

Brandon Bloch

(March 2021)

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RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Modern European History; German History; History of Human Rights and International Law; Holocaust and Genocide Studies; Religion and Politics in Modern Europe; Intellectual and Cultural History

EDUCATION

- 2018** **Ph.D., Modern European History**, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Dissertation: “Faith for This World: Protestantism and the Reconstruction of Constitutional Democracy in Germany, 1933-1968”
Adviser: Peter Gordon
- 2011** **B.A., History**, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2020-** **University of Wisconsin – Madison**
Assistant Professor of History
Faculty Affiliate in European Studies
Faculty Affiliate in Religious Studies
- 2018-20** **Harvard University**
College Fellow in Modern European History

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Reinventing Protestant Germany: Religion, Nation, and Democracy after Nazism, book manuscript in preparation

Journal Articles

- “‘The Limits of Human Jurisdiction’: Protestantism, War Crimes Trials, and Human Rights in Occupied Germany,” forthcoming in *Journal of Modern History*, June 2021
- “The Origins of Adorno’s Psycho-Social Dialectic: Psychoanalysis and Neo-Kantianism in the Young Adorno,” *Modern Intellectual History* 16, no. 2 (Aug. 2019): 501-529
- “Psychoanalyse und Neukantianismus. Zu den Ursprüngen der Dialektik von Psyche und Gesellschaft beim jungen Adorno,” forthcoming in *Psyche: Zeitschrift für Psychoanalyse und ihre Anwendungen* [German translation and commentary of “The Origins of Adorno’s Psycho-Social Dialectic”]

Book Chapters

- “In the Presence of Absence: Transformations of the Confessional Divide in West Germany after the Holocaust,” in *Germany and the Confessional Divide, 1871-1989*, ed. Mark Edward Ruff and Thomas Großbölting, under contract with Berghahn Books (forthcoming fall 2021)

“Justifying Democracy: Johannes Heckel, Ernst Wolf, and the Recasting of Luther’s Theology of Resistance in Postwar Germany,” in *Kulturelle Wirkungen der Reformation / Cultural Impact of the Reformation*, ed. Klaus Fitschen, Marianne Schröter, Christopher Spehr, and Ernst-Joachim Waschke, vol. 1 (Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2019), pp. 451-460

Manuscripts in Submission

“Democracy as an Interpretive Process: The Protestant Debate about Conscientious Objection in the Early Federal Republic of Germany,” submitted

Manuscripts in Preparation

“Judeo-Christianity After Auschwitz: Critical Theory, Liberation Theology, and Religious Difference in the New Europe,” article in preparation

Public Scholarship

“The Unfinished Project of Enlightenment,” review essay on Jürgen Habermas, *Auch eine Geschichte der Philosophie (This Too a History of Philosophy)*, *Boston Review*, June 18, 2020

Book Reviews

- Review of Yael Almog, *Secularism and Hermeneutics*, *German Studies Review*, submitted
- Review of John P. R. Eicher, *Exiled Among Nations: German and Mennonite Mythologies in a Transnational Age*, *H-Transnational German Studies*, March 2021
- Review of Edward Baring, *Converts to the Real: Catholicism and the Making of Continental Philosophy*, *Church History* 89, no. 1 (March 2020): 224-226
- Review of Albert Monshan Wu, *From Christ to Confucius: German Missionaries, Chinese Christians, and the Globalization of Christianity, 1860-1950*, *H-Diplo*, September 2018
- Review of Eric Kurlander, *Hitler’s Monsters: A Supernatural History of the Third Reich*, *Reading Religion (American Academy of Religion)*, July 2018
- Introduction, Roundtable Review of Mark Edward Ruff, *The Battle for the Catholic Past in Germany, 1945-1980*, *H-Diplo*, July 2018

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- “A Protestant Basic Law: Families, Schools, and the Struggle for Democracy in Post-Nazi Germany,” Dartmouth College Jewish Studies Faculty Seminar, May 2021 (invited)
- “Democracy as an Interpretive Process: The Case of Protestant Conscientious Objectors in the Early Federal Republic of Germany,” Newberry Library German Studies Seminar, October 2020
- “Beyond Natural Law and Legal Positivism: Protestant Legal Thought and the Renewal of Constitutional Democracy in West Germany, 1945-1968,” Colloquium for Contemporary History, Free University of Berlin, June 2016
- “Between Human Law and Divine Justice: Protestantism and the Renewal of Constitutional Democracy in Germany, 1945-1968,” Institute for Protestant Church Law, University of Göttingen, June 2016

Conference Panels Organized

- “Histories of Absence after Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide” (with Frances Tanzer), American Historical Association, January 2021 (webinar)
- “Afterlives of Resistance in Postwar Europe,” American Historical Association, January 2019
- “Marxism and the German Left since 1933: Aesthetics, Theology, and Social Critique,” German Studies Association, September 2018

“Transatlantic Perspectives on Law and Illiberalism, 1907-1949,” American Historical Association, January 2018

“Religious Identities and the Legacies of War in Germany, 1939-1989,” German Studies Association, September 2016

Conference Papers Presented

Seminar participant, “The Nazi Legacy: Reconstruction Efforts and Memory Projects since 1945,” German Studies Association, October 2021 (accepted)

“In the Presence of Absence: ‘Christian-Jewish Dialogue’ in West Germany after the Holocaust,” American Historical Association, January 2021 (webinar)

“Religious Symbols, Public Education, and the Making of German Secularism,” American Academy of Religion, New England and Canadian Maritimes Region, April 2020 (cancelled, COVID-19)

“Disobedient Democrats: Specters of Resistance in the West German Debate about Emergency Laws,” American Historical Association, January 2019

“Political Theology After Auschwitz: Jürgen Habermas’ Postsecularism in Postwar German Perspective,” German Studies Association, September 2018

“Between Evangelical Theology and the Liberal Rule of Law: The Confessing Church and the Origins of German Protestant Constitutionalism, 1933-1949,” American Historical Association, January 2018

Seminar participant, “Religious Revivals in 19th- and 20th-Century Germany,” German Studies Association, October 2017

“Justifying Democracy: Johannes Heckel and Ernst Wolf on the Right of Resistance in Luther’s Political Theology,” Conference on the Cultural Impact of the Reformation, Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, August 2017

“‘The Limits of Human Jurisdiction’: Protestant Theologies of Law, War Crimes Trials, and Human Rights in Occupied Germany, 1945-1950,” Symposium on Religion and Ethno-Nationalism in the Era of the World Wars, University of Toronto, May 2017

“Conscientious Objection and the Legacy of the Protestant Church Struggle in Postwar West Germany,” German Studies Association, September 2016

“Poverty as an Economic Question: Josiah Child and Dudley North on the English Settlement Act,” Economic History of Poverty Conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, November 2012

Campus Talks

“Reinventing Protestant Germany: Religion, Nation, and Democracy after Nazism,” Center for Religion and Global Citizenry, University of Wisconsin-Madison, April 2021 (invited)

“Natural Law and the Ethics of Protestant Opposition in Nazi Germany,” Colloquium of the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, Free University of Berlin, May 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Undergraduate Lectures

“Europe in the Modern World, 1815 to the Present” (Fall ’21)

“History of Modern Germany, 1870 to the Present” (Spring ’21)

Undergraduate Seminars

“The Weimar Republic and the Rise of Nazism” (Fall ’20, Spring ’21)

“Genocide, War Crimes Trials, and Human Rights in the 20th Century” (Fall ’20, Fall ’21)

Dissertation Committees

Chad Gibbs, “Against that Darkness: Perseverance, Resistance, and Revolt at Treblinka” (PhD expected 2021)

Graduate Field Exams

Yacov Zohn, "Modern Germany and Central Europe since 1870" (exam in spring '22)

John Balz, "Race, Slavery, Nation, and Empire in Central Europe, 1780-1914" (exam in summer '21)

Ezra Gerard, "Modern German History, 1815-1989" (exam in summer '21)

Undergraduate Thesis Advising

Evan Keamoku Lee, "For Fatherland, the Führer, and My Future: Slave Labor and the Internal Politics of National Socialism" (BA, 2021)

Teaching Professional Development

Madison Teaching and Learning Excellence, Spring 2021-Fall 2021

Writing Across the Curriculum workshop for COMM-B instructors, Spring 2021

Harvard University

Undergraduate Lectures

"Nazi Germany and the Holocaust" (Spring '20)

"Modern Europe, 1789 to the Present" (Fall '19)

"After Catastrophe: Europe since 1945" (Spring '19)

Undergraduate Seminars

"Genocide, War Crimes Trials, and Human Rights in the 20th Century" (Spring '20)

"Europe and its Others: From the Enlightenment to the European Union" (Spring '19)

"Nazi Germany and the Holocaust" (Fall '18)

Teaching Fellow

"French Social Thought, Durkheim to Foucault" (Spring '15)

"History of the Soviet Union, 1917-1991" (Fall '14)

Undergraduate Thesis Advising

Jackson Grigsby, "Reexamining Resistance and Revolt at Sobibór" (BA, 2020)

Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize for an Outstanding Senior Thesis; Seymour E. and Ruth B. Harris Prize for Honors Thesis in the Social Sciences; Lillian Bell Prize in History

Hayley Jaffe, "To Care in Hell: The Centrality of Relationships for Jewish Women in Auschwitz" (BA, 2020)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

German Historical Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2020-21 (declined)

Certificate of Teaching Excellence for Lecturers and Preceptors, Harvard University, 2019, 2020

Krupp Foundation/Center for European Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2017-18

Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics Graduate Fellowship, 2016-17

Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, Free University of Berlin, 2015-16

Krupp Foundation/Center for European Studies Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2015-16

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Research Grant (declined), 2015-16

German Historical Institute Archival Summer Seminar, 2015

Harvard Department of History Summer Travel and Research Grant, 2014

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Grant for Russian, 2013

Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, Berlin, Germany, 2011-12

Phi Beta Kappa, 2010

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Manuscript Referee

Journal of Historical Sociology

Sociology of Islam (special issue in memory of Saba Mahmood)

Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society

University Service

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Faculty Senate, History Department Representative, 2020-

Faculty Board, Center for Religion and Global Citizenry, 2020-

Co-Organizer, Modern European History Speaker Series, Spring 2021

Professional Consulting to Harry Handler, History Department Board of Visitors, 2020-

Harvard University

Undergraduate Committee, Center for European Studies (CES), 2018-20

Mentor, Harvard College Undergraduate Research Association, 2017-20

Co-coordinator, Center for European Studies Dissertation Workshop, 2016-18

Panel Coordinator, "Postdocs and Europe's Academic Market," CES, November 2017

Assistant Organizer, Conference on "Adorno's *Negative Dialectics* at Fifty," CES, November 2016

Graduate Student Representative, Search Committee, Modern Jewish History, Fall 2014

PUBLIC HISTORY

Mass Humanities, Northampton, MA

Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Co-author of teacher's guide for middle- and high-school teachers on "Exile and Community: The Life of Carola Domar" (dir. Susan Orleans Rieder, 2016), a film about a refugee from Nazi Germany who settled in Concord, MA

MEDIA

Interviewed by Daniel Stolz, UW-Madison "Ask a Historian" Podcast, March 15, 2021

Aysha Bagchi, "Access to History: The HLS Library's Nuremberg Trials Project inspires creative works and supports research," *Harvard Law Today*, December 9, 2020,

<https://today.law.harvard.edu/feature/access-to-history/>

LANGUAGES

German (Advanced R/W/S)

Spanish (Proficient R/W/S)

French (Proficient Reading)

Hebrew (Intermediate Reading, Basic W/S)

Russian (Basic R/W/S)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association

German Studies Association

Central European History Society

American Academy of Religion

REFERENCES

Peter Gordon, Amabel B. James Professor of History, Harvard University

Alison Frank Johnson, Professor of History, Harvard University

Samuel Moyn, Henry R. Luce Professor of Jurisprudence and Professor of History, Yale University

Charles Maier, Leverett B. Saltonstall Professor of History Emeritus, Harvard University