Brandon Bloch

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EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D. in Modern European History, Harvard University
2014 A.M. in History, Harvard University
2011 B.A. *summa cum laude* in History, University of Pennsylvania

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2020- Assistant Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2018-20 College Fellow in Modern European History, Harvard University

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Reinventing Protestant Germany: Religious Nationalists and the Contest for Post-Nazi Democracy, Harvard University Press, August 2025, xii + 384 pp.

H-Diplo Roundtable Review (introduction, seven reviews, and author response), May 11, 2026

Critical Dialogue review with author response in *Perspectives on Politics* 24, no. 2 (June 2026): 912-917

Reviewed in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*; *Choice Reviews* (Recommended Title); *Contemporary Church History Quarterly*; *The German Quarterly*; H-German; H-Soz-Kult; *The History Teacher*; *Tocqueville 21*

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

"Die Kirche als Quelle demokratischer Grundwerte? Überlegungen zu *Reinventing Protestant Germany*," forthcoming in *Kirchliche Zeitgeschichte/Contemporary Church History*

"Reclaiming 'National Autonomy': Theodor Veiter and the Habsburg Legacy in Postwar International Refugee Law," in *Antiliberal Internationalism in the Twentieth Century: Beyond Left and Right?*, eds. Matthijs Lok et al. (Routledge, 2025), 167-184

"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

"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*, eds. Mark Edward Ruff and Thomas Großbölting (Berghahn Books, 2022), 216-241

"'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

German translation: "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

"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*, eds. Klaus Fitschen et al., vol. 1 (Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2019), 451-460

Public Scholarship

Author Response to H-Diplo Roundtable Review of *Reinventing Protestant Germany*, May 11, 2026

"Protestant Germany after Nazism: Udi Greenberg Interviews Brandon Bloch," *Contending Modernities Blog*, February 17, 2026

"When Theology Became Political: An Interview with Brandon Bloch," *Journal of the History of Ideas Blog*, October 8, 2025

"The Unfinished Project of Enlightenment," *Boston Review*, June 18, 2020 (Review essay on Jürgen Habermas, *Auch eine Geschichte der Philosophie*; third most-read article of 2020 in *Boston Review*)

Book Reviews

Rebecca Carter-Chand, *Christian Internationalism and German Belonging: The Salvation Army from Imperial Germany to Nazism*, forthcoming in *Central European History*

Andrea Hofmann, *Zwischen Heimatfront und Schlachtfeld: "Kriegsbilder" in protestantischen Predigten und Andachtsschriften des Ersten Weltkriegs*, forthcoming in *First World War Studies*

Rosario Forlenza and Bjørn Thomassen, *Italy's Christian Democracy: The Catholic Encounter with Political Modernity*, *Perspectives on Politics* 24, no. 2 (June 2026): 915-916

Mark Jantzen and John D. Thiesen, eds., *European Mennonites and the Holocaust*, in *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 30, no. 1 (Spring 2025): 113-115

Martin Jay, *Genesis and Validity: The Theory and Practice of Intellectual History*, in *Contemporary Political Theory* 22, no. 4 (Dec. 2023): 137-140

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

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

John P. R. Eicher, *Exiled Among Nations: German and Mennonite Mythologies in a Transnational Age*, in H-Transnational German Studies, March 2021

Edward Baring, *Converts to the Real: Catholicism and the Making of Continental Philosophy*, in *Church History* 89, no. 1 (March 2020): 224-226

Albert Monshan Wu, *From Christ to Confucius: German Missionaries, Chinese Christians, and the Globalization of Christianity, 1860-1950*, in H-Diplo, September 2018

Eric Kurlander, *Hitler's Monsters: A Supernatural History of the Third Reich*, in 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*, in H-Diplo, July 2018

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (since 2021)

Book Talks on *Reinventing Protestant Germany*:
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for Jewish Studies, Feb. 2026
University of California-Berkeley, Institute of European Studies, Nov. 2025
University of Göttingen, Faculty of Law, Nov. 2025
University of Minnesota, Center for German and European Studies, Oct. 2025
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for the Humanities, Sept. 2025
University of Marburg, Faculty of Protestant Theology, July 2025 [lecture report]

"Expellee or Refugee? Contesting the UN Refugee Convention from Cold War Europe," American Historical Association, Jan. 2027

Discussant, Panel on "Cracking the Code: Migrants' Legal Claims for Inclusion in Twentieth-Century Central Europe," American Historical Association, Jan. 2027

"Globalizing Displacement: German Expellees and the Birth of the 'World Refugee Problem,'" UW-Madison Political Theory Workshop, Sep. 2026

Panelist, "New Directions in Human Rights History," American Historical Association, Jan. 2026

"West German Expellees and the World Refugee Year, 1959-60," German Studies Association, Sept. 2025

"Ecumenism and the Dialectics of Protestant Nationalism in Postwar Germany," American Academy of Religion, June 2025

Seminar Participant, "Religion and Secularism in Germany from the Nineteenth Century to the Present," German Studies Association, Oct. 2024

Discussant, Panel on "Official and Unofficial Denazification," German Studies Association, Oct. 2024

"Reclaiming Homelands: Pan-German Nationalism and International Refugee Law after World War II," Congress on Polish Studies, Technical University of Dresden, March 2024

"Debating Democracy in the German Protestant New Left," Institute for Research in the Humanities, UW-Madison, Feb. 2024

"Protestant Ecumenism, the German-Polish Border, and the Limits of Reconciliation," American Historical Association, Jan. 2024

"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, UW-Madison, Nov. 2023

"Reconciliation or Whitewashing: Rethinking Protestant Ecumenical Interventions in Occupied Germany," German Studies Association, Oct. 2023

"Reclaiming Homelands: Pan-German Nationalism and International Refugee Law after World War II," Conference on Antiliberal Internationalism, University of Amsterdam, Jan. 2023

"Otto Dibelius and the 'Authority' Memorandum," Conference on Otto Dibelius (1880-1967): New Research, University of Marburg, Oct. 2022

"The *Evangelische Frauenarbeit* and the Struggle for Family Law Reform in 1950s West Germany," German Studies Association, Sept. 2022

Roundtable Participant, "Post-Fascist Politics in Austria and the Two Germanies," German Studies Association, Sept. 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, Oct. 2021

"A Protestant Basic Law," Triangle Intellectual History Seminar, National Humanities Center, Sept. 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, Jan. 2021

TEACHING

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"
"Nazi Germany and the Holocaust" (Harvard)
"After Catastrophe: Europe since 1945" (Harvard)

Undergraduate Seminars
"Genocide, War Crimes Trials, and Human Rights in the 20th Century"
"The Weimar Republic and the Rise of Nazism"
"Europe and its Others: From the Enlightenment to the European Union" (Harvard)

Graduate Seminars
"Empire and Nation in Modern Central Europe"

Graduate Preliminary Exam Fields
Modern German and Central European History
Modern European Intellectual History

Advising
Primary graduate adviser: Deep Acharya (entered Fall 2025)
Dissertation committee member: ten (seven completed)
Graduate preliminary exam committee member: ten (six completed)

Master's thesis committee member: one (completed)
Undergraduate thesis adviser: eight (including two at Harvard; seven completed)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2026-28	DAAD-Center for German and European Studies Research Grant (with Liina-Ly Roos and Leonie Schulte)
2026-27	Fall Research Competition award for *Homelands* (second book project)
2026	William H. Kiekhofer Teaching Award (campus-level award)
2024-25	DAAD-Center for German and European Studies Research Grant (with Liina-Ly Roos and Leonie Schulte)
2024	Institute for Research in the Humanities Resident Fellowship
2023	Dorothy and Hsin-Nung Yao Teaching Award, UW-Madison Dept. of History
2023	University Housing Honored Instructor
2023	Center for the Humanities First Book Workshop
2022-23	DAAD-Center for German and European Studies Research Grant (with Giuliana Chamedes, Kathryn Ciancia, and Francine Hirsch)
2020-21	German Historical Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined)
2020, 2019	Certificate of Teaching Excellence for Lecturers and Preceptors, Harvard Univ.
2017-18	Krupp Foundation/Center for European Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2016-17	Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics Graduate Fellowship
2015-16	Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, Free Univ. of Berlin
2015-16	Krupp Foundation/Center for European Studies Dissertation Research Fellowship
2015-16	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Research Grant (declined)
2015	German Historical Institute Archival Summer Seminar
2014	Harvard Department of History Summer Travel and Research Grant
2013	Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Grant for Russian
2011-12	Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, Berlin, Germany
2010	Phi Beta Kappa

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*; *Journal of Religious History*; *Journal of Women's History*; *Modern Intellectual History*; *Politics, Religion & Ideology*; *Sociology of Islam*

Campus Service (UW-Madison)
Karpat Center for Turkish Studies, Faculty Committee 2021-23, 2025-
Deliberation Dinners (The Discussion Project), Facilitator, 2025-26
Institute for Research in the Humanities, Kingdon Fellowship Selection Committee, 2025
Graduate Council, Department of History, 2024-
Joint Committee on Teaching Assistants (Chair), Department of History, 2024-26
European Studies Advisory Committee, 2024-
George L. Mosse Program in History, Faculty Committee, 2022-
Undergraduate Council, Department of History, 2022-23
Summer Research Opportunity Program, Faculty Mentor, 2022
Modern European History Graduate Workshop, Faculty Coordinator, 2021-
Faculty Senate, History Department Representative, 2020-23
Center for Religion and Global Citizenry, Faculty Board, 2020-23

Conference Organization (UW-Madison)
"Migration and Memory in Postwar and Contemporary Europe," November 2025 (with Liina-Ly Roos and Leonie Schulte)

"Thinking About and Across Borders: Global Europe in the Twentieth Century," November 2023 (with Giuliana Chamedes, Kathryn Ciancia, and Francine Hirsch)

"Symposium on Post-Fascist Politics in Germany and Japan," March 2022 (with Louise Young)

Professional Service
Co-coordinator, German Studies Association Interdisciplinary Network on "Legacies of Nazism," 2026- (co-founded network in 2023)

Public Outreach
Public Talks on *Reinventing Protestant Germany*:
Polylogos Cultural Center, September 2026
Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society, UW-Madison, March 2026
Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies, UW-Madison, February 2026
Free Congregation of Sauk County, Sauk City, WI, September 2025
Leopold's Books Bar Caffè, Madison, WI, August 2025
Beth Israel Center, Madison, WI, June 2025

Interviews on *Reinventing Protestant Germany*
Faith Roundtable, April 2026
Faithful Politics Podcast, November 2025
UpWords Podcast, October 2025
New Books Network, September 2025

Other Media Appearances
L&S Exchange Podcast, UW-Madison, May 2026
Weeks of War, WildBear Entertainment (television documentary), April 2022
NBC News, March 2022
Ask a Historian Podcast, UW-Madison, March 2021
Harvard Law Today, December 2020

Professional Consulting
Professional consulting to Cindy and Harry Handler on, *A German Jew's Triumph: Fritz Oppenheimer and the Denazification of Germany* (McFarland, April 2025)
Co-author, Teacher's Guide on *Exile and Community: The Life of Carola Domar* (dir. Susan Orleans Rieder), 2020

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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