

# The PhD Program in German at Johns Hopkins

is unique in its dual emphasis on critical theory and cultural phenomena from the seventeenth to twenty-first centuries. The program attends to the multifaceted relations between literature and philosophy, aesthetics, art history, media theory, cultural criticism, and the sciences. This exceptional interdisciplinarity has led to German's extraordinary placement record.

## Our Program

The **German program** at Johns Hopkins is among the most distinguished in North America. It has been a leading force in literary criticism with recognized strength **in the intersection of literature and philosophy from the Enlightenment to the present.** The faculty is committed to the study of works of art and literature in conjunction with political theory, gender and sexuality studies, environmental thought, history of science, religion, anthropology, psychoanalysis, media theory and political science. The **interdisciplinary orientation** of the program has led to important contributions in the study of phenomenology and poetry, romanticism and gender, early modern science and baroque literature, the modern novel and print history, among many other topics. A further interest lies in the problem of representation with an eye toward the aesthetic, epistemological, and political implications of this overarching topic.

Our **PhD students**, who are offered **five years of guaranteed and generous funding**, take three years of courses to gain broad familiarity with literature from the baroque period to the contemporary stage as well as philosophy from the Enlightenment to recent environmental to political theory. Seminars within the German program are offered on a wide range of literary genres, authors, cultural phenomena and issues in poetics and aesthetics. In addition to their seminars within the German program and other offerings within the Modern Languages and Literatures Department, students are encouraged to develop a **strong interdisciplinary perspective** through courses in departments such

as Anthropology, Comparative Thought and Literature, English, History of Art, Philosophy, Political Science and Women, Gender and Sexuality, and the Peabody Conservatory. The final two years of graduate study are devoted to **the dissertation**, the first of which is spent abroad to enable students to **gain international exposure.**

## Our Faculty

### Christiane Frey

Associate Research Professor of German. *Research Interests:* 17th- and 18th-century German literature in the European context; history of science; literature and astronomy; early modern philosophy and aesthetics; critical theories of secularization; baroque temporalities; small forms; historical epistemologies and ecologies.

### Jennifer Gosetti-Ferencei

Professor and Kurrelmeyer Chair, Director of Graduate Studies in German, and Professor in Philosophy. *Research Interests:* Continental Philosophy; Phenomenology; Aesthetics and Philosophy of Literature; Cognitive Literary Theory; Philosophy of Imagination; Modern German Literature and Thought., Literary Ecology and Environmental Studies.

### Jacob Haubenreich

Assistant Professor of German. *Research Interests:* 19th-21st century German literature, posthermeneutics, theory and history of media, Schriftbildlichkeit, book history, writing process, archival theory and practice, experimental literature, literature and the visual arts, new materialism, multilingualism.

### Katrin Pahl

Professor of German. *Research Interests:* German literature and philosophy

in comparative perspective (US and French); the theory, poetics and history of emotionality, gender and sexuality; contemporary theater; Hegel; Kleist.

### Rochelle Tobias

Professor of German and Director of the Max Kade Center for Modern German Thought. *Research Interests:* 18th to 20th century German and European literature and thought; phenomenology; religious studies; continental philosophy; modern poetry; theory of the novel, fiction, and autobiography; German-Jewish culture.

### Deborah McGee Mifflin

Associate Teaching Professor and Language Program Director for German.

### Heidi Wheeler

Senior Lecturer in German and Coordinator for Intermediate German.

## Affiliated Faculty

**Lucy Allais** Miller Professor of Philosophy

**Jennifer Culbert** Associate Professor, Political Science

**Peter Jelavich** Professor, History

**Leonardo Lisi** Associate Professor, Comparative Thought and Literature

**Yitzhak Melamed** Charlotte Bloomberg Professor of Philosophy

**Mitchell Merback** Professor, History of Art

**Karen ní Mheallaigh** Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities, Classics

**Caroline Lillian Schopp** Assistant Professor, History of Art

**Dean Moyar** Professor, Philosophy

**Mark Christian Thompson** Krieger-Eisenhower Professor, English

## Program Resources

The program also hosts the **Max Kade Center for Modern German Thought** dedicated to exploring the political, cultural, historical, and philosophical developments associated with **the German discourse on knowledge.** The Max Kade Center **invites a renowned visiting professor** every spring, **sponsors lectures** and **offers travel grants** for summer research, internships or study in the German-speaking world. Students are encouraged to attend conferences as well as organize their own regular conference, and are invited to participate each semester in graduate colloquia in which they present their latest work to faculty and peers. Graduate students also help with the production of the German Issue for the highly regarded **journal MLN.** In addition to their regular stipends, the German subdivision offers several **summer fellowships** for students to continue their work at libraries, museums and archives in Europe.

## Teaching Apprenticeships

Through teaching apprenticeships, our PhD students not only gain teaching experience but pedagogical training. In addition to language courses students also have the opportunity to propose self-designed courses through the **Dean's Teaching Fellowship** program as well as Intercession Courses on topics of their interest.

Of the five years of guaranteed funding, the first year is dedicated to coursework alone, and the fourth year for study abroad.

## Graduate Admissions

The graduate admissions cycle begins in the fall of the year prior to the applicant's anticipated entry date. Applicants must complete and submit the online application and the supplemental application materials to the Graduate Affairs and Admissions Office **no later than January 15** - <https://krieger.jhu.edu/graduate-admissions/>

For more information, contact the Director of Graduate Studies, Jennifer Gosetti-Ferencei, at [jgosett1@jhu.edu](mailto:jgosett1@jhu.edu).

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