Nicholas A. Block

Boston College
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Boston College, Associate Professor of the Practice, German Studies — 2025 – present
Assistant Director, Jewish Studies

Assistant Professor of the Practice, German Studies — 2019 – 2025
Visiting Assistant Professor, German Studies — 2016 – 2019

Emory University, Visiting Assistant Professor, German Studies — 2013 – 2016
Affiliated Faculty, The Tam Institute for Jewish Studies

EDUCATION

University of Michigan — 2006 – 2013
PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures
PhD Certificate, Judaic Studies
Dissertation: "In the Eyes of Others: The Dialectics of German-Jewish and Yiddish Modernisms"
Committee: Scott Spector, Mikhail Krutikov, Kader Konuk, Kerstin Barndt

Freie Universität Berlin — 2010 – 2011
Doctoral Fellow, Institute for German and Dutch Philology

New York University — 2010
YIVO Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish, Advanced Yiddish Section

Ohr Somayach Tanenbaum College, Jerusalem — 2005 – 2006
Talmudic Law

The College of William and Mary — 1999 – 2003
BA, German Studies
Certificate in Secondary Education Foreign Language Instruction, School of Education

TEACHING LICENSURE

Collegiate Professional License from the Commonwealth of Virginia to teach German PreK-12 — 2003

COURSES TAUGHT

Boston College

Honors Thesis	GERM 6699
Advanced Independent Research	GERM 6601
Vienna Art & Architecture (Arts Core, Summer Abroad)	GERM 2205
The German Literary Legacy (Literature Core)	GERM 2200
Literature of Migration: Diaspora, Exile, and Homecoming	GERM 2250 / ENGL 2251
Representing the Holocaust (Arts Core + Diversity Core)	GERM 2203 / FILM 2253
The Holocaust: Memory and Representation (Enduring Questions, Arts + Diversity Core)	UNAS 1721
Modern Jewish Thought (Diversity Core)	GERM 2160 / THEO 2260 / PHIL 2263
Deutscher Film (Arts Core)	GERM 2011
History of German Literature II: Kleist to Today	GERM 3002
History of German Literature I: Runes to Enlightenment	GERM 3001
History of German Literature (Literature Core)	GERM 3000
Intermediate German II	GERM 1051
Intermediate German I	GERM 1050
Elementary German II	GERM 1002
Elementary German I	GERM 1001

HONORS AND AWARDS

Essay Prize, *The Leo Baeck Institute Year Book*	2015
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, (university award), U of Michigan	2013
Best Graduate Student Paper Award, AATG-*The German Quarterly*	2012
Best Graduate Paper, Indiana/Ohio State University Folklore and Ethnomusicology Student Associations Conference	2008
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, (departmental award), U of Michigan	2007

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Teaching Grant, Academic Technology Innovation Grant, Boston College	2020 – 2022
Research Grant, Gerald Westheimer Career Development Fellowship, Leo Baeck Institute	2016 – 2017
Teaching Grant, Center for Faculty Development and Excellence, Emory University	Spring 2015
Dissertation Fellowship, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan	Fall 2012
Research Grant, Department of Germanic Lang. and Lit., University of Michigan	Summer 2012
Dissertation Fellowship, Simon A. Courtade Award, University of Michigan	2011 – 2012
Research Grant, Faculty-Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Workshop, U of Michigan	2011 – 2012
Research Grant, Department of Germanic Lang. and Lit., University of Michigan	Summer 2011
Dissertation Fellowship, Freie Universität Berlin	2010 – 2011
Research Grant, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan	2010 – 2011
Research Grant, Department of Germanic Lang. and Lit., University of Michigan	Summer 2010
Research Grant, Frankel Family Fellowship, University of Michigan	Summer 2010
Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Germanic Lang. and Lit., University of Michigan	2009 – 2010
Research Grant, Frankel Family Fellowship, University of Michigan	Summer 2009
Research Grant, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan	Summer 2008
Research Grant, Department of Germanic Lang. and Lit., University of Michigan	Summer 2008
Research Grant, Marshall Weinberg Endowed Fund, University of Michigan	Summer 2008
Research Grant, Marshall Weinberg Endowed Fund, University of Michigan	Summer 2007

CURRENT BOOK PROJECT

Schlepping Culture: The Jewish Renaissance between German and Yiddish, 1880-1940

ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

11. "A Jewish Reading of the Old High German Poem 'Muspilli.'" (forthcoming)
10. "The Yiddish Typewriter and Jewish Literature." (forthcoming)
9. "The Place of Yiddish in German-Jewish Studies." In *German-Jewish Studies: Next Generations*, edited by Aya Elyada and Kerry Wallach, 101-118. Oxford, NY: Berghahn Books, 2023. doi.org/10.3167/9781800736771.
8. "Dialogue and Intersection in German Holocaust Memory Culture: Stumbling Blocks and the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe." In *Minority Discourses in Germany since 1990*, edited by Ela Gezen, Priscilla Layne, Jonathan Skolnik, 152-171. Oxford, NY: Berghahn Books, 2022. doi:10.3167/9781800734272.
7. "Jüdische Exlibris. Traditionelle Motive und moderne Techniken." *Jüdische Geschichte & Kultur, Magazin des Dubnow-Instituts* 5 (2021): 4-7.
6. "A Multilingual Turn in German Studies: Premises, Provisos, and Prospects." *Die Unterrichtspraxis / Teaching German* 52, no. 1. (Spring 2019): 14-31. doi:10.1111/tger.12082.
5. "The *Ex Libris* of the German-Jewish Artist Emma Dessau Goitein." In *Emma Dessau Goitein: Un'artista europea a Perugia*, edited by Fedoro Boco, Maria Luisa Martella, and Gabrielle Steindler Moscati, 43-48. Museum of the Academy of Fine Arts of Perugia. Perugia: Fabrizio Fabbri, 2018.
    - In Italian translation: "Gli *ex libris* dell'artista ebrea tedesca Emma Dessau Goitein." In *Emma Dessau Goitein: Un'artista europea a Perugia*, a cura di Fedoro Boco, Maria Luisa Martella e Gabrielle Steindler Moscati. Museo dell'Accademia di Belle Arti di Perugia, 43-48. Perugia: Fabrizio Fabbri, 2018.
4. "A Berlin Republic *Convivencia*? Ethnic Tensions in the Turkish-German-Jewish Triangle." *German Studies Review* 40, no. 2 (May 2017): 353-371. doi:10.1353/gsr.2017.0050.
3. "On Nathan Birnbaum's Messianism and Translating the Jewish Other." *The Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* 60 (2015): 61-78. doi:10.1093/leobaeck/ybv002.
    - Awarded the 2015 Leo Baeck Essay Prize
2. "If I Forget Thee, O Jerusalem: The Jewish Exilic Mind in Else Lasker-Schüler's *IchundIch*." *Nexus: Essays in German Jewish Studies* 2 (2014): 103-120.
1. "Ex Libris and Exchange: Immigrant Interventions in the German-Jewish Renaissance." *The German Quarterly* 86, no. 3 (Summer 2013): 334-353. doi:10.1111/gequ.10186.
    - Awarded the 2012 AATG-*The German Quarterly* Best Graduate Student Paper

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *Making German Jewish Literature Anew: Authorship, Memory, and Place* by Katja Garloff. *German Studies Review* 47, no. 1 (February 2024): 177-179. doi: 10.1353/gsr.2024.a919909.

Review of *Jewish Primitivism* by Samuel Spinner. *AJS Review* 47, no. 1 (April 2023): 200-202. doi: 10.1353/ajs.2023.0017.

Review of *Strangers in Berlin: Modern Jewish Literature between East and West, 1919–1933* by Rachel Seelig. *German Quarterly* 90, no. 2 (Spring 2017): 239-242. doi:10.1111/gequ.12034.

Review of *Kafka's Jewish Languages: The Hidden Openness of Tradition* by David Suchoff. *German Studies Review* 37, no. 3 (October 2014): 678-680. doi:10.1353/gsr.2014.0124.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Lehrhaus, Somerville, MA. Lecture "German-Jewish Bookplate Art: Identities and Politics Seen through Ex Libris," October 19, 2023.

The Jewish Daily Forward, interviewed, "In the rarified world of Jewish letters, a mind-boggling font of Jewish history," July 22, 2022, https://forward.com/culture/507668/faux-hebrew-font-jewish-antisemitic-soy-vey-origins-fake-yiddish-letters/

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, translated Shimon Rolnitzky, "The Hasidic Jews of Monsey must ignore the outsiders who want us to take up arms and politicize our tragedy," December 31, 2019. https://www.jta.org/2019/12/31/opinion/we-hasidic-jews-of-monsey-must-ignore-the-outsiders-who-want-us-to-take-up-arms-and-politicize-our-tragedy

CNN, interviewed, "Trying to convince ultra-Orthodox Jews to vaccinate, New York messes up the Yiddish," May 22, 2019, https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/22/health/ny-mangled-measles-messaging/index.html

Wall Street Journal, interviewed, "These Typewriters Were Key to Golden Age of Yiddish Literature," May 9, 2019, https://www.wsj.com/articles/these-typewriters-were-key-to-golden-age-of-yiddish-literature-11557439196

Forverts, The Yiddish Daily Forward, "Remington Goes Bankrupt - Once the Largest Producer of Yiddish Typewriters," March 30, 2018, https://yiddish.forward.com/articles/208784/index.html

Academic consultant, YIVO Institute exhibit "Rise of the Yiddish (Writing) Machines." Spring 2019.

Commentator for movie *Jakob der Lügner* (1974). Goethe-Zentrum, Atlanta. April 2016.

Commentator for movie *My Wife's Lover* (1931). Atlanta Jewish Film Festival. Feb. 14, 2016.

Commentator for movie *Anderswo* (2014). Atlanta Jewish Film Festival. Feb. 14, 2015.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

"A Jewish Reading of the Old High German Poem 'Muspilli.'" German Jewish Studies Workshop, University of Notre Dame. February 18-20, 2024.

"A Jewish Reading of the Old High German Poem 'Muspilli.'" Colloquium on Jewish Studies at Jesuit Universities. Boston College. October 31-November 1, 2023.

"Frankfurt as Orthodox Center in the Jewish Renaissance: Franz Rosenzweig and Bertha Pappenheim." Association for Jewish Studies (AJS). Washington, DC. December 15-17, 2020.

"German Jews and Non-Jews in the Yiddish Theater: Transnational German-Jewish Studies." Association for Jewish Studies (AJS). San Diego, CA. December 15-17, 2019.

"Dialogue and Intersection in German Holocaust Memory Culture: Stumbling Blocks and the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe." German Jewish Studies Workshop, Notre Dame. Feb. 24-26, 2019.

"The Shifting Locale of the Jewish Orient in German-Jewish Thought." Notre Dame German Jewish Studies Workshop. Tantur Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem, Israel. March 17-21, 2018.

"Shared Spaces: Jewish-Muslim Relations in 21st-Century German Culture." Minorities and Minority Discourses in Germany Since 1990, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. March 3-5, 2017.

Multilingualism and German Studies seminar. German Studies Association (GSA). San Diego, CA. September 29-October 2, 2016.

"Tales of the German-Jewish Future: Fear, Destruction, and Yiddish Takeovers." Contested Jewish Futures, Emory University, Tam Institute for Jewish Studies. February 2-3, 2016.

"The 'Domain of One's Own' Project: Composing German for the Web." American Association for Teachers of German (AATG / ACTFL). San Diego, CA. November 20-22, 2015.

"The Shifting Locale of Jewish Orients in German-Jewish Thought." Emory German Studies Roundtable. April 14, 2015.

Conference Presentations and Lectures, cont'd.

"German Politics and Jews." Political Science 385: The German Political System, Emory University. April 2, 2015.

"The *Ostjude* and its Discontents: Alternatives for Jewish Identification." German and Jewish Studies Workshop at Duke University. Durham, NC. February 15-17, 2015.

"Is Ebonics the New Yiddish? Linguistic Politics in Historical Perspective." With Mary Zeigler, Georgia State University. German 380, Emory University. January 27, 2015.

"Yankev Glatshteyn's Emil and Karl (1940): Women and Children in the Spotlight of Jewish Plight." Association for Jewish Studies (AJS). Baltimore, MD. December 14-16, 2014.

Martin Heidegger and the documentary Only a God Can Save Us (2009). Panel discussion. Emory University, Institute of Liberal Arts. September 28, 2014.

"Negative Cosmopolitanism with Turkish Students in the German Classroom." German Studies Association (GSA). Kansas City, MO. September 18-21, 2014.

"The Webcomic Moishe Hundesohn and the Turkish-German-Jewish Triangle." German Studies Association (GSA). Denver, CO. October 3-6, 2013.

"At the Confluence of Literary Streams: The German Writings of Galician Jews." *Transnational German Studies Workshop*. University of Warwick and Humboldt University. May 19-26, 2013.

"Growing Up Jewish in Postwar Germany." *The Third Reich and Its Legacies*, German 499, University of Michigan. March 19, 2013.

"Bookplates in the German-Jewish Renaissance." *German Studies Association (GSA)*, Panel on German-Jewish Book Culture: Text and Illumination. Milwaukee, WI. October 5-7, 2012.

"The Shifting Locales of Jewish Orients in Abraham Zvi Idelsohn's *Hebräisch-orientalischer Melodienschatz*." *Transnational German Studies Workshop*. Ann Arbor, MI. May 7-14, 2012.

"German-Jewish Book Culture and the Practice of Self-Invention." Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan. April 24, 2012.

"Nathan Birnbaum's Yiddish Writings on German Jewry, or The Grass is Always Greener..." *Association for Jewish Studies* (AJS). Washington, DC. December 18-20, 2011.

"Contemporary German-Jewish Authors and The Weight of History." *The Third Reich and Its Legacies*, German 180, University of Michigan. October 19, 2011.

"Autoethnography in the Cult of the Eastern European Jew." *Fourth Warsaw Conference for Young Jewish Studies Researchers*. University of Warsaw, Poland. June 14-16, 2011.

"Representation and Counter-Representation of Jewish Difference across German-Jewish and Yiddish Literatures." *German Studies Association* (GSA). Oakland, CA. October 7-10, 2010.

"Alfred Döblin's Uncanny Other." *University of Kentucky Foreign Language Conference*, Panel on German Travel Writing. Lexington, KY. April 16-18, 2009.

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem: The Jewish Exilic Mind in Else Lasker-Schüler's *IchundIch*." *German and Jewish Studies Workshop* at Duke University. Durham, NC. February 15-17, 2009.

"Authenticating Jewish Folk Music: Behind Abraham Zvi Idelsohn's 'Hava Nagila.'" *Indiana and Ohio State Folklore & Ethnomusicology Student Associations*. Columbus, OH. May 16-17, 2008.

CONFERENCES, PANELS, AND SPEAKER EVENTS ORGANIZED/CHAIRED

Speaker Event Co-Organizer, Christian Kracht, Swiss author. Boston College. April 10, 2019.

Commentator, "Globalization and Border crossings in Contemporary Literature, Culture, and Film." Panel at the *German Studies Association* (GSA). San Diego, CA. September 30 - October 2, 2016.

Conferences, Panels, and Speaker Events Organized/Chaired, cont'd.

Conference Organizer, *Contested Jewish Futures: Recovering an Era of Ferment and Possibility in Jewish Life*. Conference at Emory University, Tam Institute for Jewish Studies. February 2-3, 2016.

Speaker Event Organizer, "Is Ebonics the New Yiddish? Linguistic Politics in Historical Perspective." Mary Zeigler, Georgia State University. German 380, Emory University. January 27, 2015.

Session Chair, "Nazi-Era Refugees Confront the American World of Difference." Panel at the *American Jewish Historical Society* (AJHS). Atlanta, GA. June 10-12, 2014.

Session Chair, "Germany's Holocaust Past, Post-unification Migration and Redefining Germany's Post-WWII Identity." Panel at *Migration, Memory, and Diversity in Germany Conference*. Emory University. September 22-23, 2013.

Panel Organizer, "Seeing Jews: German Visual Culture and Jewish Identity." Panel at the *German Studies Association* (GSA). Denver, CO. October 3-6, 2013.

Speaker Event Organizer, Anant Kumar, Indian Author of German Literature. Poetry reading and seminar in German 470. Emory University. August 28, 2013.

Panel Organizer, "German-Jewish Book Culture: Text and Illumination." Panel at the *German Studies Association* (GSA). Milwaukee, WI. October 5-7, 2012.

Conference Assistant, *Transnational German Studies Workshop. A Global Engagement of Doctoral Education seminar*. University of Michigan. May 7-14, 2012.

Neco Çelik, Turkish-German Filmmaker. Film screening and artist-in-residence with *Alamanya*, Turkish-German and German Minority Workshop. Univ. of Michigan. February 12-16, 2012.

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Director of Undergraduate Studies, German Studies	Spring 2025
Coordinator, German Language Program, Elementary & Intermediate Levels	2016 – present
Director, German Studies Interdisciplinary Minor	2019 – present
Provost's Advisory Council (PAC)	2022 – 2025
University Fellowships Committee, Advanced Studies Grant (ASG) review	2022 – present
Faculty Technology Contact (FTC)	2021 – present
University Core Renewal Committee (UCRC)	Spring 2022
Educational Policy Committee (EPC), Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences	2021 – 2022
Assistant Director, Jewish Studies	2025 - present
Advisory Board, Jewish Studies interdisciplinary minor	2023 - present
Pre-major advisor, Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences	2020 – present
Summer advisor, Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences	2021 – present
Faculty Advisor, Stammtisch	2020 – present
Faculty Advisor, German Club	2020 – present
Translator, PBS Television Series *Finding Your Roots*	
Peer Reviewer, *The German Quarterly, Naharaim: Journal of German-Jewish Literature and Culture History, Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German, Religion and the Arts*	
Secretary, Brighton Allston Improvement Association (BAIA)	2023 – present
Member, Brighton Allston Improvement Association (BAIA)	2019 – present

LANGUAGES

English, German, Yiddish, Hebrew, Aramaic