

Nicholas A. Block

Boston College
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Boston College

Assistant Professor of the Practice, German Studies 2019 – present
Affiliated Faculty, Jewish Studies

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 Program

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 2003
PreK-12

COURSES TAUGHT

Boston College		2016 – 2022
GERM 6699	Honors Thesis	
GERM 6601	Advanced Independent Research	
GERM 2250 / ENGL 2251	Literature of Migration: Diaspora, Exile, and Homecoming	
GERM 2203 / FILM 2253	Representing the Holocaust (Arts Core)	
GERM 2160 / THEO 2260	Modern Jewish Thought	
GERM 2011	Deutscher Film (Arts Core)	
GERM 3002	History of German Literature II: Kleist to Today	
GERM 3001	History of German Literature I: Runes to Enlightenment	
GERM 3000	History of German Literature (Literature Core)	
GERM 1051	Intermediate German II	
GERM 1050	Intermediate German I	
GERM 1002	Elementary German II	
GERM 1001	Elementary German I	
UNAS 1721	The Holocaust: Memory and Representation (Arts + Diversity Core)	

HONORS AND AWARDS

Essay Prize, <i>The Leo Baeck Institute Year Book</i>	2015
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, (university award), U of Michigan	2013
Best Graduate Student Paper Award, AATG- <i>The German Quarterly</i>	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

“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, 2022. ([forthcoming](#) October 2022)

“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](https://doi.org/10.3167/9781800734272).

"Jüdische Exlibris. Traditionelle Motive und moderne Techniken." *Jüdische Geschichte & Kultur, Magazin des Dubnow-Instituts* 5 (2021): [4-7](#).

“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](https://doi.org/10.1111/tger.12082).

“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.

“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](https://doi.org/10.1353/gsr.2017.0050).

“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](https://doi.org/10.1093/leobaeck/ybv002).

- Awarded the 2015 Leo Baeck Essay Prize

“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](#).

“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](https://doi.org/10.1111/gequ.10186).

- Awarded the 2012 AATG-*The German Quarterly* Best Graduate Student Paper

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *Jewish Primitivism* by Samuel Spinner. *AJS Review* 46, no. 2 (Fall 2022, forthcoming)..

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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/10.1353/gsr.2014.0124).

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND MEDIA COVERAGE

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.’” Notre Dame German Jewish Studies Workshop. February 6-8, 2022. (canceled due to COVID)

“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.” Notre Dame German Jewish Studies Workshop. 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, Amherst, MA. March 3-5, 2017.

Conference Presentations and Lectures, cont'd.

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.

"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/CHAIR

- 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.
- 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.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- German Studies Association (GSA)
 Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)
 American Association of Teachers of German (AATG)

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| Coordinator, German Language Program, Introductory Level | 2016 – 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 |
| Advisor, German minor (departmental) | 2021 – 2022 |
| Director, German Studies Interdisciplinary Minor | 2019 – 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 <i>Finding Your Roots</i> | |
| Peer Reviewer, <i>The German Quarterly</i> , <i>Naharaim: Journal of German-Jewish Literature and Culture History</i> , <i>Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German</i> | |
| Voting member, Brighton Allston Improvement Association | 2019 – present |

ADVISING

Honors Theses, Boston College

Darius Russell Kish (2021), German Studies, main advisor

John Ebersole (2018), German Studies, main advisor

LANGUAGES

English, German, Yiddish, Hebrew, Aramaic