “I am deeply thankful to all the faculty who have served—and are serving—as Fellows and profoundly grateful for Sarah and Chad's dedicated and visionary leadership and the enormous energy they have poured into launching this most meaningful endeavor.” This past year, Chad serving as Acting Chair to the German Department while Jeffrey Grossman was on Sabbatical.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

This past spring, the Collaboratory for German Studies in Virginia held its second state-wide German Day. High school German programs from across the Commonwealth were invited to visit one of six universities: University of Virginia, George Mason University (GMU), the University of Mary Washington (UMW), Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Virginia Tech (VT), and William & Mary (W&M). The UVA German Department hosted 50 students and their teachers and chaperons from Thomas Jefferson HS on Monday, April 17th. Following a tour of the campus, the high school students were treated to lunch from Bodo's Bagels with UVA German Department faculty. The students then sat in on classes taught by Ruth Trice and Pauline Froelich in their classes. This year's theme, **Deutsch für die Zukunft: Frieden, Umwelt, Demokratie** encourages students to explore what role foreign languages in general and German in particular can play in keeping the peace, protecting the environment, and supporting democracy.

The German Department took part in this past year's "**Germany on Campus**" initiative of the German Embassy in Washington D.C. **Paul Dobryden** and **Julia Gutterman** organized events, including a roundtable on German energy policy in the context of the war in Ukraine with Nora Löhle (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung), Phoebe Crisman (Prof. of Architecture & Director of the Global Studies Program at UVA), and James Groves (UVA School of Engineering); as well as a screening of the 1930 film *Morocco*, starring Marlene Dietrich. Following the film, distinguished guest speaker Prof. Laura Horak (Carleton University) gave a talk at the Light House Studio in downtown Charlottesville. Prof. Horak, author of *Girls Will Be Boys: Cross-Dressing Women, Lesbians, and American Cinema, 1908-1934* (Rutgers UP, 2016), situated the film and Dietrich's public persona in relation to the politics of gender and fashion.

Once again, the German Department continued its tradition of **Kaffeestunde**. Each week, German-speaking students, faculty, and community members are invited to enjoy free coffee and sweets, while conversing "auf Deutsch" with old friends and making new ones. Department Administrative Assistant Gina Hutton purchases our treats with funds generously provided by a grant from the Max Kade Foundation.



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Last Year for the Renate Voris Fellowship for Graduate Funding

Prof. Emerita **Renate Voris** has announced that 2022-2023 will be the final year in which the Renate Voris graduate fellowship will be awarded. For the past ten years, the fellowship was granted annually “to a graduate student in the Arts and Humanities at the University of Virginia or elsewhere,” to candidates of any gender.

We thank Renate for her many years of support of new graduate talent.



Our Undergraduate Students

In 2022, **Montana Showalter** won the Walter H. Sokel Prize for her paper, titled "Grocery Triumphs and Defeats: German Stores Going Global, American Stores Fail Within." According to Paul Dobryden of the prize selection committee, “Montana’s essay describes the history and marketing strategies of the Aldi supermarket chain. The committee appreciated the essay’s mixture of historical and cultural detail, which produced insightful comparisons between German and U.S. contexts.” This annual prize comes from a bequest by Professor Walter Sokel (1917-2014) and awards \$300 to the writer of the best student-written essay of at least 3,500 words on German literature or culture.

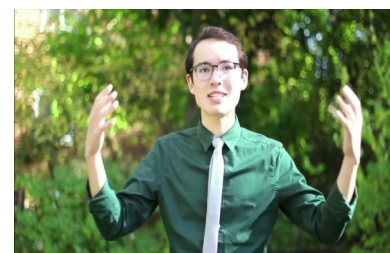


A Peek at our Graduates: Where they are now

Trevor Bailey, '21 spent the year following his graduation in Germany studying and working as part of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange. Trevor writes “I was incredibly fortunate to be selected for the program, and am absolutely ecstatic that I’ve been granted permission to travel in July. While I’m unsure what direction my life will take afterward, I’m currently leaning toward a career in law or human resources.”



After graduating in 2021 with majors in English and Interdisciplinary German Studies, **Stephen Artner** won the Presidential Fellowship at Boston College to pursue a five-year Ph.D. in Philosophy.



Summer Language Institute (SLI) 2023

German Summer Language Institute Director **Stefanie Parker** was delighted to report on a full, productive summer with twelve students participating. In Stefanie's words, instructors David Lotterhos, Cora Schenberg, Stefanie Parker, and their students "filled the second floor of New Cabell Hall with films, music and laughter during the usually quiet summer months. Highlights included an outing to UVA's Culbreth Theater for a (superb) performance of *Cabaret*. In addition, students took part in two cooking nights and a field trip to the Fralin Museum where they were assigned to write about their favorite piece."



