

GNS+ Plans and Achievements (mapped in Fall 2025)

This list is not exhaustive: it includes responses received after two email queries. These are metrics: we need to start keeping track of these on a regular basis, and we'll try to put in place a mechanism for doing so.

Grants: ongoing and planned

Russian Flagship (this grant has brought in about \$6.5 million over the last 15 years through the work of Karen Evans-Romaine and Anna Tumarkin from Slavic, Dianna Murphy from the Language Institute, and others)

Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Arts in the Upper Midwest from the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (this grant has brought in about \$4.5 million over the last 8 years through the work of Thomas A. DuBois and Marcus Cederström from GNS+ and others)

Center for German and European Studies (DAAD/German Academic Exchange Service): Sonja E. Klocke as PI has brought in about \$185,000.00 for 2024-2025 and \$340,000.00 for 2022-2023 for the operation of the Center

CREECA Title VI grant, which may have been discontinued (Irina Shevelenko and Jennifer Tishler)

Planned ACLS project to explore faculty well-being in the Humanities (Julia Goetze)

Teaching

[Spark Learning Community](#) (Thomas A. DuBois)

Planned German theater course and a German play with a residency by theater professor Kerstin Hensel in Fall 2027 (Melissa Sheedy)

Planned larger-enrollment course on German science fiction (Sabine Mödersheim)

Planned German theater course and a German play with a residency by Berlin-based director Jürgen Kuttner and theater specialist Helga Angarano in Spring 2026 (Melissa Sheedy)

Upcoming cross-listed Ethnic studies course in Spring 2026 with the Asian American Studies program, Asian America / Asian Germany: History, Identity, Media (Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick)

Planned large-enrollment Folklore course Slavic Witches for Fall 2026 (Karen Evans-Romaine)

UW Global Gateway Program to Estonia in June 2026 (Liina-Ly Roos)

Planned high-impact and cross-disciplinary course Health and Hotels in Central Europe aimed at students in health services, which will be considered for inclusion in the Health and Humanities Certificate (Sunny Yudkoff)

Large-enrollment course on German fairytales for Fall 2025 (Melissa Sheedy)

Large-enrollment course on Adventure in literature and film for Fall 2025 (Łukasz Wodzyński)

Guaranteeing continuity of teaching the large(r)-enrollment courses: Kafka and the Kafkaesque (rotation among three instructors), the Ethnic studies course “iddish Literature in America”(two instructors), and Nazi Culture (two instructors)

Teaching of a graduate course in Spring 2025 that introduced students to the new sub-field of Asian German Studies (Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick)

Bringing students to the American Swedish Institute’s Midwinter Festival (Winter 2025-26)

Bringing students and artists in residence to the Wahlstrom Workshop for Scandinavian Studies programs (Spring 2026)

Welcoming Matthew Johnson, new Assistant Professor in Yiddish Studies and with a profile that speaks to all GNS+ programs (Fall 2025)

Memory Studies grad seminar in Fall 2025 that has attracted students from 5 PhD programs (Dean Krouk)

Emphasis on slow and embodied learning practices (e.g., reading in hard copy and writing by hand) in the course Humans and Other Animals in Nordic Literature and Film (Ida Moen Johnson)

Recent and planned symposia/workshops

Immigration, Indigeneity, and Education (with funding from the Baldwin grant and with a public outreach component, organizers: Marcus Cederström, Thomas A. DuBois and others, Spring 2026)

Migration and Memory in Post-War and Contemporary Europe (November 2025, co-organizer: Liina-Ly Roos)

Beyond the Horizon: A Polish Culture Symposium (April 2025, organizer: Łukasz Wodzyński)

Scholar/Artist residencies

Maxi Obexer as a Max Kade Writer in Residence (Fall 2026)

Tara Austin, a rosemaier from Duluth (Spring 2026)

The artists Lawrence Mann and Wayne Valliere have been invited to FIGs and Learning Communities to emphasize hands-on, embodied learning, and there will also be events in partnership with Hoofers and Outdoor UW as well as Allen Centennial Garden (Fall 2025 and Spring 2026)

Musicologists Dörte Schmidt (Berlin) and Reinhard Kapp (Vienna) to conduct collaborative research on Michael Kopfermann's student years in Madison (Fall 2025)

Silje Solheim Karlsen, Sámi University of Applied Sciences (teaching residency for Fall 2025)

Ulrike Draesner as Max Kade Writer in Residence (Fall 2024)

Outreach events and workshops

Nordic's 150th anniversary celebration (ongoing event series)

GNS+ lecture series (annual event)

"Language and Place: Poetry in Yiddish and Pennsylvania Dutch," co-organized by the Max Kade Institute and the Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture and featuring poetry readings in these two Germanic languages (Mark Loudon and Sunny Yudkoff, Spring 2026)

"*Nordic Socialism: The Path Toward a Democratic Economy*" (conversation with the author Pelle Dragsted and Dean Krouk at Room of One's Own bookstore, August 2025, 50 people in attendance)

Local Learning workshop on folklife and education with 7 artists and 13 elementary school teachers from around Dane County (Marcus Cederström and others, August 2025)

"[A Van Gogh Mystery: Pathways of Nordic Art and Literature in the 1880s](#)," May 2025 (Susan Brantly)

Polish Film Festival, which is one of GNS+'s largest annual outreach events with hundreds of attendees from across the state (planned for November 2025, co-organizers: Łukasz Wodzyński and Krzysztof Borowski)

Annual barn dance featuring Nordic American Folk Music (Middleton, October 2025, this event usually brings in over 100 people)

Workshop on "Teaching Intersectionality with Moving Images" at the German and Dutch Graduate Student Association conference, October 2024 (Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick and Mary Hennessy)

Workshop for advanced graduate students on academic job interviews by recently hired junior faculty, November 2024 (Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick, Julia Goetze, Mary Hennessy)

Scholarly articles

Forthcoming: “Going Analog in the Digital Age: Zines as Multimodal Storytelling,” forthcoming in *The Journal of Folklore and Education* (Marcus Cederström, co-author)

“Criminals, Artists, and Madmen: *Crazy Locomotive* and S. I. Witkiewicz’s Aesthetics of Crime,” forthcoming in the *The Polish Review* (Łukasz Wodzyński)

“There and Back Again: New Perspectives on Fairytales and Adaptations,” introduction *Themenheft: Und wenn sie nicht gestorben sind, then they all lived happily ever after: Fairytales – New Ways of Reading, New Ways of Teaching*, a forthcoming special issue of *Colloquia Germanica* (Melissa Sheedy, co-author)

“Sex, Lies, and Mermaids: Queer Nature and Deviant Sexuality in Fairytales by German Women,” forthcoming in *Themenheft: Und wenn sie nicht gestorben sind, then they all lived happily ever after: Fairytales – New Ways of Reading, New Ways of Teaching*, a special issue of *Colloquia Germanica* (Melissa Sheedy)

Книга утрат: сквозной сюжет в «Священной зиме» Марии Степановой" ["The Book of Losses: The Running Plot in Maria Stepanova’s 'Holy Winter'"], forthcoming in *Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie* (Irina Shevelenko)

“The Bio-Poetics of Memory: Vital Forces in Dmitri Prigov’s *Zhivite v Moskve*” in *Slavic Literatures* (Spring 2025) as part of cluster (Maksim Hanukai and two current PhD students in Slavic contributed to the cluster)

“Framing the Fearful Symmetry: Duality in Agnieszka Smoczyńska’s Cinema” in *The Polish Review* (Winter 2025) as part of a cluster of essays dedicated to Polish cinema (Łukasz Wodzyński)

“Musen, Musik und Masochismus: Zur Aushandlung von (DDR-)Generationenkonflikten in Jenny Erpenbecks *Kairos* (2021),” *Text + Kritik*, 2025 (Sonja E. Klocke)

Open-access article, “From Society to the Screen: Navigating Non-Binary Inclusion in the German-Language Classroom,” *Die Unterrichtspraxis / Teaching German*, Fall 2025 (Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick)

“Obstacles and Optimism: Interviews with German Studies Journal and Book Review Editors,” *Monatshefte*, 2025 (Melissa Sheedy and Hannah Vandegrift Eldridge)

“‘Ein altes Thema, neu gesehen’ [An old theme, seen anew]: Remediating Weimar Modernity in Wolfgang Liebeneiner’s *Großstadtmelodie* (1943),” *German Studies Review*, 2025 (Mary Hennessy)

“The Woman with Scissors and Glue: Film Editing and Radical Montage in Weimar Cinema,” *New German Critique*, 2024 (Mary Hennessy)

“Meter Against Essentialism,” *German Quarterly*, 2024 (Hannah Vandegrift Eldridge)

“‘Meine Krankheit heißt Erwachen’: Queering Violence and Desire in Kerstin Hensel’s *Tanz am Kanal*,” *Glossen*, 2024 (Melissa Sheedy)

“Антиимперская рефлексия революционной эпохи (1900-е и 1910-е годы)” [“Anti-Imperial Visions of the Revolutionary Epoch (1900s and 1910s),” *Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie*, 2024 (Irina Shevelenko)

“Beyond the Seven Hills: Fairytales and Folklore in Recent Scholarship and Pedagogy,” a review article covering seven recent monographs, *Monatshefte*, 2024 (Melissa Sheedy)

Book chapters

In-progress: “Enacting the Menominee Theoretical Model: Inter-Indigenous Visits and Learning-from-Place on Menominee and Sámi Lands,” in *Postcolonial, Decolonial, Indigenous Ecocriticism and Indigenous Environmental Justice* (Marcus Cederström and Thomas A. DuBois)

Under Review: “You Are What You Eat: Cookbooks and Post-Vernacular Language in Ulen, MN,” in *Pursuing the Context(s) of Language Variation and Change: Elaborating the Past, Expanding the Present, Envisioning the Future* (Marcus Cederström)

Under review: “Luring Decolonization, Catching Dreams: Two Anishinaabe Workshops at the Saemien Sijte South Sámi Museum and Culture Center,” in *South Saami Memory Culture* (Marcus Cederström and Thomas A. DuBois)

Accepted for publication: “Teaching Nabokov Queerly,” in *Cultural Texts and Significant Learning Experiences* (Sara Karpukhin)

Forthcoming: “Poetic Subversion: Signe Aurell’s *Irrbloss* and Working-Class Swedish American Culture,” in *Transforming Modes of Immigrant Book Culture* (Marcus Cederström)

Forthcoming: “Berlin in Two World Wars,” in *Music and Conflict in Austria and Germany: The Politics and Escapism of Wartime Culture* (Pamela Potter)

Forthcoming: “Censorship in Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany,” in *Cambridge Companion to Music and Fascism* (Pamela Potter)

Forthcoming: “Rouminance (with a wāw)” in the volume *Critical Jewish Studies Now: The Relational Politics of Memory* (Adam Stern)

Forthcoming: “Proficiency Assessment Practices and Reading and Listening Proficiency Outcomes in a US Russian Flagship Program,” in the volume *Assessment of Russian as a Foreign Language* (Dianna Murphy, Karen Evans-Romaine, and Anna Tumarkin, co-authors)

Forthcoming: “Modernism,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Russian Poetry* (Irina Shevelenko)

Vincent van Gogh: *Elimar* by LMI Group International, 2025. [Elimar Report | LMI Group: data science in service of the arts & cultural heritage](#), Part III: “A Literary Scholar’s thoughts on Elimar and *The Two Baronesses*” (Susan C. Brantly)

2025: “Comics als (zweifelhaftes) DDR-Archiv,” in *Lebendige Erinnerung – Archiv DDR* (Sonja E. Klocke)

2025: “Wahlverwandtschaften 2.0: Störungen der Friedhofsruhe in Kerstin Hensels Novelle *Regenbeins Farben* (2020),” in *Kerstin Hensel – Literary Correspondences/Kerstin Hensel im poetischen Dialog* (Sonja E. Klocke)

2025: “Queer Russians in the American Classroom,” in *Diversity and Decolonization in Teaching Russian Studies* (Sara Karpukhin)

2024: “Twentieth-Century Reception and Anti-Semitism,” in *Wagner in Context* (Pamela Potter)

2024: “Flow and Selfhood in Leo Tolstoy’s *Anna Karenina*,” in *Russian Literature and Cognitive Science* (David S. Danaher)

2024: “*Litost* as ‘Category of Existence’ in Milan Kundera’s *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*,” in *Milan Kundera Known and Unknown: A Multidimensional Analysis of His Works* (David S. Danaher)

2024: “‘The *between* is her realm’: Rebel Witches and Disorderly Nature in Juli Zeh’s *The Method*,” in *Juli Zeh: A Critical Companion* (Melissa Sheedy)

2024: “Thinking Race with Herder: Promise and Provocation,” in *Johann Gottfried Herder und Bückeburg. “Was habe ich hier ausgerichtet? Wessen kann ich mich rühmen?”* (Hannah Vandegrift Eldridge)

2024: “Revisiting *Corpus Delicti*: The author/lawyer and the COVID-19 Pandemic,” in *Juli Zeh: A Critical Companion* (Sonja E. Klocke)

2024: “Kinder und Jugend (1950er) im DEFA-Film,” in *Handbuch Literatur und Kultur der Wirtschaftswunderzeit* (Sonja E. Klocke)

2024: “Mode,” in *Handbuch Literatur und Kultur der Wirtschaftswunderzeit* (Sonja E. Klocke)

2024: “Christa Wolf, der Literaturbetrieb in der DDR und die deutsche Teilung,” in *Handbuch Literatur und Kultur der Wirtschaftswunderzeit* (Sonja E. Klocke)

2024: “Kassandrarufe. Juli Zehs Werk als Indikator in der Krisen(früh)erkennung,” in *Juli Zeh: Literatur und Engagement* (Sonja E. Klocke)

2024: “Die Legende von Paul und Paula, Heiner Carow, 1973,” in *Kleiner Kanon großer Filme* (Sonja E. Klocke)

Recently published books/volumes

2025: *Charting Asian German Film History: Imagination, Collaboration, and Diasporic Representation* (Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick, co-editor)

2025: *The Not-Quite Child: Colonial Histories, Racialization, and Swedish Exceptionalism* (Liina-Ly Roos)

2025: *Hans Christian Andersen in the US* (Claus Elholm Andersen, co-editor)

2025: *A Dissonance in This World: Readings in Hans Christian Andersen’s Early Fairytales* (Claus Elholm Andersen)

2024: *Russian Archaism: Nationalism and the Quest for a Modernist Aesthetic* (Irina Shevelenko)

2024: *Diverse Russian: A Multicultural Exploration* (Anna Tumarkin, co-author)

2024: *Václav Havel’s Meanings: His Key Words, Their Context and Legacy* (David S. Danaher, co-editor)

2024: *Juli Zeh: A Critical Companion* (Sonja E. Klocke, co-editor)

2024: *24 Hours in the Viking World: A Day in the Life of the People Who Lived There* (Kirsten Wolf)

Books/volumes currently in preparation and publishing series

New series at UW-Press that partners a folklorist with an artist to write books on various folk art forms in the Upper Midwest with first volumes planned for publication in 2027 (Marcus Cederström, co-editor)

Writing the Twentieth Century in Post-Stalin Russia (Irina Shevelenko)

Music Metropolis Berlin (Pamela Potter)

Cultures in Motion: Migration, Exile, and Refuge (Sonja E. Klocke, co-editor)

Claiming Space in Contemporary German-Language Writing—Interventions by Women and Non-Binary Authors. Volume 1: *Identities, Positionalities, Poetics, and Narratology*; Volume 2: *Bodies, Place, Memory, and Environment* (Sonja E. Klocke, co-editor)

Die Krise der deutschsprachigen Gegenwartsliteratur: Krankheit, Krieg, Klimawandel und andere Kalamitäten (Sonja E. Klocke, co-editor)

Artful Friendships: Christian Mourier-Petersen, Johan Rohde, and Vincent van Gogh (Susan Brantly)

Modernity and Compassion: Economies of Russian Sentimental Fiction, 1792-1846 (Kirill Ospovat)

Romancing Modernism: The Poetics of Re-Enchantment in Polish and Russian Modernist Fiction (Łukasz Wodzyński)

Through a Lens Innocently: Imaging Race in Swedish Visual Activism (Benjamin Mier-Cruz)

Vanishing Mediators: Gender, Labor, and Media in Weimar Germany (Mary Hennessy)

Cultural Biopolitics after Communism: Symbolic Embodiment and the Production of Life (Maksim Hanukai)

Reykjahlabók: A Harvest of Low German Legends in Icelandic Translation (Kirsten Wolf, co-author)

The Viking Age: A Survival Guide in the series *Go Back in Time with 30 Days to Survive* (Kirsten Wolf)

A Literary History of the Norwegian Resistance in World War II (Dean Krouk)

Cultural Texts and Significant Learning Experiences (David S. Danaher, co-editor)

Lessons from the Revolutions of 1989 in East Central Europe (David S. Danaher, co-editor)

Revisiting Václav Havel's "The Power of the Powerless" in the 21st Century (David S. Danaher, co-editor)

Journals

Monashefte publishes the highest number of book reviews of any German studies journal (and also manages to turn a profit)

In press: special issue of *Colloquia Germanica*, "Und wenn sie nicht gestorben sind, then they all lived happily ever after: Fairy Tales—New Ways of Reading, New Ways of Teaching" (Melissa Sheedy, co-editor)

Forthcoming special issue of the *Russian Language Journal* devoted to career readiness in the field (Karen Evans-Romaine, co-editor)

Forthcoming special issue of *Scandinavian Studies* focused on AfroNordic Feminisms (Benjamin Mier-Cruz, co-editor)

In-progress special issue of *Monatshefte* on the topic of monsters and monstrosity in literature and culture, “Monstrous Identifies: Que(e)rying Transgressive Bodies” (Melissa Sheedy, co-editor)

In-progress special issue of the journal *Critical Times: Interventions in Global Critical Theory* on the topic of “Secularism and Settler Colonialism (Adam Stern, co-editor)

Planned cluster/forum “Reimagining Polish Language Textbooks: Representation, Pedagogy, and Cultural Relevance in the 21st-Century Classroom” in the *Slavic and East European Journal* (Krzysztof Borowski, co-editor)

Digital publications

Forthcoming 2026: “Teaching Queer Russian Writers in the American College Classroom in 2025,” featured article on ASEES NewsNet (Sara Karpukhin)

2024: “Speak, AI: A Conversation about Publishing, AI-Narrated Audiobooks, and Vladimir Nabokov,” ASEES NewsNet (Sara Karpukhin)

Awards and promotions

2025-26: UW-Madison Race, Ethnicity, and Indigeneity Resident Fellow (Benjamin Mier-Cruz)

2025: Distinguished Honors Faculty (Melissa Sheedy)

2025: Promotion to Associate Professor (Katerina Somers and Adam Stern)

2025: appointment to Assistant Teaching Professor (Krzysztof Borowski and Nâlan Erbil)

2024: appointment to Assistant Teaching Professor (Melissa Sheedy)

2024: Excellence in Teaching (Post-Secondary), AATSEEL (David S. Danaher)

Dissertation defenses (2024-25)

Nordic: 2

German: 5

Slavic: 3

Placement of recent PhD students

Nordic: Lauren Moquin (Assistant Professor, University of Stavanger), Cody King (Visiting Assistant Professor, UT-Austin)

German: Melanie Bernstein (Instructor, Dickinson College), Lauren Cassidy (Lecturer, SUNY Binghamton), Berni Bernstein (Lecturer, Ohio State), Mavirs Masterson (Academic Advisor, Miami University), Leah Ewing (Visiting Assistant Professor, Wabash College), Morgan Cacic (Access and Accommodations Specialist, Blackhawk Technical College), Sophia Strietholt (Assistant Professor, UNC-Chapel Hill)

Slavic: Brian Kilgour (Visiting Lecturer, Bryn Mawr), Matthew McGarry (Teaching Assistant Professor, UNC-Chapel Hill), Ilona Sotnikova (Lecturer, Smith College), Alexandra Portice (Assistant Professor, Middlebury College), Laura Little (Associate Teaching Professor, Connecticut College), Zach Rewinski (Visiting Assistant Professor, Colby College), Thomas Tabatowski (Instructor, Noble Academy, Chicago), Melissa Azari (Instructor, US Air Force Academy)