

Brandon Bloch

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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
Dissertation: “Faith for This World: Protestantism and the Reconstruction of Constitutional Democracy in Germany, 1933-1968”

2011 **B.A., History**, University of Pennsylvania

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020- **University of Wisconsin – Madison**
Assistant Professor of History
Faculty Affiliate in European Studies
Faculty Affiliate in German, Nordic, and Slavic+
Faculty Affiliate in Religious Studies
Faculty Affiliate, Human Rights Program, University of Wisconsin Law School

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,” *Journal of Modern History* 93, no. 2 (June 2021): 363-400

“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 Feb. 2022 in *Psyche: Zeitschrift für Psychoanalyse und ihre Anwendungen* [German translation 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: Religious Tensions and Political Culture, 1871-1989*, ed. Mark Edward Ruff and Thomas Großbölting (New York: Berghahn Books, 2022), 216-241

“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), 451-460

Manuscripts in Revision

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

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 Martin Jay, *Genesis and Validity: The Theory and Practice of Intellectual History*, in preparation for *Contemporary Political Theory*

Review of Jeremy Best, *Heavenly Fatherland: German Missionary Culture and Globalization in the Age of Empire*, *German Studies Review* 44, no. 3 (Oct. 2021): 607-609

Review of Yael Almog, *Secularism and Hermeneutics*, *German Studies Review* 44, no. 2 (May 2021): 401-403

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,” Triangle Intellectual History Seminar, National Humanities Center, September 2021

“Recasting Resistance: Protestantism and Democracy in Post-Nazi Germany,” Dartmouth College Jewish Studies Faculty Seminar, April 2021

“Reinventing Protestant Germany: Church, State, and School after Nazism,” Center for Religion and Global Citizenry, University of Wisconsin-Madison, April 2021

“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 (in German)

“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 (in German)

Conference Panels Organized

“Histories of Absence after Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide” (with Frances Tanzer), American Historical Association, January 2021

“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

- “Otto Dibelius and the ‘Authority’ Memorandum,” Conference on Otto Dibelius (1880-1967): New Research, University of Marburg, October 2022 (invited, in German)
- Panel Participant, “Rebranding Nationalism and Conservatism after Defeat,” Symposium on Post-Fascist Politics in Germany and Japan, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 2022
- Seminar Participant, “The Nazi Legacy: Reconstruction Efforts and Memory Projects since 1945,” German Studies Association, October 2021
- “In the Presence of Absence: ‘Christian-Jewish Dialogue’ in West Germany after the Holocaust,” American Historical Association, January 2021
- “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
- “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
- “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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Undergraduate Lectures

- “Europe and the Modern World, 1815 to the Present” (Fall ’21)
- “History of Germany, 1871 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

- John Balz, “The Protestant Atlantic’s Side Pocket: Early Afro-Moravianism in the Danish West Indies” (in progress)

Ezra Gerard, "Queer Memories: Childhood Narratives and the Legitimization of Desire in German Sexology, 1860-1914" (in progress)

Chad Gibbs, "Against that Darkness: Perseverance, Resistance, and Revolt at Treblinka" (PhD, 2021; Assistant Professor, College of Charleston)

Graduate Field Exams

Ludwig Decke, "Modern Germany and Central Europe since 1870" (exam in spring '23)

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

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

Lewis Patterson, Modern European History syllabus (exam in spring '22)

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

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

Undergraduate Thesis Advising

Samantha Sharpe, "Exposing Evil: The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee and American Jewish Organizations" (BA, 2022)

Mark Mensink Honors Research Grant (for best senior thesis proposal in the L&S Honors Program)

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

Teaching Professional Development

Madison Teaching and Learning Excellence (MTLE) Faculty Fellow, Spring 2021-Fall 2021

The Discussion Project, UW-Madison School of Education, Summer 2021; Focal Instructor, 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

Brill
Journal of Contemporary History
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
Co-Organizer, "Symposium on Post-Fascist Politics in Germany and Japan," March 2022
Faculty Coordinator, Modern European History Graduate Workshop, 2021-
Co-Organizer, Modern European History Speaker Series, 2021-
Turkish Studies Committee, 2021-
Faculty Senate, History Department Representative, 2020-
Faculty Board, Center for Religion and Global Citizenry, 2020-
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

Interviewed for *Weeks of War*, eight-part television series on World War II produced by WildBear Entertainment (Canberra, Australia), May 5, 2021
Interviewed by Daniel Stolz, UW-Madison "Ask a Historian" Podcast, March 13, 2021 (S2E07)
Co-author, Teacher's Guide on *Exile and Community: The Life of Carola Domar* (dir. Susan Orleans Rieder), film about a refugee from Nazi Germany, Spring 2020

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

German (including *Kurrent* paleography), French, Spanish, Hebrew (intermediate), Russian (basic)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
German Studies Association
Central European History Society
American Society for Legal History
American Academy of Religion

REFERENCES

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

Udi Greenberg, Associate Professor of History, Dartmouth College

Alison Frank Johnson, Professor of History, Harvard University

Francine Hirsch, Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of History, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison

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