



Department of  
German, Nordic, and Slavic+  
COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# Mitteilungen aus Madison

2025

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Message from Dean Wilcots

As the leaves change colors and students return to classes, I'm reminded of what a vibrant community this College is. Every day, I have the opportunity to see the tremendous talent of our students, faculty, alumni and staff. They challenge themselves to do their best, tackle tough questions and do work that will have an impact on this state and the world.

It was inspiring to welcome the Class of 2029 on a stunning day in early September at Memorial Union. They have a bright future ahead of them. What makes a degree from the College of Letters & Science so special, is that we teach our students skills that will propel them in every part of their life. L&S students will enter the workforce knowing how to think critically, problem solve and communicate effectively. They learn what it takes to be in a room with people who think differently than themselves and they are equipped to lead. It is a complex world, but they're learning to adapt, grow and embrace its challenges.

L&S is the heart of this great University. We remain committed to educational excellence and to ensuring that each student has the resources they need to thrive, even as our community continues to grow. That's why we're investing in top talent, state-of-the-art facilities, one-of-a-kind undergraduate research opportunities and programs dedicated to making sure everyone can succeed. It is a privilege to watch our students pay it forward after graduation, as they go on to become world-class researchers, entrepreneurs, thought leaders and humanitarians.

While we enjoy this changing of the seasons and the burst of new energy from our newest students, I'm filled with remarkable pride for this College and the many hearts and minds that are a part of it. So, thank you for continuing to stay connected and being a part of our community.

On, Wisconsin!



Eric M. Wilcots, Dean  
Mary C. Jacoby Professor of Astronomy  
UW-Madison College of Letters & Science



## Greetings from the German Program!



The 2025-26 academic year has gotten off to a great start for us in the German+ unit.

On April 23, we celebrated our outstanding undergraduate students at our program's annual awards ceremony and reception, which was held in the Pyle Center, located on the shore of Lake Mendota. A total of forty-two students were recognized for their exceptional work in courses at the intermediate and advanced levels. This year we decided to expand the scope of our awards and recognized ten students enrolled in our basic German language program (first through fourth semester). Four students who majored in German received the following named awards: Katie Perkins, Lisbeth Pisk Award; Kyle DeGroot, Pisk and Ronda Broatch Family Award; Danvers (DJ) Trenhaile, Dr. Karl Oskar and Theodora Pisk Award; Catherine (Cat) Carroll, Klaus L. Berghahn Award. At the conclusion of our ceremony, we inducted ten graduating senior German

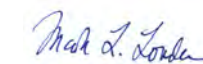
majors into our chapter of the German national honors society, Delta Phi Alpha. Altogether, about 100 of us attended the celebration, which was our programming highlight of the year.

Several of our colleagues achieved important milestones this past year. Sunny Yudkoff was named the Max and Frieda Weinstein-Bascom Professor of Jewish Studies. Nâlan Erbil and Melissa Sheedy were appointed to the rank of Teaching Assistant Professor. Katerina (Katie) Somers and Adam Stern both received tenure and were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. Congratulations, Sunny, Nâlan, Melissa, Katie, and Adam! This fall we welcomed our newest colleague, Matt Johnson, a specialist in Yiddish who came to us most recently from Lund University in Sweden. We are excited to expand our program's offerings in Yiddish studies, which include two new language courses, First and Second Semester Yiddish. One final milestone to report is the retirement at the end of the calendar year of our colleague Pamela Potter, who has been a member of the German faculty at UW-Madison for 28 years. We wish Pam all the best!

Each year we offer a balance of new and repeated undergraduate and graduate courses that reflect the diversity of the fields we work in, which go beyond German literature, linguistics, and cultural studies to include second language acquisition and German American, Netherlandic, Turkish, and Yiddish studies. For our students pursuing a major or certificate in German, this fall we offered Advanced Composition and Conversation, Broadcasting Dissonance in German Public Media, Introduction to German Linguistics, *Gegenwartsliteratur* (Contemporary Literature), and *Film und Kultur* (Film and Culture). For students without knowledge of German, Dutch, Turkish, or Yiddish, we regularly offer several courses taught in English. The English-taught courses we taught this fall were Berlin-Istanbul Connections, Climate Fiction, From Grimm to Gryffindor: German Fairytales (Re)imagined, German Women Writers, God and Money, Introduction to German Cinema, Yiddish Literature and Culture in Europe, and Yiddish Song and the Jewish Experience. For our master's and doctoral students this semester we offered Foreign Language Teacher Psychology, History of the German Language, and Race, Whiteness, and Power in German Literature, 1800 to 2025.

To enhance our students' experience in our program, each year we support a diverse palette of events, including guest lectures, symposia, and conferences sponsored by our own unit and our campus partners, especially the Center for German and European Studies, the Max Kade Institute for German American Studies, and the Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture. The generous donations we receive from you, our alumni and friends of the German+ program, enable us to fund these extracurricular activities as well as awards for our undergraduate students and scholarships and fellowships for our graduate students. On behalf of my colleagues and our students, thank you so much for your support.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,



Mark L. Loudon  
Head, German+ unit

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Edited by Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick, Julie Larson-Guenette, and Sabine Mödersheim

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## Faculty / Graduate Program

### New Faculty: Matt Johnson

**M**att Johnson completed his PhD in Germanic Studies at the University of Chicago in 2022. His research and teaching center on Yiddish- and German-language literature and cultural history from the 18th century to the present. He also has active interests in the memory and representation of the Holocaust; the history and practice of testimony across media; feminist approaches to literature, film, and photography; and the interface between archival studies and literary studies.

Matt's current book project uncovers the intersection between Yiddish and German as a largely overlooked site of cultural production throughout the twentieth century, extending from eastern Europe to the United States. It investigates how a diverse group of writers experimented with and redefined the relationship between Yiddish and German, two languages that, despite their linguistic proximity, have most often been understood to represent divergent or even oppositional trajectories of Jewish modernity. Beyond this project, he has published articles on the likes of James Baldwin, Paul Celan, Glikl bas Judah Leib, and Bertha Pappenheim, as well as a number of reviews, interviews, and more public-facing essays. He has also co-edited a special issue on "Old Yiddish literature," and publications about the photographer Julia Pirotte and the writer Chava Rosenfarb are forthcoming.

Before coming to Madison, Matt held faculty positions at Lund University in Sweden and at the Ohio State University. He has developed and taught Yiddish- and German-language courses at various levels, as well as lecture courses and seminars on topics ranging from "Sholem Aleichem" and "Yiddish Film and Television" to "Migration and Contemporary Literature" and "The Holocaust in Yiddish Writing and Film." In and beyond the classroom, he has also supported undergraduate research in the humanities and interpretive social sciences and, as a grad student, worked at the College Center for Research and Fellowships at the University of Chicago.



Matt Johnson.

Matt grew up in the Mojave Desert in California and subsequently moved to New York City, where he completed his BA in Comparative Literature at NYU. He also studied at the Freie Universität Berlin and, later during his graduate studies, spent two years in Vienna as a Fulbright Junior Fellow at the IFK. In addition to his studies, he also completed archival and curatorial internships at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York and Berlin and at the Jewish Museum Vienna. He is excited to be joining the GNS+ community. When he's not working, Matt enjoys biking, cooking, going to the movies, haunting cafes and bookstores, and going on long walks.

## Yiddish at UW–Madison

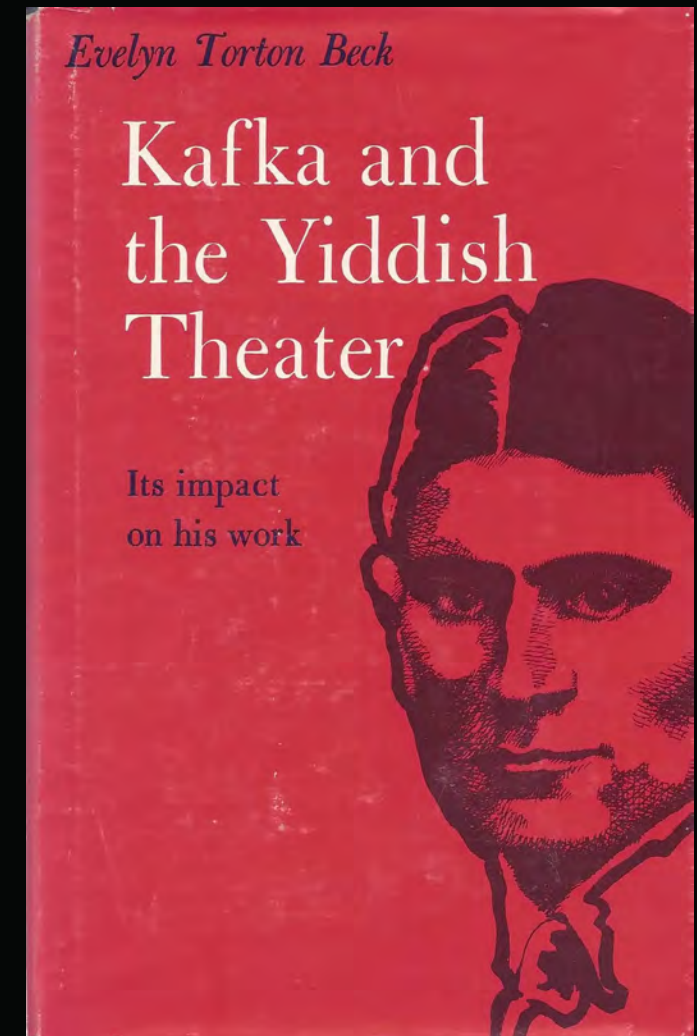
by Sunny S. Yudkoff

**F**all 2025 marks the start of a new chapter in the teaching of Yiddish here in Madison. Students now have the chance to study a full year-sequence of Yiddish—a language of medieval epic, modern romance, political discourse, popular folksong, and avant-garde poetry, alike.

Written in Hebrew characters, Yiddish is a Germanic language that has been spoken by central European Jewish communities and their descendants around the world for over 1,000 years. Perhaps surprisingly, it was first taught at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1916 by Professor Louis Bernard Wolfenson. Indeed, Madison has a long history of supporting Yiddish studies. The Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture ([mayrent.wisc.edu](http://mayrent.wisc.edu)) was founded in 2010 and has since digitized over 9,000 historical recordings of Yiddish music, including some that would have been new when Professor Wolfenson stepped into the classroom!

This fall, the department of German, Nordic, and Slavic+, is excited to welcome Assistant Professor Matt Johnson, to lead the course. Students enrolled in first and second semester Yiddish will not only leave their courses with wide-ranging vocabularies and grammar skills but a deep knowledge of the history of Yiddish culture and artistic expression.

They will also be able to complement that knowledge with GNS+ coursework currently available and growing in Yiddish studies, including such classes as "Yiddish Literature and Culture in Europe," "Yiddish Song and the Jewish Experience," and the newly created "Health and Hotels in Central Europe." This spring, Professor Johnson will be teaching "Kafka and the Kafkaesque." Kafka was a known admirer of popular Yiddish theater and scholars continue to debate the influence of such work on his creative prose. In fact, one of the first scholars to write about the connection was Professor Evelyn Torton Beck. Beck completed her doctorate on the subject at UW–Madison in 1969, where she later served on the faculty (1972–1982). Now UW students will have the chance to continue that conversation. Most excitingly, some will even be able to do so in Yiddish.



## Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor Honored for 21 Years of Service to the WISC Program

The International Division honored Jolanda Vanderwaal Taylor for her over twenty years of service to the [Wisconsin International Scholars \(WISC\) Program](#) and her deep commitment to mentoring students. The International Division advances international education, promotes global research partnerships, and builds inclusive excellence through the engagement of students, staff, faculty, and alumni from around the world. The WISC Program cultivates a small cohort of undergraduates with mentorship, language study, unique course opportunities, and study abroad grants.

The International Division extended its sincere thanks to Vanderwal Taylor for her outstanding contributions to the WISC Program, stating that she has left an indelible mark on the program and the hundreds of students she mentored, creating a global community that extends far beyond the university and will continue to inspire for years to come.

“Global problems and initiatives need a lot of different perspectives, and we’ve had the richest experiences when we’ve had students from different backgrounds talking to each other, learning from each other, and supporting one another.” (Taylor)

Read the full story here:

[international.wisc.edu/honoring-jolanda-vanderwal-taylors-21-years-of-service-to-the-wisc-program](https://international.wisc.edu/honoring-jolanda-vanderwal-taylors-21-years-of-service-to-the-wisc-program)



Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor.



WISC scholars.

## Faculty News

### Hannah Vandegrift Eldridge

I’m excited to be back in the classroom in Fall 2025 after a year of full-time research. I’m diving into new roles this fall as Associate Chair of German, Nordic, and Slavic+ and a member of the Arts and Humanities Divisional Committee. I made good progress on my third book project (*Lyric Whiteness: The Construction of an Invisible Category in Germany*), got two articles out the door, and coordinated an interview of German studies book review and journal editors in *Monatshefte* together with Melissa Sheedy. Some highlights were visiting Montréal for the first time to present at the International Network for the Society of Lyric and visiting students from all over the US studying and living in Baku, Azerbaijan!

### Nâlân Erbil

I was busy with inviting guest speakers to campus including the graphic novelist Özge Samancı, Turkish German poet Zafer Şenocak and translator Kristin Dickinson. I co-organized the screening of *Far from Home* at the Cinematheque, and penned a blog piece on its website. I attended a week-long workshop on leveraging AI at Yale University, organized a Roundtable and presented on the future of Turkish at the Middle East Studies Association’s annual meeting. As a personal highlight, I spent the entire past summer in Turkey with my family, a first in over a decade, and petted many street cats and dogs!

### Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick

This summer, my co-edited volume *Charting Asian German Film History* released with Camden House. The year also brought many new exciting milestones in teaching, research, and service to the profession. In the spring, I taught my first grad course introducing students to the sub-field of Asian German studies. This fall, I have been teaching an advanced German-language course on contemporary television and streaming funded by the *Öffentlich-Rechtliche*. Over the summer, I presented new research about the recent Vietnamese turn in German television at the IVG-Kongress in Graz. Finally, I had the pleasure of organizing the “Food for Thought” annual showcase for emerging scholars at the GSA conference in Arlington.

### Julia Goetze

This past year has been both productive and rewarding. I published new empirical research in *Language Teaching Research*, *Language Teaching Research Quarterly*, and the *Journal for Psychology in Language Learning*. Additionally, I collaborated with Jeanne Schueller on a handbook chapter on collegiate foreign language teacher training. A highlight was my new graduate-level course on *Social Motivation*, in which students collaboratively conducted a study on teachers’ care-giving actions and their effect on well-being, and which will be submitted for publication soon. I also graduated my first Ph.D. student, Melanie Bernstein, who took an academic position in Pennsylvania.

### Sabine Groß

In recent months, I’ve really enjoyed one of the new experiences of emerita work-life-balance: finishing articles ahead of the deadline. Attending the occasional conference continues to be rewarding, not least due to the unique blend of professional contacts, warm collegiality, and friendships that many of us develop in the course of our careers. This fall, early September took me to Toronto for the International Herder Conference (and an excursion to Niagara Falls), whence I continued to the Deutscher Germanistentag (usually out of reach due to the start of our semester) in Braunschweig, where I offered a presentation-cum-workshop on “Lesen—Spielen—Inszenieren.”

### Mary Hennessy

Last year, in addition to the undergraduate course “Introduction to German Cinema” (newly minted as German 253!), I taught an interdisciplinary graduate seminar on critical (media) theory. A new article—on Wolfgang Liebeneiner’s 1943 film *Großstadtmelodie* (Metropolitan Melody)—appeared in *German Studies Review* in February. In spring, I took a research trip to Frankfurt for a new project that considers the silent film actress and producer Ossi Oswalda (1898-1947) beyond her role as Lubitsch star. Last but not least, my husband and I bought a little house in Madison’s Eken Park neighborhood.

### Charles J. James

I am still President of the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee. From 2012 until 2025 I was a member of the City of Madison’s “Sister City Collaboration Committee” (SCCC), representing Freiburg im Breisgau. I am also a member of the Kasse-Dane Taskforce and the Hessen-Wisconsin Society, representing our sister county and our sister state in Germany respectively. From 2010 to 2023 I was a member of the “Governance Council” of the Verona Area International School (VAIS). In 2021 I was appointed to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) as well as a member of the Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries. Finally, I am a member of the Pastoral Council of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church and the Membership Chair of the Westmorland Neighborhood Association Board in Madison.

### Julie Larson-Guenette

I am engaged in various projects including a new 300-level course design with Jeanne Schueller, research for a collaborative chapter (edited volume for the 100th anniversary of the AATG), a service-learning project for students in my upcoming GER 372 *Briefe als Medium* course. An entertaining highlight was in March where I presented at Madison’s High Noon Saloon for Nerd Nite “The heart burns with love and longing in World War II letters.” I continue to serve on the Madison-Freiburg sister city committee and was recently appointed secretary for the board of directors of the Friends of the Max Kade Institute.

### Mark Louden

The year 2025 marks the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement, from which the Mennonites, Amish, Hutterites, and related groups emerged. Much of my research and outreach activity in the past year was connected to diverse Anabaptist groups who continue to speak German-related languages in North America. I published an edited volume titled *Varieties of German in North America* and delivered 39 public presentations in the US and Switzerland. I was engaged in outreach work on behalf of Amish and traditional Mennonites sponsored by the Max Kade Institute, mostly involving health care and legal matters.

### Sabine Mödersheim

For my courses on climate fiction and science fiction I continued to explore global voices as well as underrated pulp science fiction from German-speaking countries, for example the 1980s *Heftserie* “Die Terranauten” that was inspired by the early West German environmental movements. I am also working on a project about emblematic tattoos and the history of tattooing.

### Jeanne Schueller

A highlight of my year was leading a weeklong graduate seminar on teaching with graphic novels at the *Deutsche Sommerschule am Pazifik* in Portland, OR. It was an intense but rewarding week. I am getting a lot of mileage out of my latest personal, pedagogical, and scholarly fascination with German-language graphic novels! Last fall, I presented on fostering empathy through graphic novels at ACTFL in Philadelphia and taught my graphic novels course in the spring (ask me about our class zine!) before taking it on the road to Portland over the summer and more recently to WAFLT in Oshkosh to facilitate an immersion workshop for German K-16 educators on using graphic novels in class to approach themes such as mental health and wellbeing, identity, disability, and empowerment.

### Melissa Sheedy

Another semester of teaching, editing, writing, and cat-wrangling (this last not necessarily related to the aforementioned activities) has arrived. I spent some time in Berlin this summer exploring bookstores, tracking down the elusive *Spaghettieis*, and collaborating with German director Jürgen Kuttner, whom we’re excited to have back on campus for the German theater class this coming spring. I’m also happy to be teaching a new (to me) course on German women writers in translation and co-editing a special issue of *Monatshefte* on the topic of monsters and monstrous identities in German-language literature and culture.

### Marc Silberman

The past year has been dominated by translation projects and theater-related events. In December 2024 I was involved in a workshop at the Brecht-Haus in Berlin on “Aktualisierungen Brechts / Actualizing Brecht” that led to co-editing the selected proceedings, appearing in December with the publisher Olms/Nomos in Baden-Baden. A second project has been translating an essay by Manja Praekels on the challenges of writing her documentary novel about neo-Nazis in post-Wall eastern Germany. Praekels was a guest of the German Program in

March, when she participated in various courses and public readings. We connected again in Berlin during the summer to discuss the translation as well as the shifting political situation in Germany today.

### Katerina Somers

I am happy to share that I was granted tenure last year and promoted to Associate Professor. Also, my second book, *How to create an early German scriptus: The literization approach to historical German syntax* was published (Language Science Press) in late 2024. I am now on sabbatical and working on my next book, *Translation, prose, and the literization of German in the Middle Ages*. This work is partly funded by the Institute for Research in the Humanities, where I am an open-topic Fellow. Over the summer, I presented my work at the Historical Sociolinguistics Network Conference 2025 in Bristol, UK, after which my husband and I vacationed on the Adriatic coast in sunny Croatia.

### James Steakley

This marks the 25th year of my involvement with the Akademie Waldschlösschen, Germany’s nonpareil LGBT conference center (profiled in Wikipedia). I first made a brief visit here in 1991, when I was teaching at the Uni Hannover as an exchange professor. Since 2000, I’ve returned virtually every year (notable exception: the pandemic year) to participate in symposia, present on German gay history, help with editorial work, and in the process develop some great friendships. To top it all off, UW-Madison alumnus Jim Keller (BA ‘82, MA ‘85), who teaches German at Pasadena City College, has also become a regular participant over the past eight years – the torch is passed.

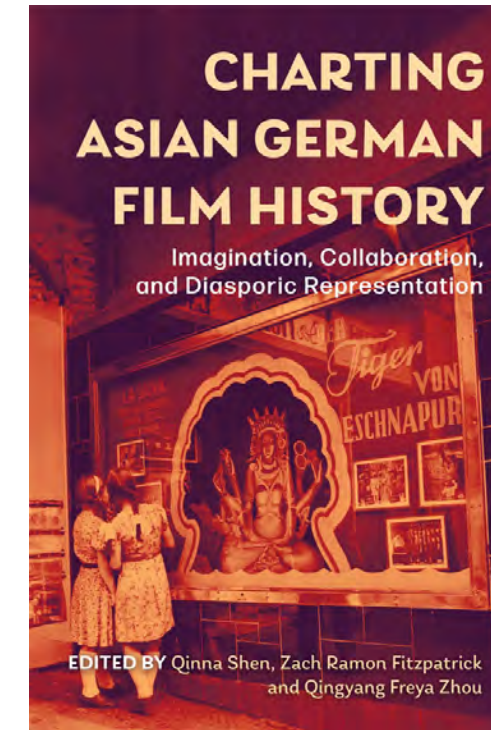
### Adam Stern

During his sabbatical in AY 2025-2026, Adam Stern will be continuing work on his second book project, tentatively entitled *The Jewish Settler*. He will also be preparing a new German philosophy curriculum for GNS, beginning with a course on Marx’s *Capital*.

### Sunny Yudkoff

This past year, I was honored to be appointed the Max and Frieda Weinstein-Bascom Professor of Jewish Studies. I also had the opportunity to travel to Durham, North Carolina, where I co-led a seminar with Professor Tatyana Gershkovich (Carnegie Mellon University) on Boris and Arkady Strugatsky’s *Roadside Picnic* at the Society for Novel Studies’ biannual conference. The programming of the Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture also continues to flourish. Last year, we welcomed musicians and scholars of Yiddish language and literature to share their work with the UW community.

## Faculty Bookshelf



### Charting Asian German Film History

Imagination, Collaboration, and Diasporic Representation

Edited by Qinna Shen, Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick, Qingyang Freya Zhou

Contributions by Mita Banerjee, Janelle Blankenship, Anjeana K. Hans, Iris Haukamp, Tobias Nagl, Isabella Schwaderer, Oliver C. Speck, Philipp Stiasny, Evan Torner, Sabine von Dirke

Provides a diachronic view of Asian German film history from early Orientalism to increasing collaboration as well as exploration of difference and alternate forms of national and cultural belonging.

From re-creating seedy opium dens and Hindu temples on set to capturing dazzling sights of Tokyo’s neon-lit streets and Berlin’s bustling Dong Xuan Center on location, cinema has provided German-speaking audiences a window into the “exotic” cultures of Asia since the early 1900s. Over time, unilateral German imaginings of Asian cultures and people increasingly gave way to collaboration with Asian countries and more variegated portrayals of the diasporic experiences of Asians in Europe, though Orientalist tropes have not been fully mitigated.

The present volume embraces several understudied regions of Asia as well as Austria and Switzerland. It incorporates archival research, close scene analyses, and genre overviews that elucidate the production and reception histories of individual films, drawing on the knowledge of film historians, cultural studies

scholars, and Germanists based in North America, Europe, and Asia. The volume approaches film history by observing three distinct phenomena: early German cinematic imaginings of Asia, co-productions shot on location, and representations of the Asian German diaspora. The book aims to chart unwritten chapters of film history by pitching new readings of old masterpieces, exploring lesser-known works of prolific directors, and uncovering the roles of Asian collaborators from the early twentieth century to the new millennium.

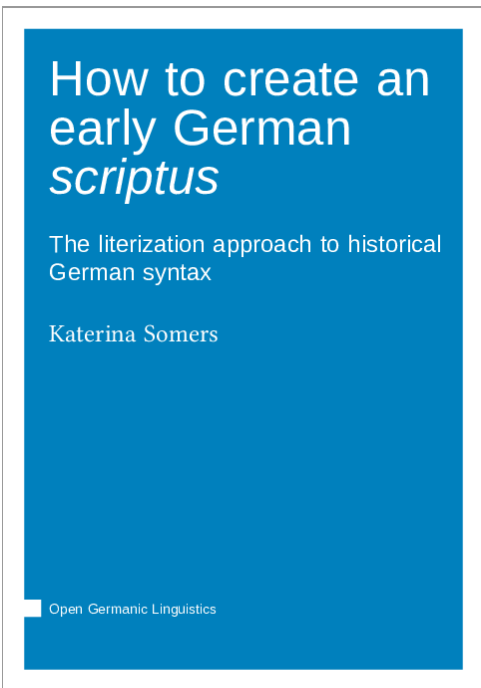
### Juli Zeh

A Critical Companion

Edited by Necia Chronister, Sonja E. Klocke, and Lars Richter

This volume casts a critical light on one of Germany’s bestselling and most controversial authors. Juli Zeh’s literary work is not only widely read in Germany, but also featured on high school and college syllabi both in Germany and abroad. In recent years and in the wake of the Covid 19 lockdowns, Zeh’s output has only increased, though her most recent work, *Unterleuten* (2016), *Über Menschen* (2021), and *Zwischen Welten* (2023; co-written with Simon Urban), has evolved away from the literary and philosophical thought that informed her more nuanced earlier work and towards a more conservative representation of contemporary social dynamics. While her work continues to garner prestigious awards, Zeh herself, who is an honorary judge at the Brandenburg constitutional court and a seemingly omnipresent public intellectual, has taken increasingly libertarian positions in recent political debates -- whether about Germany’s public health measures in response to the pandemic, or the country’s role in the Ukraine war. This volume traces the development and broad impact of Zeh’s writing while reflecting on the responsibility of the scholars who read and teach it to confront her ambiguous and sometimes troubling politics.





**How to create an early German scriptus**  
The literization approach to historical German syntax

By Katerina Somers

This book presents a new methodology for the study of historical varieties, particularly a language's early history. Using the German language's first attestations as a case study, it offers an alternative to structuralist approaches to historical syntax, with their emphasis on delineating the shapes and mechanisms of early grammars. This focus has prompted Germanists to treat the data from the eighth- and ninth-century corpus with suspicion in that its texts are either poetic or translational. That is, if the unquestioned object of inquiry is a historical cognitive grammar, one ought to isolate – and perhaps discount entirely – data that are the product of confounding factors, like a poetic meter or a Latin source text. Otherwise, these competence-obscuring examples risk undermining scholars' understanding of a genuine early German grammar.

Rather than this “deficit approach,” the current volume proposes that scholars treat each early attestation as an artifact of “literization,” the process through which people transform their exclusively oral varieties into a written variety. Each historical text features a scriptus, that is, an ad hoc, idiosyncratic, and localized literization created by a person (or team of people) for a particular purpose. The challenge of understanding texts in this way lies in the fact that there is little to no direct evidence pointing to the specific identities of early medieval literizers, their motivations, and the nature of the multiple spoken competencies that fed into their scripti.

In order to conceptualize early medieval German and the syntactic variation it exhibits as a sociolinguistic phenomenon, this book details the linguistic resources that were available to the literizer and are, happily, accessible to the modern researcher. First, there is Latin. Though illiterate in their own multilectal vernacular in the sense that no German scriptus existed until they developed it, literizers were educated in this highly literized language and the classical metalinguistic discourse, known as grammatica, that was associated with it. Second, there are the linguistic patterns of elaborated orality, that is, the varieties that are characteristic of public life and the oral tradition in exclusively oral communities. Though the patterns of a peculiarly German elaborated orality are lost to history, those of other traditions and cultures are attested and should also inform how scholars conceive of a multilectal early German.

**100 Years DAAD**

In May 2025, the German Academic Exchange Service or DAAD with its head office Bonn, Germany, began a year of celebration of its one-hundredth anniversary. The University of Wisconsin-Madison has hosted a DAAD Center of Excellence, the Center for German & European Studies, since 1998. At the Tenth Interdisciplinary Conference of the DAAD-funded Centers, Professor and CGES Director Sonja Klocke, her graduate student Cassandra Winkelmann presented papers, and Dr. Elizabeth Covington participated in the closing ceremony.



Read the full story here:  
[daadcenter.wisc.edu/wisconsins-cges-participates-in-the-daad-hundredth-anniversary](https://daadcenter.wisc.edu/wisconsins-cges-participates-in-the-daad-hundredth-anniversary)



**Hessen-Wisconsin Research Collaboration**



Pictured here: Julie Larson-Guenette, Timon Gremmels, Zach Fitzpatrick, Julia Goetze

On Monday, August 25th Hessen's State Minister of Science and Research, Arts and Culture, Timon Gremmels, signed a Letter of Intent to strengthen scientific collaboration between the universities of the State of Wisconsin and the State of Hessen.

**Big 10 Academic Alliance**



It was a Madison reunion in late February at the annual Big 10 Academic Alliance (BTAA)! From left to right: Jeanne Schueller, Lynn Wolff (Michigan State), Charlie Webster (University of Illinois), Helena Ruf (University of Minnesota), Carrie Jackson (Penn State), Julie Larson-Guenette and Mark Loudon

## Featured 2025 Events

### Johannes von Moltke's Lecture Series on "Metapolitics": Acceleration, Appropriation, and Agitation in the New Right's Culture Wars

Johannes von Moltke, Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures, as well as Film, Television, and Media, at the University of Michigan presented a series of talks at UW-Madison in February 2025. Professor von Moltke examined how the New Right mobilizes arts and ideas in the contemporary culture wars. He explored their use of media strategies, identity politics, and conspiracy theories, as well as their deliberate efforts to shift public discourse to the right—a tactic the New Right refers to as "metapolitics." Drawing his guiding questions and methods from Critical Theory and Cultural Studies, Professor von Moltke analyzed the New Right's metapolitical maneuvers on both sides of the Atlantic to better understand the antidemocratic appeals made in the name of an ethnonationalist, "identitarian" vision of the future.

Below are the lectures captured during Professor Johannes von Moltke's visit to UW-Madison:

[Johannes von Moltke, Mosse Lecture 01: "Making the World Glow- Right-Wing 'Metapolitics'"](#)

[Johannes von Moltke, Mosse Lecture 02: "The Identitarian Reflex: 'Metapolitical' Strategies"](#)

[Johannes von Moltke, Mosse Lecture 03: "Podcasters of Deceit- Genealogies of Agitation"](#)



2025 GEORGE L. MOSSE LECTURES

With Johannes von Moltke  
University of Michigan

**FEB**

**25** Making the World Glow: Right-Wing "Metapolitics" and the Accelerationist Impulse  
4:00PM Chair: Ofer Ashkenazi

**26** The Identitarian Reflex: "Metapolitical" Strategies of Appropriation and Projection  
11:45AM Chair: Mary Hennessy  
boxed lunches provided on Wednesday (26th) with RSVP to [etulley@wisc.edu]

**27** Prophets of Deceit: Genealogies of Agitation and the Critical Theory of "Metapolitics"  
4:00PM Chair: Brandon Bloch

**"Metapolitics":**  
Acceleration, Appropriation, and Agitation in the New Right's Culture Wars

Pyle Center, Room 213  
<https://go.wisc.edu/8r8r97>



More information about the lectures can be found on [Mosse Lectures](#).

# "When I ate schnapps cherries with Hitler" - A Reading, Discussion & Workshop with Manja Präkels

Monday, March 10, 2025

Bascom 260

4:00 PM

In German and English



In her autobiographical novel, *Als ich mit Hitler Schnapskirschen aß* (When I ate schnapps cherries with Hitler), Manja Präkels describes teenager Mimi's perceptions of internal and external forces in the years before, during, and after the Fall of the Berlin Wall.

**Manja Präkels**, a former local reporter in Brandenburg in the 1990s, today works as a freelance writer, musician, and singer in Berlin, Germany.



*Visualizing German and European Politics  
through Jiny Lan's Message Painting*

# QINNA SHEN

Author Qinna Shen (Bryn Mawr College) explores Lan's striking works on topics like the refugee crisis, Brexit, and Sino-European relations.

Friday, October 24  
3:30pm

Ingraham 206



## Graduate Program

### Graduate Program Milestones

We welcome new German graduate students:

Chris Etheredge  
Susanna Hansel  
Daniel Saltgaver  
Zehra Yesilöz

**Prelims passed:**  
Cassandra Winkelman  
Finn Shepherd

**Ph.D. passed:**  
Melanie Bernstein  
Morgan Cacic  
Lauren Cassidy  
Carsten Haas

### Graduate Conference

The 25th annual conference hosted by the German and Dutch Graduate Student Association “Adaptations in German and Dutch Studies” (October 31st-November 1st) presented a lineup of graduate student presentations touching on linguistics, film, and literature. Dr. Verena Kick from Georgetown University and Dr. Carsten Strathausen

from the University of Missouri gave the keynote address on “Adapting Kafka: Promise, Practice, Problems.” Professor Sunny Yudkoff lead a workshop on “Translation and Adaptation: Reading Uncle Tom’s Cabin in Yiddish.” The full program is available at [gdgsaconference.german.wisc.edu](http://gdgsaconference.german.wisc.edu).



The German and Dutch Graduate Student Association Presents:

# ADAPTATIONS

In German and Dutch Studies

The 25th Annual German and Dutch Graduate Student Association Conference

**October 31<sup>st</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**MEMORIAL UNION – OLD MADISON**

**Keynote: “Adapting Kafka: Promise, Practice, Problems”**

Friday, 4:30–6:00 pm

Dr. Verena Kick (Georgetown University)

Dr. Carsten Strathausen (University of Missouri)

**Workshop: Translation and Adaptation: Reading Uncle Tom’s Cabin in Yiddish**

Saturday, 1:30–2:30 pm

Dr. Sunny Yudkoff (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Open to all! Please register online for the conference by scanning the QR code. If you require an accommodation, please indicate that in your registration or contact the email



gdgsaconferenceuw@gmail.com



  
**Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic+**  
COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Undergraduate Program

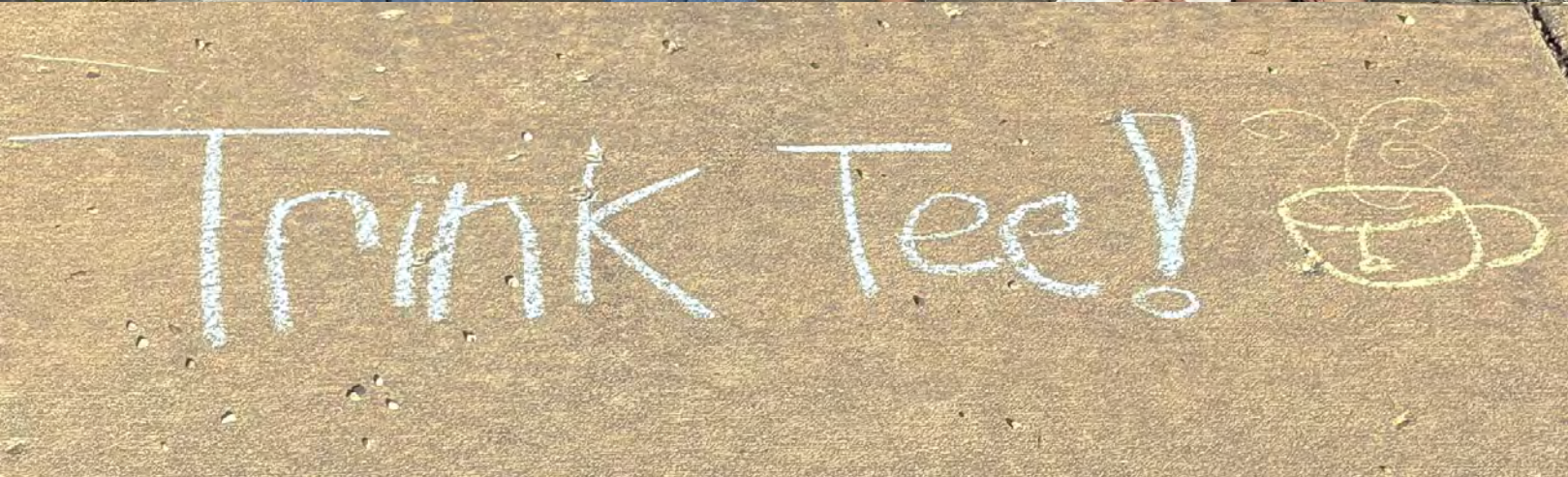
### Spotlight on the Classroom

#### German 337

by Julie Larson-Guenette

Over the years, I have noticed that learners even in German 337 (Advanced Conversation & Composition) struggle to implement imperative forms, in particular the *du* and *ihr* forms. On a sunny day in September my students and I took advantage of the weather and the abundance of concrete outside of Van Hise.

The task: to convey tips for college life and wellness by using various forms of the *Imperativ*. This activity also served as an effective community building activity early in the semester and before class ended at 5:15, they happily posed for a group photo (with permission to use here!).



## Filipino Nurses in Austria: A Migration Story Revisited

By Cat Carroll '25

I first learned about Austria's recruitment of Filipino nurses in Prof. Fitzpatrick's Fall 2024 course, *Asiatische Diaspora*. We studied an earlier version of this program from the 1970s and 1980s, which first brought nurses from the Philippines to Austria and helped lay the foundation for a small but enduring Filipino community. Today, amid a growing health care worker shortage, Austria has revived this initiative — and similar efforts are underway in Germany as well.

Filipino nurses have long been essential to health care systems worldwide, from the U.S. to the UK to the Middle East. But Austria's role in this global story is rarely discussed. That gap in coverage led me to Vienna and Linz in June 2025, where I spent several weeks reporting as a Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium Fellow.

My Project, *From the Ground Up: Filipino Community Helps Fill Gaps in Austria's Health Care*, explores what happens after recruitment — how nurses adapt, where the systems fall short, and how past generations shape what comes next. I interviewed both newly arrived nurses and those who came decades ago, including Virginia Radl, who moved to Austria in 1978 and now mentors younger nurses, offering support she once had to find on her own. I tell her story in the piece "Filipino Nurse Who Became a Health Care Leader in Austria Gets Ready to Pass the Torch."

My final piece, "Far From Home, Carried by Community: In Austria, a Quiet Network Sustains Filipino Nurses," weaves together multiple voices to show how intergenerational care, cultural resilience, and informal support networks are making the difference. I also reflected on everyday life in the piece "Songs, Slippers, and Shared Tables: A Glimpse Into Filipino Lives in Austria."



Cat Carroll '25, a Pulitzer Center Reporting Fellow, majored in journalism, international studies and German with certificates in public policy, European studies, Middle East studies and Arabic. She was the chair of the Board of Directors of The Badger Herald and served as 2023-24 managing editor covering stories related to mental health, campus education requirements and workers' rights. She is pursuing a career in international journalism and currently studies the migration phenomenon in seven different countries as a recipient of the 2025-26 Wolff Fellowship that grants up to \$45,000 to a graduating senior in the College of Letters & Science to support a year of travel, service or study abroad experience, post-graduation. [ls.wisc.edu/news/tracing-the-paths-of-migration](https://ls.wisc.edu/news/tracing-the-paths-of-migration)

Cat Carroll's articles can be found here:

[pulitzercenter.org/stories/far-home-carried-community-austria-quiet-network-sustains-filipino-nurses](https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/far-home-carried-community-austria-quiet-network-sustains-filipino-nurses)

[pulitzercenter.org/stories/filipino-nurse-who-became-health-care-leader-austria-gets-ready-pass-torch](https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/filipino-nurse-who-became-health-care-leader-austria-gets-ready-pass-torch)

[pulitzercenter.org/stories/songs-slippers-and-shared-tables-glimpse-filipino-lives-austria](https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/songs-slippers-and-shared-tables-glimpse-filipino-lives-austria)

University of Wisconsin–Madison  
German+ Undergraduate Awards Ceremony  
April 23, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., Pyle Center Alumni Lounge

**Celebrating Our Students**

**First- and Second-Year Awards**

Cameron Beardsley  
Kaia Berghahn  
Blake Burkholz  
Mathias Craemer-Meisner  
Ashmit Gadekar  
Bhanu Lakshmi Harikumar  
James MacMenamin  
Oliver Lyle  
Jack Schroeder  
Vincent Wu

**Intermediate Awards**

Kamei Ayidiya  
Nathan Baker  
Cadence Brown  
Ava Bruhn  
Samuel Calne  
Hudson Eisenrich  
Anika Feinsilver  
Allison Feldman  
Aly Fry  
Lily Frye  
Carolin Fuchs  
Samuel Gagnier  
Jake Grokowsky

**Serenity Heuangpathoumthong**

Riley J. Howardsmith  
Piper Lickteig  
Case Morton-Lill  
Sreejita Patra  
Chloe Reynolds  
Sarah Task  
Abigail Thiel  
Kosta Turloukis  
Alethea Quick  
Myles Valiska  
Linnea Weber  
Kailai Ye

**Klaus L. Berghahn Award**

Catherine Carroll

**Advanced Awards**

Jadelyn Elizabeth Burris  
Ian Burton  
Santiago Cárdenas Delgado  
Catherine Carroll  
Ryan Echlin  
Emma Freisberg  
Evan Good  
Thomas Hickey  
Kat Kessler  
Valeriya Kravchenko  
Megan Olafsson  
Katelyn Ollinger  
Vanessa Palma  
Florence Robbins  
Anna Terkhorn  
James Waldenberger  
Hope Julia Wooten

**Lisbeth Pisk Award**

Katie Perkins

**Pisk and Ronda Broatch  
Family Award**

Kyle DeGroot

**Dr. Karl Oskar and Theodora**

**Pisk Award**

Danvers Trenhaile

**Delta Phi Alpha**

Jadelyn Elizabeth Burris  
Catherine Carroll  
Malachi Clark  
Ryan Echlin  
Thomas Hickey  
Lena Jung  
Owen Pilot  
Tatum Thompson  
Danvers Trenhaile  
Paige Callista Watson

**Celebrating Our Students**

**Graduating Seniors with a Certificate in German**

Oona Audley  
Ian Bohachek  
Michael Brenton  
Ian Burton  
Santiago Cárdenas Delgado  
Jordan Chao  
Vincent Chen  
Ava Clark  
Hunter Cochran  
Julia Daley  
Hailey Davis  
Mason DeCora  
Kate Dupont  
Margo Frauenheim  
Evan Good  
Erin Grisar  
Will Grosspietsch  
Colin Harkin  
Frankie Iovinelli  
Arber Jonuzi  
Lyle Kirsch  
Valariya Kravchenko  
Alex Kresnak  
Sadie Leach  
Claudia Loppnow

Fei Lu  
Olivia Melson  
Biswajit Mishra  
Greta Nashold  
Megan Olafsson  
Katelyn Ollinger  
Nicholas Piepenburg  
Kayla Piskula  
Collin Queen  
Isabella Richter  
Lukas Rochman  
Sophia Schmidt  
Madison Sheen  
Annika Steinbach-Mineau  
Gabrielle Trieloff  
James Waldenberger  
Grace Wall  
Kayla Lynn Wells  
Ryan Wickesberg  
Natalie Winn  
Trevor Wotruba  
Joel Wurf  
Brigid Zei  
Oona Zilavy  
Jan Zitko



**WELCOME**

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

**Undergraduate Achievement:**

First and Second Year  
Intermediate  
Advanced

Klaus L. Berghahn Award

Lisbeth Pisk Award

Pisk and Ronda Broatch  
Family Award

Dr. Karl Oskar and Theodora  
Pisk Award

**STUDENT SPEECH**

Danvers Trenhaile

**DELTA PHI ALPHA INDUCTION**

**GRADUATING SENIORS**

Thank you for joining us!

Follow us on Instagram!  
@GermanUWMadison



## Stockwerk Deutsch

Students in the International Learning Community (ILC) and Stockwerk Deutsch continue double rooms in Kronshage. Construction is planned for the spring of 2026 which means that the ILC will be moving again (specific location to be determined). Julie Larson-Guenette continues in her role as the faculty director for Stockwerk Deutsch offering one-credit seminars on culture, Second language acquisition and German PhD

candidate Patricia Haberkorn continues to serve as the Language Program Coordinator (LPC). Given the small number of Stockwerk Deutsch residents this year, Stockwerk-hosted events are now open to all members of the ILC. Activities include crafts, cooking and baking, game and movie nights, along with campus area outings (e.g., canoeing, performances and lectures).



## German Club UW Madison



The German Club at UW-Madison welcomes any Badger with an appreciation for German Culture! Check on social media for updates on upcoming events and club happenings.

Instagram: [@germanuw](#)  
Facebook: [German Club at UW-Madison](#)  
Twitter/X: [@GermanClubUW](#)

## Academic Year in Freiburg Alumni



Do you have fond memories of your year abroad in Freiburg? Are you interested to see what former study abroad classmates are up to? Are you looking to reconnect or maybe you just fancy a trip down memory lane?

Please consider joining the AYF alumni organization and/or donating to their scholarship funds: [www.ayf-alumni.org/](http://www.ayf-alumni.org/) There are two chapters: one based in the USA and one based in Freiburg, Germany.

## Traveling Abroad



During the summer, undergrad Charlie Struhs visited the Dong Xuan Center in Berlin after learning about it in Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick's 'Asiatische Diaspora' course.



Bascom Hill 2025. Photo by Julia Goetze

## Dear Alumni, Friends, and Supporters of the German Program

As we move beyond the challenges of the last few years, creating and sustaining opportunities for our students remains our priority.

Your support is vital in allowing us to:

- Offer fellowships to high-achieving students
- Leverage high-impact teaching practices to enhance student learning
- Sustain the long, nationally recognized rigor and vitality of UW–Madison’s German Program.

You can contribute to an existing fund or provide a major gift that endows a new, named fund that you define yourself.

We invite you to join your fellow alumni, friends, and supporters who have made a gift to German! Your gift makes it possible for us to do more.

Use the following links to make an online gift directly to:

**UNDERGRADUATE EXCELLENCE FUND (GERMAN)**  
<https://secure.supportuw.org/give/?id=94bf966d-9554-4581-b7eb-ba0a3a753d51>

**ETHEL ANTRIM BIRD NETHERLANDIC STUDIES FUND**  
<https://secure.supportuw.org/give/?id=3f0146ec-f61a-460b-967a-1a09593509c4>

**GERMAN DEPARTMENT ENHANCEMENT FUND**  
<https://secure.supportuw.org/give/?id=4e43cefc-a05b-421d-bded-e38bbda0c932>

**JOST HERMAND GRADUATE FUND**  
<https://secure.supportuw.org/give/?id=6e8ccc98-ca29-4d12-8d4e-4ebc6d9b9a2d>

You can also find donation links and information at: <https://gns.wisc.edu/donate/>

Send a check made payable to the UW Foundation (indicate “German Department Enhancement Fund,” “Undergraduate Excellence Fund (German),” “Netherlandic Studies Fund,” or your choice of specific fund) to:

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN FOUNDATION  
 US Bank Lockbox, P.O. Box 78807  
 Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807

For questions, please contact Mark Loudon ([mllouden@wisc.edu](mailto:mllouden@wisc.edu)).

For planned giving, please contact Ann Lippincott (608-308-5320) or ([ann.lippincott@supportuw.org](mailto:ann.lippincott@supportuw.org)).

## Why German?

Hear from some of our students on why they study German at UW–Madison!



**Brooke Rodriguez, Senior / Milwaukee, Wisconsin; German & Geology BS**

I have been a German learner for about half of my life now, which is crazy to think about. My Oma taught me a little bit at a young age, and then I started taking classes in middle school. I never doubted whether I would continue learning the language. There is nothing like it, it’s unique and has given me such a more complex understanding and view of life. I plan on continuing my language journey in the future, by applying to US Teaching Assistantship in Austria for 2026.

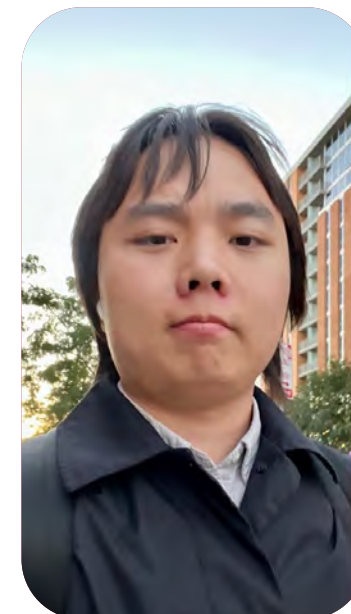
**Case Morton-Lill, Senior / Pumpkintown, South Carolina; Math, minors in German & Computer Science**

Although I happened into studying German my sophomore year by random chance, two years later it’s become one of my favorite hobbies! As someone studying math, I really appreciate the customizability and precision that German offers and being able to read the language has certainly helped out with my number theory homework on more than one occasion. I’ve also had a lot of fun taking some interesting German elective classes with friends, and after finishing my second semester of German I felt empowered enough to study abroad! Over the course of just a few weeks in Berlin, I was exposed to so much German culture and grew to really love the language. Initially I just started studying German to help with Math graduate school, but now I can even imagine myself moving to Germany one day!



**Vincent Wu, Senior / Changzhou, Jiangsu, China Mainland; History & German**

As a history major, I picked up German in hope of accessing more sources and it pays off. But learning the language is rewarding beyond a new skill. A more personal perspective is, German shaped my personality. I often talk to myself for clearing my mind or making plans for the day, while switching from to English when beginning college helped me to be more cheerful, now switching to German helps me to be better organized, perhaps because all the cases that denotes logics in action and relation. Knowing more languages also helps me to better appreciate the concept of cultural diversity: bouncing among three languages, many words and notions that rooted in its soil of language and could lose its liveliness in translation, are constant reminder for me of how language shaping not only our identity, but also our mind. Life is like a journey and language carries us along it. For me, a new language is a new lens, through which I can not only better see the world myself, but also through other’s perspectives.





**Department of  
German, Nordic, and Slavic+**  
COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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Madison, WI 53706

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