

Brandon Bloch

(May 2022)

Dept. of History, Univ. of Wisconsin – Madison
Mosse Humanities Building, 455 N. Park St.
Madison, WI 53706

bjbloch@wisc.edu
Office: 608-890-2612
<https://brandon-bloch.com>

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: European Studies; German, Nordic, and Slavic+; Religious Studies;
Human Rights Program
Faculty Associate: Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia
- 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

- “Democratic Illusions: The Protestant Campaign for Conscientious Objection in the Early Federal Republic of Germany,” forthcoming in *Central European History*, March 2023
- “‘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,” *Psyche: Zeitschrift für Psychoanalyse und ihre Anwendungen* 76, no. 2 (Feb. 2022): 139-182 [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 et al., vol. 1 (Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2019), 451-460

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*, forthcoming in *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

- “Reclaiming Homelands: Pan-German Nationalism and International Refugee Law after World War II,”
Conference on Antiliberal Internationalism, University of Amsterdam, January 2023 (accepted)
- “Otto Dibelius and the ‘Authority’ Memorandum,” Conference on Otto Dibelius (1880-1967): New
Research, University of Marburg, October 2022 (invited, in German)
- “Between Pacifism and Resistance: The Protestant Conscientious Objector Movement in West
Germany during the Vietnam War Era,” Society for Military History, April 2022
- “The Peace Movement as Nationalism Reinvented,” 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
- “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

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

Yacov Zohn, “*Homo Sovieticus* Goes to Extra Time: Constructing the Soviet Image in Soccer, 1946-
1992” (in progress)

Ezra Gerard, “Queer Childhood in German Sexology, 1860-1914” (in progress)

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

Graduate Preliminary Exam Committees

Ludwig Decke (Spring ’23)

Lewis Patterson (Summer ’22)

Alex Scheepens (Summer ’22)

Yacov Zohn (Spring ’22)

John Balz (Fall '21)
Ezra Gerard (Summer '21)

Undergraduate Thesis Advising

Maximilian Linse, "Education, State, and Identity in Imperial Germany, 1871-1919" (in progress)
Samantha Sharpe, "A Jewish Cold War: The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee and American Jewish Organizations, 1941-1987" (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

First Book Program, Center for the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2022
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; University of Wisconsin Press; *Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society*; *Journal of Contemporary History*; *Journal of Historical Sociology*; *Religions*; *Sociology of Islam*

University Service

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Faculty Committee, George L. Mosse Program in History, 2022-

Faculty Mentor, Summer Research Opportunity Program, June 2022

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 OUTREACH

Interviewed for Sakshi Venkatraman, "South Asian Americans face a complicated relationship with the swastika," *NBC News*, March 25, 2022

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)

Interviewed for Aysha Bagchi, "Access to History," *Harvard Law Today*, December 9, 2020

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

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

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

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