

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; Race and Migration 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-** **Assistant Professor of History**
University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 2018-20** **College Fellow in Modern European History**
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

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*
- “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
*German translation and commentary forthcoming in *Psyche: Zeitschrift für Psychanalyse und ihre Anwendungen*

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 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 Preparation

“Democracy as an Interpretive Process: The Case of Protestant Conscientious Objectors in the Early Federal Republic of Germany,” article 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, *This Too a History of Philosophy*, *Boston Review*, June 18, 2020

Book Reviews

Review of Yael Almog, *Secularism and Hermeneutics*, *German Studies Review*, in preparation

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

“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

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

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 (accepted)
- "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

"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)

Harvard University

Undergraduate Lectures

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

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

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

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

“History of the Soviet Union, 1917-1991” (Fall ’14)

“French Social Thought, Durkheim to Foucault” (Spring ’15)

Undergraduate Thesis Advising

Jackson Grigsby, “Reexamining Resistance and Revolt at Sobibór” (Harvard, History, 2020)

Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize for an Outstanding Senior Thesis

Seymour E. and Ruth B. Harris Prize for Honors Thesis in the Social Sciences

Hayley Jaffe, “To Care in Hell: The Centrality of Relationships for Jewish Women in Auschwitz” (Harvard, Social Studies, 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)

University Service (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

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

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