
Carl Gelderloos

Associate Professor of German Studies | Binghamton University (SUNY)

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Employment

Associate Professor of German Studies, Binghamton University (SUNY), 9/2020 – present

Assistant Professor of German Studies, Binghamton University (SUNY), 8/2014 – 8/2020

Education

2007–2014 Cornell University, Doctoral Program in German Studies – Ph.D. May 2014
2011–2012 Humboldt Universität zu Berlin / Fulbright Fellowship for
Doctoral Research

Jan. 2011 M.A. in German Studies, Cornell University

1998–2002 B.A. magna cum laude in German Literature, New York University

2000–2001 Study abroad: New York University in Prague, Universität Wien

Research and teaching interests

20th-century German literature, culture, and thought, especially 1900–1933

Media and visual culture in German modernism and the avant-garde

Marx, Critical Theory, and the Frankfurt School

Science fiction

Philosophical Anthropology

Monograph

Biological Modernism: The New Human in Weimar Culture. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press (December, 2019).

Articles in refereed journals

“Kracauer, Bachofen, and the ‘bedeutungsleere Naturfundament.’” *The Germanic Review: Literature, Culture, Theory* 98.3 (September 2023): 281–300.

“‘Nowhere an obstacle’: Transparency, Embodied Perception, and Becoming in Paul Scheerbart’s *Lesabendio*.” *Modernism/modernity* 7, no. 3 [Online section] (May 2, 2023).
<https://doi.org/10.26597/mod.0256>

“Breaking Open Utopia: Science Fiction as Critique in the GDR.” *Monatshefte* 107.3 (2015): 468–482.

“‘Jetzt kommt das Leben’: The Technological Body in Alfred Döblin’s *Berge Meere und Giganten*.” *The German Quarterly* 88.3 (2015): 291–316.

“Simply Reproducing Reality: Brecht, Benjamin, and Renger-Patzsch on Photography.” *German Studies Review* 37.3 (2014): 549–573.

Essays and entries in collected volumes

- “Döblins Subjektkritik als kritischer Posthumanismus.” *Internationales Alfred-Döblin-Kolloquium Cambridge 2017. Natur, Technik und das (Post-)Humane in den Schriften Alfred Döblins*, ed. Steffan Davies and David Midgley, Peter Lang, 2019.
- “Alien Evolution and Dialectical Materialism in Eastern European Science Fiction.” *Science Fiction Circuits of the South and East*, ed. Anindita Banerjee and Sonja Fritzsche, Peter Lang, 2018. 101–134.
- “Döblins ‘Mutterlauge’ vom Expressionismus bis zur *Schicksalsreise*. Laufbahn einer interdisziplinären Denkfigur.” *Internationales Alfred-Döblin-Kolloquium Zürich 2015. Exil als Schicksalsreise. Alfred Döblin und das Literarische Exil 1933–1950*, ed. Sabina Becker and Sabine Schneider, Peter Lang, 2017. 287–297.
- “‘Ersticken im Stofflichen’ – Characters as Collectives in Alfred Döblin’s *Wallenstein*.” *The German Historical Novel Since the Eighteenth Century*, ed. Daniela Richter. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016. 97–125.
- “*Das Ich über der Natur*.” *Alfred Döblin-Handbuch. Leben – Werk – Wirkung*, ed. Sabina Becker. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2016. 276–280.

Book reviews and review essays

- Andreas Gailus, *Forms of Life: Aesthetics and Biopolitics in German Culture* (Cornell University Press, 2020). *Monatshefte* 115.2 (2023): 283–286.
- Ingo Cornils, *Beyond Tomorrow: German Science Fiction and Utopian Thought in the 20th and 21st Centuries* (Camden House, 2020). *Monatshefte* 114.2 (2022): 319–322.
- Humberto Beck, *The Moment of Rupture: Historical Consciousness in Interwar German Thought* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019). *German Quarterly* 93.3 (2020): 425–427.
- “Anthropology, Philosophy, and Politics in Weimar Germany—Helmuth Plessner in Translation.” Review essay on Helmuth Plessner, *Political Anthropology*, trans. Nils F. Schott (Northwestern University Press, 2018), and *Levels of Organic Life and the Human: An Introduction to Philosophical Anthropology*, trans. Millay Hyatt (Fordham University Press, 2019). *The Germanic Review: Literature, Culture, Theory* 94.4 (2019): 363–370.
- Ulrich E. Bach, *Tropics of Vienna: Colonial Utopias of the Habsburg Empire* (Berghahn, 2016), and Robert Leucht, *Dynamiken politischer Imagination. Die deutschsprachige Utopie von Stifter bis Döblin in ihren internationalen Kontexten, 1848–1930* (De Gruyter, 2016). *The Germanic Review: Literature, Culture, Theory*, 92.3 (2017): 322–327.
- Andreas Huyssen, *Miniature Metropolis: Literature in an Age of Photography and Film* (Harvard University Press, 2015). *The Germanic Review: Literature, Culture, Theory* 90.4 (2015): 362–365.

Other publications

- “Humans Are Nature’s Eccentrics—Laughing and Crying Show Why.” *Public Books* (February 14, 2024). <https://www.publicbooks.org/humans-are-natures-eccentrics-laughing-and-crying-show-why/>
- “News from Nature.” *Colloquia Germanica* 52.3–4 (2021), a special issue co-edited and with an introduction co-written with Harald Zils.

Awards

- Honorable mention, DAAD/GSA Book Prize for the Best Book in Germanistik or Cultural Studies for *Biological Modernism: The New Human in Weimar Culture* (October 2020)
- Honorable mention, Harpur College Teaching Award, Binghamton University (June 2020)
- Max Kade Prize for the Best Article in *The German Quarterly*, for “‘Jetzt kommt das Leben’: The Technological Body in Alfred Döblin’s *Berge Meere und Giganten*” (November 2016)
- Graduate Student Article Prize of the German Studies Association, for “Simply Reproducing Reality: Brecht, Benjamin, and Renger-Patzsch on Photography” (October 2013)

Grants and fellowships

- DAAD Faculty Summer Seminar, Cornell University (June–July 2018)
- Faculty Fellowship, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at Binghamton University (spring 2018, spring 2023)
- Dean’s Research Semester (one-semester teaching release, spring 2017)
- DAAD Faculty Summer Seminar, Cornell University (June–July 2014)
- American Friends of the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach Travel Grant (summer 2013)
- Fulbright Fellowship for Doctoral Research in Berlin (2011–2012)

Invited lectures

- “Twelve Minutes Late: Early Science Fiction as Modernization Fantasy in *Der Tunnel*.” Department of Germanic Studies, The University of Texas at Austin (February 2024)
- “Kracauer, Bachofen, and the *ungesichtete Naturfundament*.” Cornell Institute for German Cultural Studies Colloquium Series (April 2022)
- “Tunnel and Tower: Science Fiction and the Production of the Future around 1913.” Department of Germanic Languages, Columbia University (February 2019)
- “‘Nirgendwo ein Hemmnis’: Transparency, Embodied Perception, and Becoming in Paul Scheerbart’s *Lesabéndio* (1913).” Department of German, Georgetown University (January 2019)
- “Bodies, Borders, and Biological Modernism in Plessner, Döblin, and Jünger.” Germanic and Slavic Languages Speaker Series, The Pennsylvania State University (November 2016)
- “Natural Histories of Photography in Weimar Germany.” VizCult Speaker Series, Department of Art History, Binghamton University (February 2016)
- “‘This New Beauty of Technology’: Photography, Modernity, and the ‘New Vision.’” Department of German, Colgate University (March 2015)
- “‘The Charms of the Surface’: Photography as Pedagogy in the Work of Albert Renger-Patzsch.” Department of German and Russian Studies, Binghamton University (March 2014)
- “Breaking open Utopia: Science Fiction as Critique in the GDR.” Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University (January 2014)

Conferences and panels organized

- Seminar co-organizer, “Marxisms and German Studies,” German Studies Association annual

- conference (September 2024)
- Roundtable co-organizer, “Doing New Things with Marx and Marxisms,” German Studies Association annual conference (October 2023)
- Conference co-organizer, “Violence,” Binghamton University German Studies Colloquium (April 5–6, 2019)
- Conference co-organizer, “News from Nature,” Binghamton University German Studies Colloquium (April 20–21, 2018)
- Conference co-organizer, “Quests for Meaning: Religion, Spirituality, and the Transcendental in German Culture,” Binghamton University German Studies Colloquium (April 28–29, 2017)
- Symposium co-organizer, “Technologies of the Human: Modern Figures of Thought,” One-day symposium at Cornell University (March 2016)
- Panel co-organizer, “Döblin’s *Berge Meere und Giganten* (1924) in its Context and Ours,” German Studies Association annual conference (October 2015)
- Panel organizer and presenter, “Čapek’s *R.U.R.* in Our Rationalized World,” *Mutual Inspirations Festival* of the Embassy of the Czech Republic (October 2015)
- Panel co-organizer, “Technologies of Narrative: Technik in the Machine Age,” German Studies Association annual conference (September 2014)
- Panel co-organizer, “The Natural Histories of German Language Science Fiction,” German Studies Association annual conference (September 2011)
- Conference co-organizer, “*Nothing beside remains*”: *Glimpses of Ruins in German Thought, Literature, and Art*: Cornell University German Studies graduate student conference (February 2009)

Other talks, conference presentations, and panel commentary

- “Abstraction and Double-Vision in *Capital*” (roundtable contribution). German Studies Association annual conference (October 2023)
- “Modernism, Modernization, and Science Fiction in Bernhard Kellermann’s *The Tunnel*.” Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Binghamton University (March 2023)
- “Kracauer, photography, and the “bedeutungsleere Naturfundament.” *Green Frankfurt School* (seminar), German Studies Association annual conference (October 2021)
- “From Grassroots Action and Particle Radiation to Interminable Half-lives and Planetary Crises: Micro- and Macro-Scales in Modern Environmentalism” (panel commentator). German Studies Association annual conference (October 2021)
- “Advertising and Modernity in Bernhard Kellermann’s *Der Tunnel* (1913).” German Studies Association annual conference (October 2019)
- Roundtable participant, “Research, Publishing, Professionalization,” *Re-Imagining the Discipline: German Studies, the Humanities, and the University*, Cornell University (September 2019)
- “‘Sie waren mit zwölf Minuten Verspätung in Europa eingetroffen.’ Making Modernity in Bernhard Kellermann’s *Der Tunnel*.” German Studies Association annual conference (September 2018)

- “Embodiment, Perception, and Becoming in Paul Scheerbart’s *Lesabéndio*.” Public colloquium at the DAAD Faculty Summer Seminar on “Literature, Media, Form.” Cornell Institute for German Studies (July 2018)
- “Doing and Suffering in Paul Scheerbart’s *Lesabéndio*.” Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Binghamton University (February 2018)
- “Döblin’s (Pre)Posthumanist Critique of the Subject.” 21st Colloquium of the International Alfred Döblin Society (Cambridge, UK, September 2017)
- “Borders of the Human in Weimar Culture.” Modern Language Association annual convention (January 2017)
- “Doing and Suffering in Paul Scheerbart’s *Lesabéndio*.” German Studies Association annual conference (September 2016)
- “‘Life is moving toward utopias’: Utopia and the Sciences in German Literature, 1871–1945” (panel commentator). German Studies Association annual conference (September 2016)
- “Deficiencies of the *Mängelwesen*: Animal Instrumentality in Plessner’s Philosophical Anthropology.” Symposium on “Technologies of the Human,” Cornell University (March 2016)
- “Life as Style in Alfred Döblin’s *Berge Meere und Giganten*.” German Studies Association annual conference (October 2015)
- “Döblin’s ‘Mutterlauge’ vom Expressionismus bis zur Schicksalsreise. Laufbahn einer interdisziplinären Denkfigur.” 20th Colloquium of the International Alfred Döblin Society (Zürich, May 2015)
- “*Massenwesen* and *Gespensterbeere*: Characters as Collectives in Alfred Döblin’s *Wallenstein*.” Binghamton University German Studies Colloquium (April 2015)
- “Science Fiction Tropes as Transnational Critique in *Andymon*.” Modern Language Association annual convention (January 2015)
- “Body of Knowledge: Technology as Incorporation in Marx and Kapp.” German Studies Association annual conference (September 2014)
- “The Historical Novel in Exile” (panel commentator). German Studies Association annual conference (September 2014)
- “Der Reiz der Oberfläche’: Wiedergabe, Form, and Perceptual Training in the Work of Albert Renger-Patzsch.” *Rethinking Modernism after Cultural Studies* (seminar), German Studies Association annual conference (October 2013)
- “Contextualizing the Conversion Narrative in Döblin’s *Schicksalsreise*.” Graduate Student Colloquium of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University (April 2013)
- “Simply Reproducing Reality’: Brecht, Benjamin, and Renger-Patzsch on Photography.” Cornell Institute for German Cultural Studies Colloquium Series (August 2012)
- “Das Tausendnamige’: Natural Technologies, Natural Histories in Alfred Döblin’s *Berge Meere und Giganten*.” German Studies Association annual conference (September 2011)
- “Utopia against Utopia in East German Science Fiction: the Case of *Andymon*.” *Repetition and Revolt*: Cornell Theory Reading Group conference (April 2011)

“Arthur’s Court as Informational Medium: Mære and Meta-Mære in Wolfram’s *Parzival*.”
45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2010)

“Performing Space with Stifter and Keller – Realism as Fantasy.” *Within or Without: Space in German Literature and Culture*: Cornell University Graduate Student Conference, Department of German Studies (February 2010)

“Citing Silence: Ruhe and Schweigen in Brecht’s Poetry.” *Visions of Sound: The Aural in German Literature and History*: University of Virginia Graduate Student Conference, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures (February 2008)

Teaching

Binghamton University

Cold War Science Fictions (GERM 241F)

Introduction to Marx and Critical Theory (GERM 241G/281G)

Staging Revolutions (GERM 380N)

Transnational Science Fictions (GERM 380L)

Learning to See: Art & Media in Weimar Germany (GERM 241K/380B/C)

Texts and Contexts I (GERM 305)

Text and Contexts II (GERM 306)

Cyborgs & Maschinenmenschen in German Literature and Culture (GERM 381D)

Elementary German I (GERM 101)

Intermediate German I (GERM 203)

Semester-length independent studies on Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit* (2018), Marx’s *Capital, Vol. I* (2020), Brecht (2016), Feuchtwanger’s *The Oppermanns* (2016), and others

Cornell University

“Writing 7100: Teaching Writing” (Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, fall 2013)

“From Fairy Tales to the Uncanny” (spring 2013, spring 2014)

First-semester German (fall 2012)

“Robots, Cyborgs, and Automata in Literature and Film” (spring 2011)

“Marx, Nietzsche, Freud” (fall 2010)

“Reading Academic German” (translation course for graduate students, 2009–2010)

“Expanding the German Dossier” (third-semester German, 2008–2009)

“Genius and Madness in Literature” (TA, Cornell Summer College, 2009, 2011, 2013)

Graduate student dissertation and MA committees

Committee chair, Ziyana Lategan’s MA and dissertation committee, “A Dialectic of Absolute Negativity” (Comparative Literature, 2020–present)

Committee member, Yijun Liu’s MA and dissertation committee, “The Translators Who Made Chinese Science Fiction Possible” (Comparative Literature / TRIP, 2020–present)

Committee member, Seo Yeon Paik’s MA and dissertation committee, “A Comparative Study of Roald Dahl’s *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* with the German and Korean Translations” (Comparative Literature / TRIP, 2020–2022)

Outside examiner, Wylie Schwartz's dissertation defense, "Experimental Pedagogies: The Art and Politics of the Scandinavian Neo-Avant-Garde (1961–1972)" (Art History, spring 2021)

Outside examiner, Patrick Schultz's dissertation committee, "Mediated Benjamin: An Annotated Selection and Translation of Walter Benjamin's Radio Texts" (Comparative Literature / TRIP, spring 2016)

Departmental and campus service

Director of Undergraduate Studies for German (spring 2020–present)

Chair of Search Committee for Assistant Professor of German and Head of German Language Instruction (2023–2024)

Chair of Search Committee for German Instructor and Language Coordinator (2022–2023)

Academic delegate, member of executive board, Binghamton chapter of United University Professions (2021–present)

Member, IPC for a tenure and promotion case, Theatre Department (2021–2022)

Member, selection committee for the Dr. Israel J. Rosefsky Language and Culture Scholarship (fall 2019–present)

Services for Students with Disabilities Reception—nominated by a student, I was recognized for my support for students with disabilities (April 2019)

Nominator of Frank K. Mischke's successful candidacy for the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching (fall 2017, awarded October 2018)

Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies (fall 2017)

Member, steering committee for the Transdisciplinary Area of Excellence on "Material and Visual Worlds" (fall 2017–present)

Professional service

Committee member, American Friends of Marbach fellowship committee (spring 2024)

Member of the Board of the American Friends of Marbach (January 2024–present)

Subcommittee chair, Max Kade Prize for Best Article in *The German Quarterly* (2023)

Committee member, German Studies Association Prize for the Best Essay in German Studies by a Graduate Student (2022)

External reviewer for a tenure committee (2021)

Member of the editorial board of *The German Quarterly* (October 2021–present)

Referee for manuscripts and book proposals submitted to *The German Quarterly*, *New German Critique*, *The Germanic Review*, *Monatshefte*, *De Gruyter's Yearbook for European Jewish Literature Studies*, and Palgrave Macmillan

Referee for the Jamie Bishop Memorial Award of the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts (2017)

Participant/interviewee in "Demonstration Interviews for Job Seekers in Foreign Languages." Program organized by the ADFL Executive Committee. Modern Language Association annual convention (January 2015)

Union service (United University Professions/UUP)

Member of the statewide committee, “The Future of Public Higher Education” (September 2023–present)

Academic delegate and member of the executive board of the Binghamton University chapter of United University Professions (2021–present)

Languages

English: native language

German: near-native fluency

Latin: reading knowledge

Polish, French: intermediate conversational and reading knowledge

Spanish, Czech*, Ancient Greek*, Russian, Arabic, Middle High German*: formal coursework* or extended travel resulting in novice or elementary proficiency

Professional memberships

German Studies Association (GSA)

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Modernist Studies Association (MSA)

American Friends of Marbach (AFM)

American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

American Association of Teachers of German (AATG)

International Alfred Döblin Society (IADG)

United University Professions (UUP)