

Liebe Leserinnen,

Greetings from a fairly empty Founders Hall!

This may very well have been the longest academic year in my history of teaching at Wellesley: You may know that the College had moved from our semester program to a quarter program to accommodate our students' ability to spend at least one part of the academic year on campus. First years and sophomores were allowed to return to campus in the fall quarters, to make space for the upper-class students to move in for the spring terms. While our brave students took two classes per quarter, faculty taught one class per quarter, each lasting some short 6.5 weeks. The syllabi of our language classes had to be cut down by quite a bit to make them work with the newly condensed class schedules which had some of our classes meet four times per week.

But it worked, and I am grateful to our new colleague Prof. Susanne Fuchs who volunteered to teach many of her courses on campus so our first-year students indeed had classes to take in person – isn't this what starting college is supposed to be all about?

Last September, many of us had approached the academic year with trepidations and concerns about everyone's health and the possibility of teaching in masks, following tight health protocols that were indicated, for example, by a big line on the floor of each classroom demarcating where the space allotted to the instructor ended. How much we had to unlearn as instructors - from giving out chocolates in class to approaching a group of students working together in the classroom. Walking down the stairs of Founders Hall all of a sudden was easy: no more worries about running into groups of people all busy checking their phones between classes. Instead, there is no noise here in the hallways as I am writing these lines while most of the classes take place in buildings other than Founders Hall, where pretty much all classrooms are too small to accommodate the space protocols to keep us all safe.

Operating on Zoom this year allowed us to renew wonderful connections as we made some of our cultural events accessible to audiences off-campus; a fabulous reading with the poet Katherine Hollander (reading from her *My German Dictionary*), as well as a wonderful conversation with dear alumnae from the Wellesley-in-Germany club led by Venita Kaleps '77, were among the highlights.

And yet, some things have not changed: our students are as bright and hard working as ever, their resilience has enabled them to engage with our Dresden internship program virtually, they have been doing stellar work as most accomplished majors and minors, and as wonderful learners in our language courses.

Please let me end by thanking Katie Sango-Jackson, our wonderful department administrator who has supported us in all of our endeavors during this very long academic year.

Wishing you all well – *bleiben Sie gesund!*

Thomas Nolden,
Chair, German Studies
Director, Comparative Literary Studies

Thomas Nolden

Thomas Nolden missed the department's *wintersession abroad* program which had to be cancelled for the first time in several decades and sincerely hopes that the College will return to running our famous January-in-Berlin program as soon as health conditions will allow. He taught both remote and in-person sections of a new course that surveyed trends in ecological literature as well as a new seminar on cultural productions in the Berlin Republic. As a member of the College's Sustainability Committee, he worked towards our endowment's divestment from fossil fuels.

His essay on Paris during the Nazi occupation appeared in the collection *Shadows in the City of Light: Paris in Postwar French Jewish Writing*, his essay on the French writer George Perec was published in the *Places and Forms of Encounter in Jewish Literatures Transfer, Mediality and Situativity*. He is currently working on an essay on the reworking of traditions in Jewish German letters and on a collection on translation studies.

Susanne Fuchs

Susanne Fuchs arrived at Wellesley College in August 2020, which was certainly an unusual time to get to know a new community. Nonetheless, she very much enjoyed the opportunity to work with students in their Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior years in her language classes.



Instructing in person in the fall, she became acquainted with the beautiful campus and got a vague idea of what life at the college must be like during a normal year. She cannot wait to return in the fall and experience Wellesley in its "regular splendor." In 2021/22, Susanne will continue to teach language courses as well as GER231 "Once Upon a Time There Were Two Brothers," a course on the history and politics of German fairy tales.

In the summer and winter break of the past academic year, Susanne Fuchs wrote an article on oblivion in *Faust II*, which she is currently revising. She also participated in seminars and workshops on migration and environmental topics and encountered many materials she is excited to share and discuss with her students. She looks forward to returning to Austria and France this summer, to visit her family and work on the manuscript of her first book.

Anjeana Hans

Anjeana Hans taught GER 236 and GER 201 remotely (from Vienna!) in the fall terms of 2020. She began sabbatical leave in January 2021, to research independent films produced in Austria between 1933 and 1937 by filmmakers, screenwriters, and actors who were no longer allowed to work in Germany after Hitler's rise to power.

Jens Kruse, professor emeritus, is enjoying his retirement. He lives on Orcas Island, WA. There, he serves on the Board of Trustees of the local Public Library. He is writing occasional book reviews for the digital daily *The Orcasonian*. He has also taken courses on poetry and memoir writing and is working in those forms. He remains engaged with members of the Wellesley College community and encourages students and alums to stay in touch via e-mail at jkruse@wellesley.edu or Twitter at @jenskruse2.

Impressions from Abroad: Alumnae Edition

Portrait of a Lady in Berlin: Jane Helmchen '61

Written by Katie Christoph '21



Jane Helmchen '61 may as well have majored in German Studies at Wellesley. Though she graduated with a Bachelor's in English, nearly every recent German Studies alumna or alumna with a connection to Germany has been in touch with Jane in one way or another—whether by email, a serendipitous weekend outing in October, or a hearty jaunt through Berlin's living history in the bitter mid-January cold.

This past year, the Alumnae Association awarded Jane the [Sed Ministrare Volunteer Award](#), which serves to recognize alumnae who embody the College's motto, *Non Ministrari sed Ministrare*, through dedicated volunteer service to Wellesley. Jane began volunteering when she was still a student in the tail-end of the 1950s

working as a campus tour guide showing prospective students her Wellesley home. Four years after her graduation, Jane married and moved permanently to Germany in 1965. There, she began to work as Wellesley's "Alumnae Admission Representative" for Germany—one of the many titles she still holds to this day (over 50 years later!).

In the late 90s, Jane took the lead on organizing annual October get-together weekends for alumnae located in Germany. Through this role, Jane has served as the go-to contact for alumnae seeking Wellesley connections or a cozy place to stay while briefly passing through Berlin. Over the years, Jane has graciously opened her home to alumnae young and old: her guest book is filled to the brim with gratitude, warm wishes, and heartfelt letters, illustrating the depths of her generosity and the global reach of the Wellesley community.

Recent German Studies alumnae are most familiar with Jane as a facilitator of the cultural component of Wintersession-in-Berlin. Each January for the past eight years, Jane has braved Berlin's fickle weather to walk Wellesley students through the complex and vibrant streets of the sprawling German capital. Jane's walking tours delicately layer personal vignettes from her many years living in a divided Berlin with a studied historical background. It's not often that students have the chance to speak with someone—much less an American!—who was in Berlin the night the Wall came down (or whose bookshelves house a hand-chiseled piece of it). Hearing first-hand witness history from Jane is a rare privilege afforded to Wellesley students, and certainly a highlight of the Wintersession program for many.

When asked what it is about volunteering that has kept her involved and invigorated for over five decades, Jane simply replied: "Because it has always been so rewarding to meet and get to know

other Wellesley women.” She notes that her lengthy service reflects the growth and maturation she experienced during her four years on campus, as well as a way to give back to the community she holds so dear. Jane even quips that when she starts talking about Wellesley, she can never seem to stop—a penchant for which alumnae across class years seem to share.

For recent or soon-to-be alumnae, Jane offers the following advice for staying close with your Wellesley siblings in the decades to come:

1. *First, make sure that you organize something with your closest friends on campus (or remotely at this point). I have been part of a round robin letter for 60 years now that goes around to six classmates about 2-3 times a year, and this continues to keep us together, even though for many years now we have added emails in-between for immediate communication.*
2. *There are a number of Facebook, Instagram, etc. sites just for Wellesley women. You might look into these to see if anything is of interest to you.*
3. *Wherever you end up, especially in the USA, there is likely to be a Wellesley Club. Join it and go to meetings; you’ll be surprised at how easy it is to get into conversation even with older alums!*
4. *Try to get back to reunions; it is fascinating to find out what everyone else is now doing. And you’ll find for sure that you get into conversation with women you hardly knew during your Wellesley years.*

The German Studies department sincerely thanks Jane for her kindness, dedication, warmth, and service over the years, and sends a hearty *Herzlichen Glückwunsch* across the pond for her most recent accolade.

Wellesley-in-Germany Club



As the academic year comes to an end and a new round of students prepare to graduate this June, many new alumnae seek to find a way to stay connected with the Wellesley community. Thankfully, clubs like Wellesley-in-Germany keep the spirit of Wellesley alive, all over the world. Wellesley-in-Germany is an unofficial club for alumnae to stay connected in Germany. The club comprises over 80 alumnae between the ages of 23 and 90. Many of the members are American but about a

quarter are German. According to the new leader, Venita Kaleps, “It is not only the Wellesley experience that binds us but also our shared identity of the ‘ex-pat’ experience of living in Europe.” This club is a great way to stay involved with the alumnae network and can also be a great resource for current students wanting to connect with Alumnae.

Annually, they host a large weekend gathering in October, choosing a new town each year. This has been a tradition of theirs since 2002, and their last in-person meet up was in 2019 in Switzerland. Although they could not meet this past year, this did not stop them from hosting a weekend “getaway” through zoom. They visited Lübeck virtually and afterwards played fun Lübeck trivia quiz in place of the usual historical tour. Throughout the year the club sends newsletters but before the pandemic, the meeting in October was the only large in-person gathering for these alumnae. With the use of zoom, the group has been meeting more often and has even joined us here (virtually) in the German Studies Department for various events and even classroom visits. (Prof. Fuch’s GER 201 class.)



Since Wellesley-in-Germany is not an official club recognized by the College, they are unable to offer official jobs, housing, or internships for current students. However, there are plenty of informal resources available:

- The alums can provide insight and informal bits of advice on the practicalities of living, studying, working, or traveling in Germany.
- They are very willing to engage with students, either as a trans-Atlantic language partner, or as a local host spending a day showing a student around locally or offering a bed for a few nights when travel is possible again.
- Others might be able to provide advice to help a Wellesley student locate a paid or unpaid internship in their area of expertise.

Don’t be afraid to reach out to any of our wonderful alums living in Germany!

Venita Kaleps ‘77



The new unofficial leader of the Wellesley-in-Germany Club is Venita Kaleps ‘77 who graciously provided the information for this article. At Wellesley, Venita double majored in German Literature and Visual Communication/ Graphic Arts. After graduation she began working for Houghton Mifflin in Boston. Although a great starting point, she could not shake her interest in travel and foreign languages. Soon with *Hummeln im Hintern* (or itchy feet) she headed to Germany for the Frankfurt Book Fair. It was here where she found an internship opportunity to work in Hamburg where she also had relatives.

After relocating to Germany she found her Traumjob as a Photo Editor at a magazine similar to National Geographic, called GEO. Here she commissioned photo assignments for the reporter teams which often involved matchmaking the egos of German *Edelfeder* writers with award winning photographers chasing the light for a *Doppelseite*. Story-telling of world events for “*Das neue Bild der Erde*” was passed along the corridors until the final layout. It was here that she also met her future husband and expedition leader Uwe George and decided to settle in Germany permanently.

Summer Internships

Hope Ferris '22 (she/her) – Stiftung Frauenkirche Dresden



What was your experience like completing a virtual internship? What did you do and where did you intern?

I interned at the Stiftung Frauenkirche Dresden during the summer of 2020. An important site of German memory, the Frauenkirche was destroyed during the firebombing of Dresden in 1946 and remained rubble for decades. After 1989, an international drive helped rebuild the church out of the original materials, resulting in a building that is whole again, but still shows the marks of its destruction. It's a fascinating example of memorialization, and I enjoyed seeing how a cultural organization with strong local and international significance works.

I was in the middle of planning my travel to Germany when we were sent home, so I was very excited to still have the opportunity to intern with them, even if it was virtual. The biggest portion of my work was an independent research project I completed over the course of the summer: I spent a few weeks talking with various colleagues about their work at the Frauenkirche and came up with a research topic — youth involvement in protest + peace work. At the end of the summer, I produced a website that presented the history of protests + peace in connection to the Frauenkirche and pitched a youth peace summit. Overall, it was a really great experience!

What was the most surprising or difficult part of the internship?

The most difficult part of the internship was staying connected — between the time difference and all of us learning how to conduct work in a virtual format, it was sometimes hard to feel like a full employee of the Frauenkirche. A lot of my work was completed independently, and team meetings happened in the middle of the night my time. Weekly check-ins with my supervisor, Frau Noth, and meeting my colleagues helped me feel more like I was a part of the organization.

What was your favorite part of the internship?

Each week, I would meet with a different member of the team to discuss their work and career path. It was really enjoyable to hear about the various paths people had taken to get to the Frauenkirche and also to talk about our day-to-day lives. It felt good to meet new people and connect through the similarities and differences of our experiences of the pandemic.

Where were you located for the duration of your internship? How did you manage the time difference?

I was located at home in North Carolina, so I had a time difference of 6 hours with the Frauenkirche. Frau Noth and my other colleagues were very flexible about scheduling meeting times that would work best for me, sometimes meeting after-hours their time. Frau Noth would send me a summary of the weekly team meetings along with articles she thought I would find interesting each week.

What is something you did to practice self-care over the summer?

I had a hard time transitioning to virtual classes + work at first, so one thing I tried to take advantage of was spending as much time as I could outside. I took as many meetings as I could on the back porch of my house, which had pretty stable internet connection, and started a vegetable garden with my little sister.

Christina Kurre '22 (she/her) – Entwicklungspolitisches Netzwerk Sachsen



What was your experience like completing a virtual internship? What did you do and where did you intern?

I was a virtual intern with Entwicklungspolitisches Netzwerk Sachsen (ENS) in Dresden. I did a myriad of tasks like reviewing grant proposals, presenting on relevant topics, translating documents, and participating in internal discussions about their work. It was an amazing experience and I learned so much.

What was the most surprising or difficult part of the internship?

The most surprising part of the internship was how involved it was. I was initially concerned because I was virtual, and I did not have a good idea of what a virtual intern could even do. But I was able to do so much despite being remote.

The language was challenging mostly because I was very nervous about it. I second guessed myself a lot, but Wellesley's classes prepared me well. And the people at ENS were amazing and would help me if I stumbled over a word.

What was your favorite part of the internship?

My favorite part of the internship was reading the grant proposals. The proposals were really interesting and very creative and sustainable solutions to various forms of inequality. A lot of the ideas were things I had never considered. It was great to learn about seemingly insignificant ways to help lift people out of poverty and/or help them overcome discrimination.

Where were you located for the duration of your internship? How did you manage the time difference?

I was based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for my internship. There was a 6-hour time difference between Pennsylvania and Dresden, which was not always the best, but it was not terrible. Luckily there was some overlap in reasonable working days. But there were also some meetings that I was just not able to participate in because they were in the middle of the night.

What is something you did to practice self-care over the summer?

The best thing I did to practice self-care over the summer was to try to separate my own time from my work time. I gave myself hours for each day that I would work, and I tried to abide by those times so I would have some work-life balance.

Was there ever a zoom blooper or a funny technical mishap? What happened?

The closest thing I had to a zoom blooper was on my last day during the final meeting, someone kept logging on to the zoom room. This person was in a dark room so I could not recognize them and every time they logged in I was so confused. Turns out it was Carla, a previous Wellesley-ENS intern, who was invited to my last meeting as a surprise for me. It was a really kind gesture from ENS to connect me with a Wellesley-ENS alumna.



Olivia Davis '22



Olivia is a current junior and German Studies major. This spring, Olivia lived on campus which has been very different from past years due to the new safety regulations brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. For one, students need wear masks in public spaces, classes run on a term system, and unfortunately, not all of the Wellesley community is on campus this year. Despite all the changes Wellesley students are resilient and the Wellesley spirit is still as bright as ever.

In this video blog, Olivia walks us through a week in her life at Wellesley – in German!

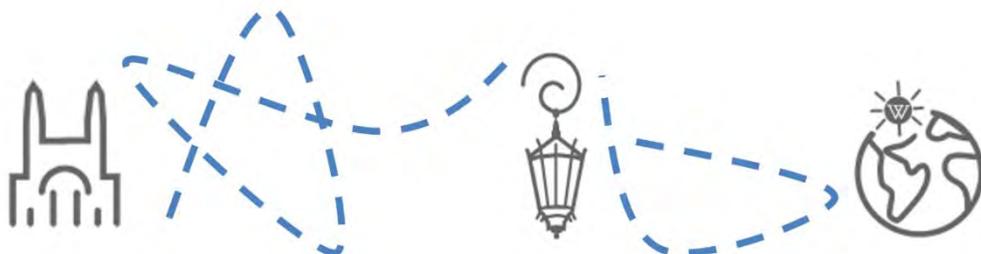
Please click on the image or [this link](#) to play the video.

Sophia Ashebir '21

Sophia Ashebir is a senior and longtime friend of the German Studies Department. She was German Club president in 2019 and continues to keep the essence of German Studies alive.

This is a video of what her life is like at Wellesley this year – in English.

Please click on the image or [this link](#) to play the video.



Department Events: Year in Review

Film and Virtual Visit by Nigerian-German Filmmaker Sheri Hagen December 4, 2020

“We need a second glance to get to know people.” – Sheri Hagen, director.



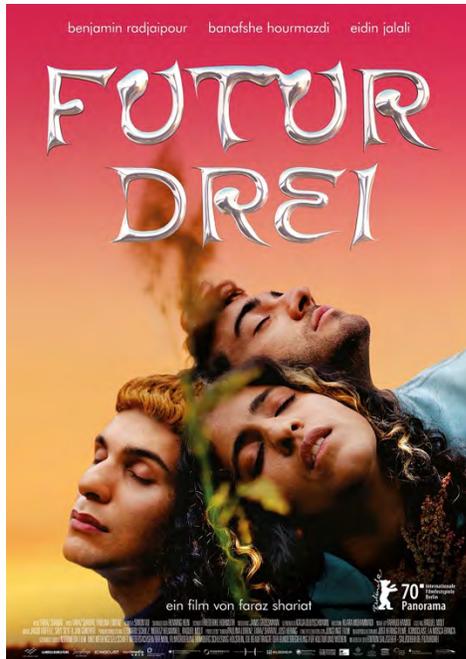
Just before the end of term two, the German Department virtually hosted a film screening and talk back with Nigerian-German director Sheri Hagen. She was able to offer a special online treat to our German Studies community. The filmmaker granted our students access to her first debut feature film “Auf den zweiten Blick/At Second Glance” and took time to discuss the film over zoom.

Auf den zweiten Blick/At Second Glance follows three unlikely couples-to-be through wintery Berlin. Searching for love and belonging, the protagonists navigate visual impairment, interracial dynamics, queer desire, and the challenges of parenthood. In our conversation, Hagen identified the question of “belonging” as central to the conception of the film and her art in general. “Belonging” is, however, not only the subject of *Auf den zweiten Blick*: by centering the lives of people of color, of blind people, of single parents and queer people, the film also creates a sense of belonging for those whose identities are often marginalized on the German screen.

Speaking about the German film industry, Hagen explained that one of the main drivers for her and other practitioners of the Black/Afro German Cinema is the wish to affect a shift away from the white storytelling dominating German media. Hagen pointed out that mere representation is insufficient. What is needed are stories that show people from different communities in all their complexity and richness, living self-determined lives and engaging with others and society in a meaningful manner. Anyone who watches *Auf den zweiten Blick* knows that Hagen’s art tackles this task with marvelous nonchalance, as it explores difference in both humorous and heart-warming ways. Humorous and heart-warming herself, the German Studies Department cannot wait to invite the artist back when her next project launches.

A movie poster for the film "Auf den zweiten Blick" by Sheri Hagen. The poster is divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant is purple with white text: "GERMAN STUDIES AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE CO-SPONSORED BY CINEMA AND MEDIA STUDIES" and "FILM SCREENING". The top-right quadrant shows a man and a woman in a doorway. The bottom-left quadrant shows a man and a woman in a kitchen. The bottom-right quadrant shows a close-up of hands playing a piano. The text "AUF DEN ZWEITEN BLICK" DIR. SHERI HAGEN (GERMAN W/ ENG. SUBTITLES) is centered in the middle. At the bottom, it says "Campus Center Room 413 Weds. 12/2 @ 6:30 PM w/ Professor Susanne Fuchs", "RSVP required: tinyurl.com/zweitenblick", and "questions: sf102@wellesley.edu accessibility@wellesley.edu".

Professor Maria Stehle discusses intersectionality in *Futur Drei* March 4, 2021



In early March the German Department had a film screening of “Futur Drei” (English “No Hard Feelings”) and invited Professor Maria Stehle, a German, Film, and Gender Studies professor from the University of Tennessee for a talk back session of the film. The event was held for the German Intermediate classes and was extended to all students in the department.

The film follows the life of Parvis who lives in a small German town, immersing himself in pop culture, Grindr dates, and raves. Sentenced to community service in a refugee shelter, he meets the siblings Banafshe and Amon, who fled Iran. Himself the son of exiled Iranians, Parvis strikes up a friendship with the two. Their connection grows stronger and together they engage in joyful celebrations of youth and life, explorations of intimacy, and the navigation of cultural similarities and differences. In its cinematography as well as the stories it tells, the film stands out among past and contemporary German films on issues of migration.

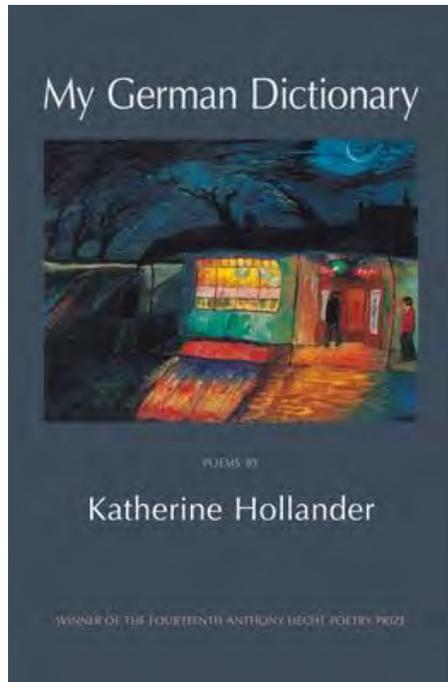
In her presentation, Professor Stehle provided a nuanced exposition of the concept of intersectionality and how it plays out in the film’s depiction of friendship, queer love, and the uncertainties of the future. Referring to the history of the “migrant story,” Professor Stehle illuminated the innovative ways in which Shariat’s film touches on racism, homophobia, and Europe’s inhumane immigration policies without falling back on familiar stereotypes and disempowering gestures that frequently trouble the genre. Instead of relying on clear-defined identities and all too linear narratives, “Futur Drei” embraces the many different aspects and contexts that add to the three young protagonists’ being in the world.

We thank Professor Maria Stehle for her insights and her visit and strongly recommended the film to anyone who has not seen it yet. It is available to view via Clapp Library – enjoy!



Poetry Reading by Kate Hollander

March 9, 2021



As a great start to term 3, the German department invited Katherine Hollander, a professor and poet to give a reading from her collection of poems called *My German Dictionary*. Kate Hollander is currently a professor of History and creative writing at Simmons University. She received both her master's in creative writing and her PhD in modern European History from Boston University. *My German Dictionary* is her first published collection of poems which was released in 2019 and won the Anthony Hecht Poetry prize the same year. This collection of poems is heavily influenced by her studies of Central Modern European history as well as her own personal Jewish Identity. Many of the poems reflect on Hollander's personal struggle with learning the German language, her experiences traveling throughout Germany, and most of all her own creativity. During the event, Kate shared that mnemonics were an essential part of how she learned German and many of these poems are reflection of her relationship to the German language. One poem from the reading of *The Great War* is available for viewing by clicking on the image or [this link](#).



Faculty and Student Recommendations

Professor Nolden

Among the German-language books he has enjoyed reading most this past year are [Lutz Seiler's novel *Stern 111*](#) (which returns to the Kastanienallee, the very site of our wintersession in Berlin program), introducing us to some truly remarkable characters trying to make sense of the GDR. Jackie Thomae's powerful novel *Brüder* as well Deniz Ohde's disconcerting *Streulicht* are books from younger writers that you may want to check out as well. And then there are a few songs by [Max Raabe](#) that got stuck in his ears, whether he likes them or not...



Professor Fuchs

Two German books that Professor Fuchs enjoyed during winter break were Olivia Wenzel's *1000 Serpentin Angst* (2020) and Anne Weber's *Annette, ein Heldinnenepos* (2020), which won the Deutschen Buchpreis in 2020. Both books use unique narrative forms: the first utilizes an unnamed interrogator voice to drive the inner monologue of the Black German and queer first-person narrator forward; the second narrates the biography of the French resistance and (in the context of the Algerian War) independence fighter Annette Beaumanoir in epic verse. She greatly appreciated both the original story telling of Wenzel and Weber as well as the exceptional female protagonists they create.

From Students



A PLAYLIST OF THE ALL-TIME
Best German Songs

This website has compiled some playlists of the best and most popular German songs.

<https://mydailygerman.com/german-songs-playlist/>



Katie Christoph: [1,5 Grad – der Klima-Podcast mit Luisa Neubauer](#)

German Club: Slow News in German, Coffee Break German

Music Artists: Namika, Adel Tawil, AnnenMayKantereit

Ley Muller '10

The past year I worked on what's called a "living map of evidence," meaning we tried to categorize every single published Covid-19 study according to target population and intervention, so that when the Norwegian Directorate of Health or the Department of Infectious Diseases needed the evidence base for a particular medication or wanted to know what the prognosis was for kids or for people with diabetes, we would be able to quickly identify these studies and write a systematic review. We quickly realized that we were going to drown in studies if we didn't start using AI and machine learning - so this is most of my job now! I'm responsible for integrating machine learning into a large European Parliament study for the Science and Technology Options Assessment Panel, led by mental health and resilience researchers at the University of Mainz in Germany. I unfortunately don't have AI-specific vocabulary in German, but they're exceedingly patient with me, and a great group to work with. If there is anything positive that has come out of Covid-19, it is that machine learning has jumped forward in leaps and bounds. Health and welfare researchers such as myself have been forced to embrace pretty radical changes to research practices, and the result has been better and faster delivery to policy-makers.

Katie Van Adzin '11

A quick consultation with Professor Nolden in fall 2019 before I attended a conference in Germany really paid off; I was hired this year by someone I met there and I'm now working remotely from Boston for a construction technology team at Bosch that's based in Stuttgart. I miss Wellesley and hope everyone is doing well!

Eleanor Willard '20

Leaving campus unceremoniously in March and getting no graduation ceremony was definitely a hard adjustment, but since then I have settled into post-Wellesley life. I'm living in Ithaca, NY with my girlfriend (another 2020 alum), who's now an English PhD student at Cornell. Since graduating, I've been working as a freelance copy writer and editor which been a great opportunity to broaden my writing and editing skills beyond academic work. Last fall, I completed a remote curatorial internship with the World Awareness Children's Museum in Glen Falls, NY. I'm currently in the process of identifying grad school programs to apply to in one or two years. I will most likely pursue a PhD in history, and right now I'm looking for programs with an emphasis on 20th-century music history.

While I don't use my German skills on a daily basis, I try to keep them up by following German speakers on social media and reading German books when I have time. I really miss the German Studies department, especially being able to have casual conversations in German with my classmates and professors. I can't wait until the pandemic is over and I can come back to visit everyone in person!

Carla Adams '20

After graduating last spring with a degree in Psychology and German Studies, I decided to pursue German at Georgetown University's Center for German and European Studies Masters (MAGES) program. MY coursework so far has included: Modern German and European History, Economy of the European Union, Politics of the EU, Gender and Migration in Europe, International Relations of Europe and Theorizing Culture, along with a few language and data courses. This January, I declared my concentration in Environmental Policy, and I'm specifically interested in climate migration and decarbonization. I am excited to travel this summer following my vaccine and perhaps take another German course in preparation for my oral exam this fall. *Ganz liebe Grüße aus Washington D.C.!*

Progress on Campus



Photo of a Black Lives Matter banner on the 1st floor of Founders Hall sponsored by the departments in Founders & Green.

Racial Justice

The German Studies Department at Wellesley College stands in solidarity with the Black community. We support activists and organizers in the US and abroad who are fighting racial inequality, injustice, and white supremacy. We honor those who have tragically lost their lives to racism. Our department continually works at building a space in which all students and members of the community feel welcomed, included, supported, and valued. We are committed to giving each of you a voice and to celebrating diversity in its many manifestations, including place of origin, ethnicity, race, religion, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and disability. We will continue to do our part to speak out against injustice and racism. Black Lives Matter today, tomorrow, and every day.

Environmental Justice

Withstanding the climate crisis will require a confluence of individual and institutional actions to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, the people we love, and the places we call home. In the 19-20 and 20-21 academic years, a few members of the German Studies department worked through various avenues, windows, and committees (including the Sustainability Committee) to exhort that Wellesley move away from investments in fossil fuels.



Following two years of impassioned student and faculty activism, the College [announced](#) that the Board of Trustees voted to divest the endowment from the fossil fuel industry.

Class of 2021 German Studies Graduates

Hannah Quiroz, German Studies and American Studies



Hannah pictured in Milan, Italy.

As I come to the realization that it is my last semester here at Wellesley, I can't help but feel immense gratitude towards the German Studies Department and all the amazing professors in it. While I stumbled into this department by accident, I cannot imagine my Wellesley experience without the incredible professors I met or think of a place in which I feel more at home. I can genuinely say that the professors in the German Studies department have been instrumental in my success at Wellesley and I am forever grateful to them for providing not only a space where I could be intellectually challenged but for being an incredible support system that I didn't know I needed.

The past three semesters have been quite a ride for the class of 2021, but the faculty in our department have been a tremendous resource and support system for me. It was through their help that I was able to study abroad in Munich, one of the best experiences I've ever had.

Upon my unexpected return to the U.S. mid semester, Professor Nolden was a great help in advocating for us to administration,

allowing me to graduate on time. The German Studies Department has had an incredible impact on my life and my time here at Wellesley and I am so happy to have been a part of it. A sincere thank you to Professor Nolden and Professor Hans for being such kind and caring professors.

Katharina Christoph, German Studies and Comparative Literature



Katie pictured in her favorite tree on campus.

“Ich weiß nicht, was ich schreiben soll,” reads a postcard on my dear friend Sophie’s wall.

Sophie and I met when we serendipitously became roommates for Wintersession-in-Berlin—it’s where she bought the postcard. As I write this note two years later, she and I are working overtime with coffee and camaraderie from our neighboring thesis carrels. She is now one of my closest and most trusted friends—and I likely wouldn’t have crossed paths with her if not for those (cold, cold, cold) two weeks in the German capital.

Reflecting on the past three years, there are many such moments in my Wellesley career that wouldn’t have happened if I hadn’t fallen into German Studies’ orbit. I traveled abroad for the first time in my

life. I spent a summer working in Dresden and reading Rilke and Lou Andreas-Salomé’s *Briefwechsel* on the banks of the River Elbe. I became dearly acquainted with Jane Helmchen ‘61 over *Kürbiskernbrot* and *Quittenkonfitüre*, and learned from her what it means to give back to the community that gave so much to you, no matter how many miles or decades you may find yourself removed from it. I almost fell out of an office window in Founders Hall. I discovered that time moves slower on the fourth floor. It also moves far too fast. A minute can last an hour but three years only a second.

The postcard on Sophie’s wall reads: “I don’t know what I should write.” There are few words in English—and far fewer, if you can imagine, in German—that effectively capture my appreciation for the German Studies department. Above all else, I extend my deepest gratitude to Professors Nolden and Hans for consistently giving so much of themselves to make us, the Department, and the College better.

Alles Gute – wir sehen uns schon wieder!

Ceren Temizyurek, German Studies and Economics



I cannot put it into words how much I am looking forward to graduating and finally having a good night's sleep where my mind will not be constantly running through a to-do list that never ends.

One of the biggest highlights of what has otherwise been - mildly put - not a great year, was the opportunity to work closely with Prof. Hans and Prof. Fuchs. I am extremely grateful to both of them; without their support my academic year would have been unbelievably difficult (and boring).

My graduation plans so far include re-reading my Tintin collection and experimenting with pickling different vegetables.

Molly Flanagan Cinema & Media Studies German Studies (minor)



Molly pictured in Vienna, Austria.

Hajira Fuad Political Science German Studies (minor)



Hajira pictured in Tübingen, Germany.

German Department Prize Winners

The Natalie Wipplinger (Senior) Prize

Katie Christoph

The Ethel Folger Williams (Sophomore) Prize

Ruoxi Zhu

The Elizabeth Vogel Falk Prize

Hajira Fuad

Hannah Quiroz

The Department of German Studies



L-R Hannah Quiroz, Molly Flanagan, Katie Christoph

Courtesy of 2021 Editor-in-Chief Hannah Quiroz

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The German Studies Department offers this land acknowledgement written by the Wellesley Native American Students Association (NASA):

Wellesley College occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary unceded lands of the Massachusetts tribe. We recognize that we are on stolen land, and we extend our gratitude to the many Indigenous peoples who have rich histories here, including the Massachusetts, Wampanoag, and Nipmuc nations, for their ongoing stewardship of the land. We commit to recognizing, supporting, and advocating for the sovereignty of the Indigenous Nations whose traditional territories are in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as for the many Indigenous people who live, work and study in Wellesley and Massachusetts. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and commit to holding Wellesley College more accountable to the needs of the Indigenous peoples.



Artwork by Madison Miller '21