

49<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of  
**The Society for German American Studies**

“German Americans in Print”

April 24–26, 2025

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**Organizing Committee**

Viktorija Bilić, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Josh Brown, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Alison Efford, Marquette University

Randi Ramsden, University of Wisconsin–Madison

**Venues**

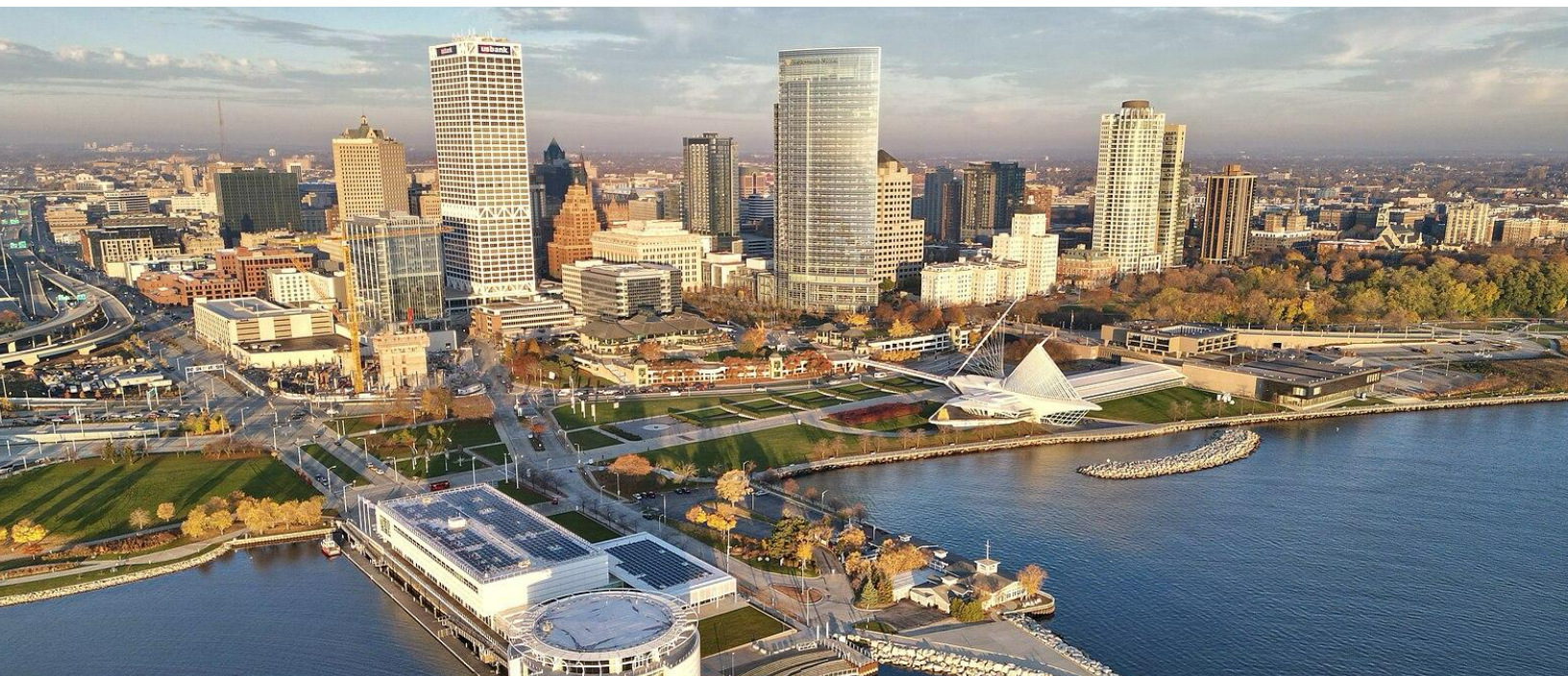
UWM School of Continuing Education (UWM-SCE) Downtown Conference Center,

161 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee

The Bindery, 347 E Ward St, Milwaukee, WI

Pabst Mansion, 2000 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI

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## **THURSDAY, APRIL 24**

*UWM-SCE Downtown Conference Center*

**4:30 p.m.: Registration opens (Room 7820)**

**5:00–7:00 p.m.: Reception (Room 7820)**

## **FRIDAY, APRIL 25**

*UWM-SCE Downtown Conference Center*

**7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Registration (Room 7820)**

**8:00 – 9:30 a.m. First Round of Concurrent Sessions**

### **Session I (Room 7220) Nineteenth-Century Encounters and Negotiations**

Moderator: TBD

- Steven Hackbarth (Wisconsin Lutheran College): “The Krahn Case in Milwaukee: The Tragedy of Seeing Your Name in English Print”
- Roberta Allen (Independent researcher): “Culture Clash: ‘Minnie Myrtle’ Goes to Germany to Write about the Peasants”
- Ann Fleming (University of Pittsburgh): “Invaluable Mediums: The Printed Word of German American Agents in the Business of Migration to the Midwest, 1869–1874”

### **Session II (Room 7230) New Approaches to Studying the German Language in North America**

Moderator: TBD

- Hans Boas, Margo Blevins, & Thomas Schmidt (The University of Texas at Austin): “Updating the Texas German Dialect Corpus for (Comparative) Speech Island Analysis”
- Marlis Lade (Saint Francis Xavier University): “Bridging Cultures: Integrating Indigenous Voices into German Language Education through Bridging Cultures”

### **Session III (Room 7240) Between Text and Material Culture**

Moderator: TBD

- Randi Ramsden (University of Wisconsin–Madison): “Fraktur as Cultural Identity: Printing Traditions and the Material Culture of the Milwaukee German American Press”
- Trevor Brandt (University of Chicago): “The Devotional Touch: Tactility in German American Print Culture”
- Alfred Wildfeuer & Sebastian Franz (University of Augsburg, University of Heidelberg): “Signs of Transatlantic Migration — German Language Inscriptions in the USA, With Examples from Indiana, Texas, and Kansas”

## **10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Second Round of Concurrent Sessions**

### **Session IV (Room 7220) Resisting Nazi Propaganda in the United States**

Moderator: TBD

- Michael Rice & Bärbel Such (Middle Tennessee State University, Ohio University): “Bridging Cultures and Building Lives: The Role of *Aufbau* in the German–Jewish Exile Community, 1933–1941”
- Kajsia Philippa Niehusen (Independent researchers): “Counteracting Nazi Propaganda in Print: The German American League for Culture and its Publications”

### **Session V (Room 7230) Transatlantic Crossings in German- and English-Language Literature**

Moderator: TBD

- Myka Burke (University of Leipzig): “Cultural Crossroads: Indigenous Representation in German Language Writing in Canada”
- Jonathan Wipplinger (University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee): “Claude McKay and the Harlem Renaissance in the Weimar Republic”
- William Selm (Indiana German Heritage Society): “Kurt Vonnegut: Indianapolis and Dresden”

### **Session VI (Room 7240) German-Language Periodicals in the United States**

Moderator: TBD

- Courtland Ingraham (George Washington University): “Pardon my Political Speech: German American Newspapers and the Sedition Act of 1798”
- Mark Loudon (University of Wisconsin–Madison): “German American Almanacs of Milwaukee Publisher George Brumder”
- Randall Donaldson (Loyola University Maryland): “Social Media in the Late Nineteenth-century German America”

## **11:30 – 1:00 p.m. SGAS Membership Meeting and Luncheon (Room 7820)**

## 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Third Round of Concurrent Sessions

### **Session VII (Room 7220) German Americans and Nineteenth-Century Print Media**

Moderator: TBD

- William E. Petig (Stanford University): “The First German Humor Magazines in the United States”
- Antje Petty (University of Wisconsin–Madison): “Written for the People: German Translations of American Government Documents”
- Paul E. Kerry (The University of Texas at Austin): “German American Print Material in the German Federal Foreign Office”

### **Session VIII (Room 7230) Gender and German Americans in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries**

Moderator: TBD

- Melanie Lorenz (Marquette University): “The American Midwife: The German American Initiative behind America’s First Midwifery Journal”
- Marcel Rotter (University of Mary Washington): “Gendered Reactions of German Americans to US Government Propaganda during World War I”
- Pamela Tesch (University of Wisconsin–Whitewater): “Working from Home: Lessons from *Die deutsche Hausfrau: Monatschrift fuer die Frauenwelt Amerikas* (January–December 1920)”

### **Session IX (Room 7240) Linguistics: Pennsylvania Dutch, East Frisian, and Texas German in the United States**

Moderator: TBD

- Hannah E. Brewer-Jensen (University of Wisconsin–Madison): “American Environments: An Ecological Analysis of Identity in Pennsylvania Dutch Print Media”
- Ellen Schoedler (The University of Texas at Austin): “*Ein Amerikaner in Ostfriesland*: The Interplay of Language and Identity for an East-Frisian American Abroad”
- Hans Boas, Marc Pierce, & Joren Somers (The University of Texas at Austin, University of Ghent): “The Study of Texas German in the 1960s”



### **3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Fourth Round of Concurrent Sessions**

#### **Session X (Room 7220) Fiction, Community News, and Language Usage in German American Newspapers**

Moderator: TBD

- Caroline Huey (The University of Louisiana at Lafayette): “Mapping the Front Page: The *Louisiana Staats-Zeitung* and Eugenics in Antebellum New Orleans”
- Dale Doerhoff (Independent researcher): “A Trip to Charlestown — How the Early Years of a German American Community were Brought to Life through Local News Reports to a Regional German Language Newspaper”
- Viktorija Bilić (University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee): “German American Newspapers: A Linguistic Corpus Analysis”

#### **Session XI (Room 7230) Immigrant Religion**

Moderator: TBD

- Benjamin Phelps (Concordia Seminary): “‘Halte, was du hast...’ Wisconsin Synod Lutherans Print in German”
- Bradley Weiss (Indiana University Bloomington): “Revisiting Low German Epiphany Traditions in Southern Illinois”
- Barbara Becker-Cantarino (Ohio State University): “From the Colonial Frontier into Print: David Zeisberger”

#### **Session XII (Room 7240) Identifying German Ethnicity in Brazil and the United States**

Moderator: TBD

- Tristan Coignard (Bordeaux Montaigne University): “Writing German American History by Compiling a Bibliography? Oswald Seidensticker’s *The First Century of German Printing in America 1728–1830* (1893)”
- Samuel Boucher (University of Iowa): “German Footprints: Germanness in the Rio Plata Interior”
- David Hünlich (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, The University of Texas at San Antonio): “The Losing of the Midwest: Are We Underestimating the Role of Persisting Ethnic Affiliations?”

### **5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Tour of the Pabst Mansion**

2000 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53233

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26**  
*UWM-SCE Downtown Conference Center*

**8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Fifth Round of Concurrent Sessions**

**Session XIII (Room 7220) German Americans during the WWI Era**

Moderator: TBD

- Nathan Bates (University of South Dakota): “*Die deutsche Sprache und ihre Bedeutung: Lessons on Language Learning Advocacy from a 1926 Mennonite Pamphlet in Defense of the German Language*”
- Kathleen Condray (University of Arkansas at Fayetteville): “Press under Fire: German Editors and the Limits of Democracy in World War I”
- Petra DeWitt (Missouri University of Science and Technology): “The Nonferrous ‘Octopus’ in the Metal Trades in Australia and the United States: *Metallgesellschaft* and the Reaction to German Dominance in Metal Trades during World War I”

**Session XIV (Room 7230) Visual Culture and Folklore**

Moderator: TBD

- Armin Langer (University of Florida): “Exiles Artists in a Caribbean Dictatorship: German and Austrian Jewish Narratives in Trujillo’s Dominican Republic”
- James Kearney (The University of Texas at Austin): “Conrad Caspar Rordorf: Art, Murder, and Intrigue on the Texas Frontier”
- Alina A. M. Zeller (University of Erfurt, University of Graz): “German American and Austro-American *Trachtenvereine* in Print: Advertising (for) the *Verein* (1910s–1930s)”

**Session XV (Room 7240) Brewing**

Moderator: TBD

- Kathleen Neils Conzen (The University of Chicago): “The Re-Invention of ‘Lager Beer’ in Gold Rush San Francisco or, The Franconian Connection”
- Timothy Holian (University of Wisconsin–Whitewater): “*Qualität setzt sich durch: German American Brewers and Print Advertising in the Pre-Prohibition Era*”
- Emma Todd (The Ohio State University): “German American Brewers and the End of Prohibition”

## **10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Sixth Round of Concurrent Sessions**

### **Session XVI (Room 7220) Germans in Colonial America and the Early Republic**

Moderator: TBD

- Jenny Merriman (College of William & Mary): “Saur’s World: Translating Newsprint in Christoph Saur’s Workshop in Colonial Pennsylvania”
- John Balz (University of Wisconsin–Madison): “Revisiting German Opposition to Pennsylvania’s 1780 Gradual Abolition Law”

### **Session XVII (Room 7230) Panel Discussion: The Future(s) of Pennsylvania German Studies**

Moderator: TBD

- Simon Bronner (University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee)
- Josh Brown (University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire)
- Patrick Donmoyer (Kutztown University)
- William Donner (Kutztown University)
- Mark Loudon (University of Wisconsin–Madison)
- Jennifer Schlegel (Kutztown University)

### **Session XVIII (Room 7240) Scientific Contributions of German Americans**

Moderator: TBD

- Dennis Kruse and Kevin Kurdylo (Independent researcher, University of Wisconsin–Madison): “Henry Nehrling’s Career Pinnacle: The Printing of *Die Nordamerikanische Vogelwelt* and the *North American Birds of Song and Beauty*”
- Heiko Mühr (University of California Berkeley): “The Early Struggles of America’s First Science Agency: Ferdinand Hassler and the United States Coast Survey, 1807–1843”
- David Zersen (Concordia University): “Delayed Media Response to Einstein’s World-changing Letter”

## **2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Tour of the Bindery**

347 E Ward St, Milwaukee, WI

## **6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Symposium Banquet and Presentation of Outstanding Achievement Award**

UWM-SCE (Room 7820)