

Brandon Bloch

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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: Religious Nationalists and the Origins of Post-Nazi Democracy,
under contract with Harvard University Press

Journal Articles

- “Democratic Illusions: The Protestant Campaign for Conscientious Objection in the Early Federal Republic of Germany,” *Central European History* 56, no. 1 (March 2023): 71-91
- “‘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

Work in Progress

“Reclaiming Homelands: Habsburg Legacies of ‘National Autonomy’ in Postwar International Refugee Law,” in preparation for submission to *Beyond Left and Right? Antiliberal Internationalism in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Matthijs Lok et al.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations

- “From Ethno-Nationalism to Human Rights: Imagining the ‘Right to the Homeland’ in Cold War International Law,” Conference on Thinking About and Across Borders: Global Europe in the Twentieth Century, University of Wisconsin-Madison, November 2023
- “Reconciliation or Whitewashing: Rethinking Protestant Ecumenical Interventions in Occupied Germany,” German Studies Association, October 2023
- “Reclaiming Homelands: Pan-German Nationalism and International Refugee Law after World War II,” Conference on Antiliberal Internationalism, University of Amsterdam, January 2023
- “Otto Dibelius and the ‘Authority’ Memorandum,” Conference on Otto Dibelius (1880-1967): New Research, University of Marburg, October 2022
- “The *Evangelische Frauenarbeit* and the Struggle for Family Law Reform in 1950s West Germany,” German Studies Association, September 2022
- Roundtable Participant, “Post-Fascist Politics in Austria and the Two Germanies,” German Studies Association, September 2022
- “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, UW-Madison, March 2022
- Seminar Participant, “The Nazi Legacy: Reconstruction Efforts and Memory Projects since 1945,” German Studies Association, October 2021
- “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, UW-Madison, April 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
- “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
- “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

Conference Panels Organized

- “Humanitarianism and Political Cleansing in Allied-Occupied Germany” (with Mikkel Dack), German Studies Association, October 2023
- “Roundtable on Post-Fascist Politics in Austria and the Two Germanies” (with Julia Roos), German Studies Association, September 2022
- “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

TEACHING

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Undergraduate Lectures

“Europe and the Modern World, 1815 to the Present”

“History of Germany, 1871 to the Present”

“The Weimar Republic and the Rise of Nazism”

Undergraduate Seminars

“The Weimar Republic and the Rise of Nazism”

“Genocide, War Crimes Trials, and Human Rights in the 20th Century”

Graduate Seminars

“Empire and Nation in Modern Central Europe”

Harvard University

Undergraduate Lectures

“Nazi Germany and the Holocaust”

“Modern Europe, 1789 to the Present”

“After Catastrophe: Europe since 1945”

Undergraduate Seminars

“Genocide, War Crimes Trials, and Human Rights in the 20th Century”

“Europe and its Others: From the Enlightenment to the European Union”

“Nazi Germany and the Holocaust”

Graduate Advising

Member of two completed and five in-progress dissertation committees, and six preliminary examination committees at UW-Madison

Undergraduate Advising

Advised three undergraduate theses at UW-Madison and two at Harvard

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Institute for Research in the Humanities Faculty Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2024

Dorothy and Hsin-Nung Yao Teaching Award, UW-Madison Dept. of History, 2023

DAAD and Center for German and European Studies Research Grant, UW-Madison, 2022-23 (with Giuliana Chamedes, Kathryn Ciancia, and Francine Hirsch)

First Book Program, Center for the Humanities, UW-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)

Undergraduate Council, Department of History, 2022-
Faculty Committee, George L. Mosse Program in History, 2022-
Faculty Mentor, Summer Research Opportunity Program, 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-

Conference Organization

Co-founder, Interdisciplinary Network on “Legacies of Nazism,” German Studies Association, 2023-
“Thinking About and Across Borders: Global Europe in the Twentieth Century,” UW-Madison,
November 2023 (with Giuliana Chamedes, Kathryn Ciancia, and Francine Hirsch)
“Symposium on Post-Fascist Politics in Germany and Japan,” UW-Madison, March 2022 (with Louise Young)

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 Academy of Religion
American Society for Legal History

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

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