

Ludwig Decke

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Modern European History, with a focus on Germany; Jewish History; Transnational History; Minorities and Nationalism; ‘Race’ and Citizenship; Holocaust and Its Aftermath; Human Rights; Far Right

EDUCATION

- In progress** **Ph.D. in Modern European History**, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Fields: Central Europe; Jewish Politics; ‘Race’ and Citizenship in Liberal Democracies
Advisor: Giuliana Chamedes
- 2020** **M.A. in History & Political Science**, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena
Fulbright Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2018-19)
Erasmus+ Visiting Student at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2018)
- 2016** **B.A. in Philosophy**, University of Leipzig

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

“Ungleiche Weggefährten: Hannah Arendt, Melvin Lasky und der Antitotalitarismus im Kalten Krieg” in *Dubnow Institute Yearbook*, vol. 17 (2018) [2020], 117-146. doi.org/10.13109/9783666370809.117.

Book Chapters

“Illiberale Demokratie avant la lettre: Zu Carl Schmitts demokratietheoretischen Überlegungen in der Weimar Republik” in *Konflikt und Konsens: Demokratische Transformation in der Weimarer und Bonner Republik*, ed. Sebastian Elsbach and Ronny Noak (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2019), 279-294.

“Carl Schmitt” in *Handbuch der völkischen Wissenschaften: Akteure, Netzwerke, Forschungsprogramme*, ed. Michael Fahlbusch, Ingo Haar and Alexander Pinwinkler (Berlin/Boston, MA: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2017), 732-736 (with Raphael Gross).

Manuscripts in Preparation

“A Liberal Faith in Times of Crisis: Morris R. Cohen, American Liberalism, and the Fight for Jewish Rights, 1933-1941.”

Reviews

Review of Tiffany N. Florvil, *Mobilizing Black Germany: Afro-German Women and the Making of a Transnational Movement in Cold War History* (in preparation).

Review of Abigail Green and Simon Levis Sullam, eds., *Jews, Liberalism, Antisemitism: A Global History*, forthcoming in *Comparativ: Zeitschrift für Globalgeschichte und vergleichende Gesellschaftsforschung*.

Review of Samuel Salzborn, *Angriff der Antidemokraten: Die völkische Rebellion der Neuen Rechten*, in *Phase 2*, vol. 55 (2018).

Blog Entries

[“A Letter of Refusal: Morris R. Cohen and Oscar I. Janowsky on the Problems of Jewish Peace Studies during World War II” in Mimeo: Blog of the Dubnow Institute, 2022.](#)

[“Im Gleichschritt gegen die Moderne: Zum \(Miss-\)Verhältnis von Postmoderne und der Neuen Rechten” in sprachlos-blog.de, 2016.](#)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 Early Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2022 Fellow, Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization at Northwestern, Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University (HEFNU)
- 2021 Student Research Grants Competition, Conference Presentation Award, Graduate School, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021
- 2020 George L. Mosse Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in European Cultural History, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2019 Academic Excellence Award, International Student Service, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Spring 2019
- 2018 Academic Excellence Award, International Student Service, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fall 2018
- 2018 Fulbright Fellowship
- 2018 ERASMUS+ Fellowship
- 2017 Matthias Erzberger Prize, Weimar Republic e.V. and Research Institute Weimar Republic
- 2015 DAAD Travel Grant
- 2013 Rosa Luxemburg Foundation Study Fellowship (2013-2020)

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2021 “‘Hold on to the Faith in American Liberalism!’ Morris R. Cohen and the American Jewish Liberal Imagination during Nazism” at “American Jewish Political Thought - At Home and Abroad,” Digital Annual Conference of the Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture - Simon Dubnow, in cooperation with the Goldstein-Goren Center for American Jewish History, New York University.
- 2017 “Carl Schmitt’s Anti-Liberalism in the Weimar Republic” at the international conference “Zusammenbruch, Aufbruch, Abbruch? Die Novemberrevolution als Ereignis und Erinnerungsort” (in German). Research Institute Weimar Republic, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Weimar.

Panels Co-Organized

- 2022 “The Future of the Jews from Imperial Germany to the Holocaust,” German Studies Association, Annual Conference, Houston, TX.

Conference Papers and Workshop Presentations

- 2022 “The Americanization of the ‘Jewish Question’ during the Holocaust,” German Studies Association, Annual Conference, Houston, TX.
- 2022 “Prolonging Empire: American Jews, Colonialism, and Visions of Global Order after the Holocaust” at “Jewish Questions and the Global South: Between Sovereignty and Human Rights,” The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2021 “After Genocide: The Postwar Visions of the American Jewish Committee and the Holocaust,” Lessons & Legacies Regional Interim Meeting, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
- 2021 “Exploring Jewish Postwar Visions during the Holocaust: The Case of the American Jewish Committee” at “Examining American Responses to the Holocaust: Digital Possibilities,” FDR Presidential Library and Museum, virtual.
- 2021 “A Europe for All: American Jewish Liberalism and its Multicultural Vision for Post-Holocaust Europe” at “Europe’s Past, Present, and Future: Utopias and Dystopias,” 27th International Conference of Europeanists, Council for European Studies, virtual.
- 2020 “Fighting for the American Jewish Dream: Morris R. Cohen and Liberal Jewish Postwar Planning during World War II” at Kolloquium Neuere und Nordamerikanische Geschichte (in German), Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena.
- 2019 “Planning against the Void: The Research Institute on Peace and Post-War Problems and Its Visions for a Jewish Future after the Holocaust, 1940-1945.” Presentation at 27th Wissenschaftliches Halbjahresgespräch (in German), Lehrstuhl für Neuere und Neueste Geschichte, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena.
- 2019 “Envisioning a Post-Holocaust Future: The Postwar Planning of the American Jewish Committee during World War II” at the Graduate Student Conference “Back to the Future: Visions of Tomorrow in History,” Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
- 2018 “Jewish Postwar Planning during World War II and the Lessons from the Interwar Period.” Poster Presentation at the conference “War’s End? The Legacy of Migration and Displacement, Europe 1918-2018.” Center for German & European Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2016 “Carl Schmitt’s Ideal of Homogenous Democracy” at the Graduate Student Conference “Nationen, Minoritäten, und Menschenrechte im 20. Jahrhundert” (in German). Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena.

FURTHER EDUCATION

- 2022 Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization at Northwestern, Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University (HEFNU)
- 2021 Emerging Scholars Workshop “Cultural Approaches to Modern German History” with Monica Black (U-Tennessee). German Studies Association, Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2020 International Summer School on “Belonging.” With Joachim v. Puttkamer (Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena), Paul Hanebrink (Rutgers), Melissa Feinberg (Rutgers), and Gábor Egry (Institute for Political History, Budapest), Biertan, Rumania (cancelled due to Covid-19).
- 2017 Seminar “Jews and Politics in Postwar Germany.” German Studies Association, Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- 2017-2020 Visiting Member, Graduate School Jena Center 20th Century History, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena (Ph.D.-level seminars with Dr. Dan Diner, Dr. Mark Roseman, and Dr. Doris L. Bergen).

2015 International Summer School “Cultures of Memory in a Comparative Perspective.” Academy of Arts and Culture Perm, Russia.

TEACHING

University of Wisconsin-Madison (as Teaching Assistant)

HIST 350: The First World War and the Shaping of Twentieth Century Europe (with Dr. Daniel Ussishkin)

HIST 357: The Second World War (with Dr. Mary Lou Roberts)

Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena (as Teaching Assistant)

Historiography and Historical Methodology

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Article referee

Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Graduate Student-Faculty Liaison Committee, 2022-today

Graduate Council Student Representative, 2021-today

Co-founder and Organizer of the Modern Europe Graduate Dissertation Workshop, 2021-today

PUBLIC SPEAKING

2020 Organization and moderation of the online panel discussion “USA: A Country in Transition” at the Volkshochschule Leipziger Land, an institution for adult education, with Richard A. Bachmann (University of Michigan) and Prof. Damani Partridge (University of Michigan) (in German).

2019 “Where is America Headed? On the Current Political Situation in the United States.” Invited lecture and group discussion at the VHS Leipziger Land (in German).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistance

Giuliana Chamedes, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Feb.-Jul. 2021

Dan Diner, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jul.-Sep. 2020

Doris L. Bergen, University of Toronto, May-Jun. 2019

Academic Editing

Hannah Arendt Institute for Totalitarianism Studies, Dresden, Editorial Assistant, Jan.-Jun. 2020.

Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture - Simon Dubnow, Leipzig, Scientific Assistant & Freelance Editor, 2013-2019

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Jewish Studies

Central European History Society

German Studies Association

LANGUAGES

German (native), English (advanced), French (upper intermediate), modern Hebrew (beginner)