49th 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–Eau Claire
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 (Seventh Floor)
The Bindery, 347 E Ward St, Milwaukee
Pabst Mansion, 2000 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee

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The Max Kade Foundation, Inc., New York City

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

UWM-SCE Downtown Conference Center (Seventh Floor)

4:30 p.m. Registration opens (Opposite elevators on seventh floor)
5:00–7:00 p.m. Reception & welcoming remarks (Room 7820)

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

UWM-SCE Downtown Conference Center (Seventh Floor)

7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Registration (Opposite elevators on seventh floor)
Refreshments (Room 7820)

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

Session I ***(Room 7220)*** **Nineteenth-Century Encounters and Negotiations**
Moderator: Alison Clark Efford (Marquette University)

- Steven A. Hackbarth (Wisconsin Lutheran College): "The Krahn Case in Milwaukee: The Tragedy of Seeing Your Name in English Print"
- Roberta Reb 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)***

- Cancelled

Session III ***(Room 7240)*** **Between Text and Material Culture**
Moderator: Josh Brown (University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire)

- 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): "Tactility in German American Print Culture"

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

<u>Session IV</u> *(Room 7220)* Resisting Nazi Propaganda in the United States
Moderator: Antje Petty (University Wisconsin–Madison)

- Part I: 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"
- Part II: 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"

<u>Session V</u> *(Room 7230)* Transatlantic Crossings in German- and English-Language Literature
Moderator: Nichole Neuman (Indiana University–Indianapolis)

- William L. Selm (Indiana German Heritage Society): "Kurt Vonnegut: Indianapolis and Dresden"
- 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"

<u>Session VI</u> *(Room 7240)* German-Language Periodicals in the United States
Moderator: Caroline Huey (University of Louisiana at Lafayette)

- Courtland D. McEneny Ingraham (George Washington University): "Pardon my Political Speech: German American Newspapers and the Sedition Act of 1798"
- Mark L. Louden (University of Wisconsin–Madison): "German American Almanacs of Milwaukee Publisher George Brumder"
- Randall P. 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

<u>Session VII</u> *(Room 7220)* German Americans and Nineteenth-Century Print Media
Moderator: Viktorija Bilić (University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee)

- William E. Petig (Stanford University): "The First German Humor Magazine 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"

<u>Session VIII</u> *(Room 7230)* Gender and German Americans in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries
Moderator: Kathleen Condray (University of Arkansas at Fayetteville)

- 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: Monatsschrift fuer die Frauenwelt Amerikas* (January–December 1920)"

<u>Session IX</u> *(Room 7240)* Linguistics: Texas German and Pennsylvania Dutch in the United States
Moderator: William D. Keel (University of Kansas)

- Hans C. Boas, Marc Pierce, & Joren Somers (The University of Texas at Austin, University of Ghent): "The Study of Texas German in the 1960s"
- Hans C. Boas, Margo Blevins, & Thomas Schmidt (The University of Texas at Austin): "Updating the Texas German Dialect Corpus for (Comparative) Speech Island Analysis"
- Hannah E. Brewer-Jensen (University of Wisconsin–Madison): "American Environments: An Ecolinguistic Analysis of Identity in Pennsylvania Dutch Print Media"

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Refreshments (Room 7820)

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

<u>Session X</u> *(Room 7220)* Fiction, Community News, and Language Usage in German American Newspapers

Moderator: Marcel Rotter (University of Mary Washington)

- 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 Charleytown — 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"

<u>Session XI</u> *(Room 7230)* Immigrant Religion

Moderator: Mark Louden (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

- Benjamin T. 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"

<u>Session XII</u> *(Room 7240)* Identifying German Ethnicity in Brazil and the United States

Moderator: Hans C. Boas (University of Texas at Austin)

- 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 (Seventh Floor)

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Refreshments (Room 7820)

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

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

Moderator: Charles Gallagher (Boston College)

- 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: Arkansas 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: Jonathan Wipplinger (University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee)

- Armin Langer (University of Florida): "Exile Artists in a Caribbean Dictatorship: German and Austrian Jewish Narratives in Trujillo's Dominican Republic"
- 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: Jana Weiss (University of Texas at Austin)

- 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. – 12:00 p.m. Sixth Round of Concurrent Sessions

<u>Session XVI</u> *(Room 7220)* Germans in Colonial America and the Early Republic
Moderator: Bärbel Such (Ohio University)

- Jennifer 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"

<u>Session XVII</u> *(Room 7230)* Panel Discussion: The Future(s) of Pennsylvania German Studies

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

<u>Session XVIII</u> *(Room 7240)* Scientific Contributions of German Americans
Moderator: Petra DeWitt (Missouri University of Science and Technology)

- Dennis Kruse and Kevin Kurdylo (Independent researcher, University of Wisconsin–Madison): "Henry Nehrling's Career Pinnacle: The Printing of *Die NordamerikanischeVogelwelt* 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 J. 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)

Outstanding Achievement Award recipient: William E. Petig (Stanford University)
Laudatio: Cora Lee Kluge (University of Wisconsin–Madison)
Presentation: "Albert F. W. Grimm: Genesis of a Long-Term Research Project in German American Literature"

Culture Clash: "Minnie Myrtle" Goes to Germany to Write about the Peasants

Roberta Reb Allen
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In 1858 Scribner's in New York and Samuel Low in London published Peasant Life in Germany by the popular American columnist for The New York Times Anna Cummings Johnson (alias Minnie Myrtle and wrongly assumed to be Anna Cummings Miller). This was just four years after the height of German emigration to America and at a time when an increasing number of Americans were traveling to Europe. Johnson did not speak German but she writes that she was prompted to go to Germany to obey the "voice of God in our soul." Her stated mission was to "describe the people—who have been passed by [by other travel writers] as if they were dogs, or worms to be trodden upon, because they bend their necks to the yoke of princes. We will tell you how they live in the cottages, for into these we shall certainly find admittance." It is questionable how many peasant homes she actually did visit, but she did bring something new to the genre of travel literature about Germany which was her female perspective and interest in domestic concerns.

Peasant Life in Germany is poorly organized; Johnson does not even provide her itinerary. The book ends up as a pastiche of what she saw, what she was told and what she learned from reading numerous other writers. She also reports on her refutations of the poor impressions many of the Germans she met had about America.

It was an immediate hit, generally hailed as objective and unbiased reportage, and went through at least four printings. As the class-conscious quote above indicates, however, Johnson could hardly be objective as she measured what she saw and heard against her own standards of both comfort and morality. So the book itself addresses the culture clash which Americans and German emigrants might experience in their encounters with each other.

The fallout from the book, however, went further. Newspapers printed almost invariably some of the most unfavorable passages about Germans. After the New York Times had highly praised it, it came immediately to the attention of the German press, initially the New Yorker Abendzeitung and from there almost immediately to two German-language newspapers in St. Louis and one in Leavenworth Kansas. Each devoted considerable column space to discussing the book and dwelled specifically on the culture clash it portrays, even down to "trivialities." Their differing views are instructive on how German Americans wished to have themselves viewed.

Revisiting German Opposition to Pennsylvania's 1780 Gradual Abolition Law

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In 1780 Pennsylvania passed a gradual abolition law, the first of its kind in the new nation or in a British colony. Recent scholarship has shown how the law enabled some enslavers to perpetuate slavery for several generations further. Nevertheless, by the time a new U.S. Constitution was adopted, laws like Pennsylvania's and growing antislavery movements in other mid-Atlantic states had firmed up a political division over slavery between states north and south of the Mason-Dixon line. My presentation revisits a previously established finding that the bulk of opposition to abolition in Pennsylvania between 1779 and 1788 came from German Lutherans and German Reformed (Calvinists). Assembly members from counties where these German groups lived – Lancaster, York, Berks, and Northampton counties – provided the most consistent opposition to abolition laws. Previous scholarship has considered the role played by economic circumstances, cultural factors, and German mindsets. Economic circumstances have included analyses of German slaveholding and proximity to Southern slaveholding territory. Cultural factors have included arguments about the reduced impact of the Great Awakening and a lack of enthusiasm for American Revolutionary ideology. A third explanation points to German immigrant mindsets rooted in homelands that more easily accepted social hierarchies and status distinctions. My presentation centers German American politics in the middle of the Revolutionary War as a way to approach German enthusiasm for Revolutionary ideology and their economic circumstances from a new angle. My presentation will present a series of mini biographies of German American and Anglo-American opponents to the 1780 Gradual Abolition law that locates them within Pennsylvania's socioeconomic structure, Revolutionary War political factions, and European migration patterns to Pennsylvania.

Die Deutsche Sprache und Ihre Bedeutung: Lessons on Language Learning Advocacy from a 1926 Mennonite Pamphlet in Defense of the German Language

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In 1926, an English professor by the name of J. John Friesen, employed at Freeman Junior College, a small Mennonite private school located in Freeman, SD, published a 41-page pamphlet titled *Die Deutsche Sprache und Ihre Bedeutung* (The German Language and Its Meaning). Appearing in the wake of World War I, Friesen's writing attempted to right some of the wrongs incurred against the German language at the time. The war saw a dramatic decline in the readership of German periodicals; the closure or suspension of most German language instruction, including the program at the nearby University of South Dakota; and, ultimately, the prohibition of the German language altogether in the state of South Dakota by the National Council of Defense in 1918. Although many of the German-speaking settlers in southeastern South Dakota felt some connection to the cradle of German culture in Central Europe, these Anabaptist groups had long been separated from mainstream German nationalities, having previously resided in the Russian Empire for over a century before immigrating to the Dakota Territory in 1874. Friesen pleaded for a recommitment to the heritage language of his community, which consisted of an amalgamation of Mennonites, Hutterites, and Amish-Swiss, each of whom spoke their own dialects of German. In the pamphlet, which was recently rediscovered almost a century after publication, Friesen lays out a series of arguments in favor of language revitalization mostly from a religious and moral perspective, including what he calls attitudinal values (*Gesinnungswert*), cultural values, moral values, character, and the decay of these values in 1920s America. Although many of Friesen's arguments may seem unremarkable to a twenty-first century audience, his treatise deserves consideration because of how his line of reasoning based in religious grounds parallels the secularized rationale advocating the study of German today, and how such arguments anticipate the ongoing efforts to diversify and decolonize the German language curriculum across the country. This presentation will offer a critical analysis of Friesen's argument that situates his writing in the historical discourse on the German language in the 1920s and explicates its relevance for the discourse on decolonization and diversity in the 2020s. The better we understand how German language learning was advocated in the past, the more effective our rhetorical efforts will be to justify foreign language learning not only in South Dakota but also in an increasingly xenophobic United States.

From the Colonial Frontier into Print: David Zeisberger

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The Moravian migrant, linguist and missionary David Zeisberger witnessed firsthand and was actively involved in the Native Americans' struggle for survival, depopulation and dispossession in the Backwoods of the old Northwestern Territory, today's western Pennsylvania and Ohio. My paper looks at Zeisberger's publications in the 18th century and the fate of his manuscript "Von der Indianer Gestalt und Lebensart" (ca. 1780, Engl. translation 1910). Zeisberger wrote for and about the indigenous people, he gave advice, related facts, fiction and made ethnographic observations within the enlightenment paradigm of exploring the 'unknown' -- here from a radical Christian – Pietistic perspective. His writings for and about Native Americans made it into print, reflecting cross-cultural encounters based on (relatively) long-term living experiments. That was quite distinct from Enlightenment's travel explorations of 'other' or 'foreign' peoples and geographies, like those of the celebrated Captain Cook and Georg Forster in the 1770s.

German American Newspapers: A Linguistic Corpus Analysis

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Milwaukee's German-language press, much like the city's German community in general, was characterized by its size and diversity. Most German-language papers in Milwaukee's early days were established as political organs promoting the Democratic and Republican parties. In this presentation, I will focus on two German American newspapers that were published in Milwaukee: *The Wisconsin Banner und Volksfreund* and the *Atlas*.

The city's pioneer German-language newspaper, the *Wiskonsin Banner*, was first published in 1844 and affiliated with the Democrats. Editor-politician Moritz Schöffler founded the paper with the financial help of Franz Hübschmann and became an influential figure in the German community himself within short time. The paper presented the German immigrants' point of view on political matters, advocating for their rights in their native tongue and was thus welcomed by the German community. By 1850, the *Wisconsin Banner* had altered the spelling of its title and counted 4,000 weekly and 1,400 daily subscribers, making it the second-largest Milwaukee newspaper after the English-language Sentinel. In early 1847, Sentinel editor Rufus King established the second German-language newspaper, *Der Volksfreund*, as a Whig counterweight to the popular *Banner*. The paper was later bought by Democrat Friedrich Fratney, who changed its politics. Despite the papers' similarities and general support of the Democratic Party, the *Wisconsin Banner* and the *Volksfreund* editors were adversaries at first, frequently attacking each other in their papers. Shortly before his death however, Fratney transferred this paper to Schöffler. In 1855, the formerly competing papers were merged to form the *Banner und Volksfreund*, which continued to publish daily editions until 1880 and weekly editions until 1913. The Republican papers of the time were failures in comparison: Bernhard Domschcke's *Korsar* (1854-1856) and *Milwaukee Journal* (1856) were short-lived. Domschcke, who fled his native Germany after the failed Revolutions of 1848, then founded the more successful *Atlas* in 1856, a paper supported by German revolutionary and Republican activist Carl Schurz. Other prominent Milwaukeeans, including German socialist Fritz Anneke, served as editors. The *Atlas* was discontinued in 1861.

This paper centers on a linguistic corpus analysis of a selection from these two newspapers: twenty full editions of the *Banner und Volksfreund* (1845-1858) and five full editions of the *Atlas* (1857-1860). The focus of the linguistic analysis is on collocations, defined as common word combinations or frequent combinations of lexical units. The main part of the contribution is dedicated to a content analysis of the nearly 10,000 collocations found in the analyzed newspaper corpus for the three main themes: politics, identity building and advertising/marketing. In addition to collocations, the analysis will also include German-English neologisms found in the newspaper corpus.

The Study of Texas German in the 1960s

Hans C. Boas, Marc Pierce, and Joren Somers
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Texas German, a set of near-standard varieties of German spoken in Texas by the descendants of 19th century German immigrants, has been a popular object of study since the late 1940s. A complete historiographical survey of the study of Texas German remains a desideratum. Pierce, Boas, and Gilbert (2021) discuss the contributions of one scholar, Fred Eikel, to the study of Texas German, which is a step towards this proposed survey. This paper takes an additional step towards this proposed survey, as it addresses the study of Texas German in the 1960s. The focus will be largely on works by Glenn Gilbert, specifically his 1963 Harvard dissertation, as well as several articles he published in the decade (e.g., Gilbert 1964, 1965a, 1965b).

The centerpiece of the talk, however, will be a recently discovered draft of a Texas German dialect atlas (Becker and Dauenhauer 1965) prepared under the direction of Glenn Gilbert by two UT graduate students, namely Donald Becker and Richard Dauenhauer. The two graduate students used the same questionnaire as Gilbert (1972) to study the linguistic variation among 17 language consultants in Williamson and northern Travis County, Texas. Our talk offers a critical evaluation of Becker and Dauenhauer (1965) and shows how their results seem to have influenced the conception of Gilbert's (1972) Linguistic Atlas of Texas German.

At this point we have only been able to carry out a cursory examination of the draft, but it promises to bring a number of new insights into the historiography of Texas German. We expect it to illuminate at least the following situations: (1) the preparation of Gilbert's Linguistic Atlas of Texas German (e.g., how much of an influence did the draft have on Gilbert's 1972 Atlas) and (2) the status of Texas German as an object of study at the time, both at the University of Texas and beyond.

References

Becker, Donald and Richard Dauenhauer. 1965. *A Linguistic Atlas of Williamson-County German*. Manuscript. University of Texas at Austin.

Gilbert, Glenn. 1964. The German Dialect of Kendall and Gillespie Counties, Texas. *Zeitschrift für Mundartforschung* 31, 138-72.

Gilbert, Glenn. 1965a. Dative versus Accusative in the German Dialects of Central Texas. *Zeitschrift für Mundartforschung* 32, 288-96.

Gilbert, Glenn. 1965b. English Loanwords in the German of Fredericksburg, Texas. *American Speech* 40, 102-12.

Gilbert, Glenn. 1972. *Linguistic Atlas of Texas German*. Austin: UT Press.

Pierce, Marc, Boas, Hans C. & Glenn Gilbert. 2021. Fred Eikel and the Study of Texas German. *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 56, 131-147.

Updating the Texas German Dialect Corpus for (comparative) speech island analysis

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The Texas German Dialect Archive (TGDA) is one of the largest resources documenting a variety of German abroad, containing audio recordings from 800+ speakers (1,000+ hours). It has long been accessible through the project's website (https://tgdp.org/dialect-archive) and the speechislands.org portal, both for viewing/browsing and for simple querying of the data. However, corpus linguistic approaches to the corpus have been limited because the data are lacking annotation layers that would allow queries abstracting over the concrete (and not always predictable) form of transcribed tokens.

With a smaller, representative sample of the corpus — the Texas German Sample Corpus (TGSC) — Blevins (2022) has studied by what means the transcribed data can be language-tagged and orthographically "normalised" (i.e. mapped from idiosyncratic or variety-specific to standard orthography forms). This is a crucial step both for enabling more reliable queries and for preparing further (automatic) annotation, such as lemmatisation and part-of-speech tagging, which in turn opens up new approaches to query and analysis.

Our paper explains the background and results of the TGSC study and reports on ongoing work to transfer these results to the larger TGDP, including automatic language tagging, normalisation, lemmatisation and POS tagging of all transcribed data. We report on the quality (i.e. error-rates) of automatically annotated data and we show how such an enriched corpus can be exploited with modern corpus technology so it can serve as a model for enabling new corpus-based approaches to comparative speech island analysis (Boas 2016, 2021).

References

Boas, Hans C. (2016): Variation im Texasdeutschen: Implikationen für eine vergleichende Sprachinselforschung. In: Alexandra N. Lenz (ed.): *German Abroad. Perspektiven der Variationslinguistik, Sprachkontakt- und Mehrsprachigkeitsforschung*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

Boas, Hans C. (2021): Zur Vergleichbarkeit von Sprachinseldaten. Ein Plädoyer für eine "bottom-up" Methodologie im Rahmen der Konstruktionsgrammatik und der Frame Semantik. In C. Földes (ed.), *Kontaktvarietäten des Deutschen im Ausland*. Tübingen: Narr Francke Attempto. 66-88.

Blevins, Margaret (2022): *The language-tagging and orthographic normalization of German-language contact varieties*. Dissertation, University of Texas, Austin.

German Footprints: Germanness in the Rio Plata Interior

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While 'Germanness' exists as a contested category with different meanings to different people in different places, and times, the great variety of newspaper editors, governmental bureaucrats, and the public in Latin America during the long nineteenth century viewed 'German' as a short form for 'quality' products and 'educated' immigrants. In the region of the Interior Rio Plata (Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil), 'German' functioned most commonly as a signifier for cultural stereotypes about 'skill,' 'industriousness,' and 'discipline.' By the 1930s, there were 10,000-20,000 German-speaking people (of whom two-thirds were farmers) living in more than 20 colonies on Paraguayan soil, where 'German' (40% were German-speakers from Brazil) was the cultural base of the population. Even more lived in colonies in Southern Brazil and the departments of Misiones, Corrientes, Chaco, and Formosa contributing to the agricultural development of those regions. Germanness in this region developed as a signifier for 'quality immigrant' and provided for inherent privileges to these groups to establish themselves in these colonies.

Tactility in German-American Pietist Print Culture

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Scholarship on the Protestant devotional movement of Pietism has long emphasized the centrality of texts, framing Pietism as a tradition primarily focused upon the "Word" at the expense of the image. This talk, however, instead explores a visual culture of Pietism centered around the inexpensive broadsides and printed images ubiquitous in eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century German-American homes. After considering period understandings of the senses—particularly tactility—I then highlight Pietism's emphasis on physical engagement with devotional texts and images. I focus in particular upon popular genres such as the *geistlicher Irrgarten* ("spiritual labyrinths"), broadsides featuring a prayer printed sideways and upside-down and that necessitated readers to physically rotate and move in order to read it; *der frommen Lotterei* ("the pious lottery"), a small deck of cards printed with rhyming devotional passages and intended for random selection and reading; the *güldenes Schatzkästlein* ("golden treasure chest"), a printed codex meant for handling and contemplation; and other anonymous broadsides printed in southeastern Pennsylvania during the eighteenth and early-nineteenth century.

Considering these "tactile" prints as a group reveals common qualities such as an extraordinary level of interplay between text, image, and materiality—objects that hearkened to the visual culture of the early Reformation yet explored anew by printers in southeastern Pennsylvania. In doing so, these prints underscore an inward turn of German-American families in household devotions as they explored devotional practices popularized by print culture. By centering multisensoriality in the study of German-American devotional print culture, this talk draws upon recent literature on late-medieval and early modern printmaking by scholars such as David Areford, Suzanne Karr-Schmidt, and Matthew Brown—scholarship suggesting that the "hand-piety" of German-Americans was not unique, but rather was part of broader trends among other confessional and linguistic communities, especially communities located at the edges of empire in the early modern period.

American Environments:
An Ecolinguistic Analysis of Identity In Pennsylvania Dutch Print Media

Hannah E. Brewer-Jensen
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Harvey M. Miller (1871–1939) was an important figure in Pennsylvania Dutch literature at the turn of the 20th century. Though little-studied, his work offers thoughtful, humorous, honest portraits of how the largely rural, agricultural-based Pennsylvania Dutch language community identified itself at a time when rapid industrialization and urbanization impacted their traditional proximity to the natural world.

In this presentation, I apply the framework of ecolinguistics to show how Miller's work represents Pennsylvania Dutch identity within the broader American society. Ecolinguistics investigates how humans interact and exist in their natural environments and what effect language has on environmental questions (Stibbe "About"). Ecolinguistic analysis of the language in Miller's texts allows us to understand his positionality within the shifting natural, cultural, and social environments of his time.

Drawing on Michael Halliday's (1985) Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) model, this project analyzes the phrasal process types in ten pieces of selected poetry and prose from Miller's G'shbos und Arnsht, (Humor and Seriousness) that directly discuss the natural world. Each text is broken down into clauses and then sorted into types of experiential metafunctions—material, mental, verbal, behavioral, existential, and relational (Eggins 214). Drawing also on Román and Busch's (2015) study and Stibbe's (2021) book chapter of framing, I use SFL to build a body of data demonstrating how Miller frames his position within a material relationship to the natural world. I expand my analysis to describe what kinds of phrases and lexical items express a distinctive Pennsylvania Dutch literary identity and landscape (Stibbe, 2021).

While Miller's work provides a wealth of information on non-sectarian Pennsylvania Dutch life in the early 20th century, the methodology in my study can serve as a model for the application of SFL to other heritage languages in North America. My study aims to focus on American heritage languages while advancing linguistic interpretive paradigms, with the goal of deepening our understanding of the relationship between the natural world and regional and cultural identities in a diverse and globalizing nation.

Cultural Crossroads: Indigenous Representation in German Language Writing in Canada

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This paper examines the portrayal of Indigenous Peoples within German language creative writing in Canada, exploring where, when, and how Indigenous people are represented across both literature and periodicals. German Canadian authors often find themselves navigating between European cultural frameworks and Canadian landscapes, creating complex portrayals of Indigenous communities that reflect both continuity with and divergence from colonial narratives.

Through a literary analysis of various texts, this study identifies recurring themes—such as land, identity, and resilience—and highlights shifts from earlier colonial viewpoints to more contemporary, nuanced depictions. German language periodicals and literature reveal a unique "cultural crossroads" where European perspectives and Indigenous representation intersect, blending German and Canadian influences.

This research contributes to a broader understanding of German language writing in Canada and adds a Canadian perspective to the theme of "German Americans in Print," enriching the conversation on diasporic narratives and cross-cultural dialogue in North American German language literature.

Writing German American History by Compiling a Bibliography?
Oswald Seidensticker's The First Century of German Printing in America 1728-1830 (1893)

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The aim of the paper is to discuss the significance that print media played in German-American historiography around 1900. It will analyze the historiographical work of Oswald Seidensticker (1825-1894), a professor of German studies at the University of Pennsylvania (1867-1894) who dealt extensively with the past of German emigrants who had settled in the United States since the 17th century. He was regarded by other historians of the time as the one whose work had awakened his community's interest in its own history.

Seidensticker's contribution to this specific form of historiography, which was often criticized as exclusively filopietistic, was to show how essential it was to collect relevant sources and materials because they would guarantee a factual and well-founded examination of the past. This interest was underpinned by Seidensticker's will to secure print and archive sources and make them accessible for future generations. From 1863 to 1870, he worked as librarian of the German Society of Pennsylvania. In this context, his commented bibliography The First Century of German Printing in America 1728-1830, which was completed at the end of Seidensticker's life, had a special status. On the one hand, Seidensticker was able to legitimize the role of print media - especially compared to archival sources - for the historical consciousness of German Americans. On the other hand, the book was written and published in English so that the importance of these media and their historiographical function could also be recognized by the Anglophone public.

Although this work has been repeatedly annotated and even used as a historiographical reference work, it has been treated very descriptively and purely bibliographically in research. This paper will show how relevant this publication is for Seidensticker's understanding of history. Based on an analysis of the titles compiled, the aim is to show how the period from 1728 to 1830 is as a turning point for the emergence of a German-American identity. According to Oswald Seidensticker, the selection of 2507 German-language print media (1404 books; 624 periodicals and 479 almanacs) thus becomes the basis for the historicization of the "German" contribution to the development of the American nation.

Press under Fire: Arkansas German Editors and the Limits of Democracy in World War I

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For approximately thirty years, two German-language newspapers operated side-by-side in Little Rock, Arkansas' political and commercial capital. The editors of Die Staats-Zeitung took a confrontational approach, both in their articles and personal interactions, sparking a feud with Das Arkansas Echo shortly after its launch. As World War I began, the differing styles of the papers—Staats-Zeitung's combative stance and Echo's more conciliatory tone—led to very different outcomes for their respective editors.

German speakers in Arkansas had largely assimilated and initially believed they could sway their fellow Arkansans to support the German cause in the early days of the war. They were quite mistaken. After the United States entered the conflict, Echo editor Carl Meurer chose to stop promoting German interests and urged his readers, and even his rival editor Curt Ackermann, to do the same: "Den Krieg entscheidet der Wille Gottes. Und nachher werden wir zu Worte kommen können und gehört werden. Aber jetzt ist das unmöglich. Hetzen und Radamontaden schreiben ist kinderleicht. Aber die Folgen davon müssen andere Leute tragen" ("Unseren Lesern" 4).

Nevertheless, Ackermann, along with his German-speaking lawyer, decided to test the limits of free speech in the deeply conservative South. This led to fierce attacks by English-language papers against Ackermann and Germans in general. Under President Wilson's orders, Ackermann was arrested and interned for the remainder of the war in Georgia. Die Staats-Zeitung ceased publication after his arrest, while the Echo, by choosing silence, managed to survive the war and publish for another fifteen years.

The Reinvention of 'Lager Beer' in Gold Rush San Francisco or, The Franconian Connection

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"I have much to think of these days as to how one might get good beer," San Francisco brewmaster Phillip Frauenholz wrote in a July 1857 letter home. "Often I can't sleep at night because of this, but so far everything is going well." His letter captures a key moment in the maturation of the distinctive American beer later known as "steam beer," a Bavarian-style bottom-fermented lager brewed at relatively high temperatures and never lagered but kreusened and tapped within days of brewing. Until the 1871 arrival of the transcontinental railroad, this was the only beer that Californians knew as "Lager."

Later 19th century brewers and subsequent historians have regarded steam beer as the adaptation of anonymous German brewers to San Francisco's lack of cold winters and difficulty obtaining ice. This paper argues for a more complicated and purposeful story. Drawing on archives in California and Bavaria, historical newspapers, and genealogical data, it traces the backgrounds and arrivals in the San Francisco area of a motley collection of trained German brewers beginning in 1846, the first appearance of something called "Bavarian beer" in 1849, the city's first purpose-built lager breweries in 1852, and the proliferation of lager beer cellars the following winter, all culminating in the triumphant announcement of a credible "Bock Beer" by Frauenholz' employer, Jacob Gundlach, in the spring of 1857.

While the area's first beer was produced by a bankrupt Badenese brewer turned mountain man and its third by a distiller from Paderborn, the key links in the chain of development were forged by half-a-dozen Franconians, beginning with Francis Hoen from Würzburg via Zürich in 1847, two Witzlebens from Miltenberg in 1849, Adam Schüppert from Aschaffenburg via the St. Louis area in 1850, fellow Aschaffenburger Jacob Gundlach in 1852, and Phillip Frauenholz, recruited from Kulmbach by Gundlach in 1856.

Central, this paper suggests, was the 1850 realization that a bottom-fermenting beer that could be brewed at San Francisco's relatively high winter temperatures was also a beer that could be brewed at the city's relatively low summer temperatures, obviating the expense of the deep summer lagering cellars that German brewers throughout the US were then investing in and circumventing California taxation of warehoused beer. Crucial as well was a beer that could survive shipment to the goldfields where the main summer market for beer was to be found. Gundlach's recruitment of a brewer from Kulmbach, noted equally for its higher brewing temperatures and the long distances it shipped its beer, was a final direct and successful response to these circumstances.

San Francisco's reinvention of lager beer was clearly another example of the self-conscious transfer and adaptation of German migrant technical knowledge and entrepreneurial expertise that historian Jana Weiss and others have been exploring. The migrations of its yeast may remain unclear, but the Franconian connection of its migrant brewers illuminates not only San Francisco but also St Louis and perhaps even Philadelphia brewing history.

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

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Conscientious businessmen involved in international trade in the early twentieth century should not have been surprised when government officials in both Australia and the United States realized during World War I that German firms dominated various sectors of the countries' economies. German entrepreneurs had taken advantage of the absence of regulations regarding foreign involvement in local economies and entered niche markets where there was little local competition, such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and metal trades. Few Australian or American workers were concerned that the company that employed them was a subsidiary of a corporation headquartered in the German Empire. During World War I, however, Australians and Americans experienced, or created, a fear of all things German. As governments passed ever more restrictive legislation that limited the activities of German immigrants living in either country, and as "natives" turned into amateur sleuths spying on their neighbors, all became suddenly aware of the extent of German dominance over business in their midst. This study focuses on the metal traders, evaluates who these men were, examines how they had established their businesses, analyzes how they were treated by Australians and Americans during the Great War, and explores the long-term impact. This study reveals that although both countries confiscated property held by German immigrants, required that immigrants from the Central Powers register with authorities, excluded them from sensitive areas, and interned those suspected of being dangerous, Australian measures were more severe in both the short and long-term range. Proportionately in economic and demographic terms, Australians confiscated more property and sold it to Australian or British businessmen than did Americans in the United States. Australia also revoked naturalized citizenship and deported the German businessmen. By contrast, Americans were more likely to briefly hold German-owned businesses in trust to then turn over these businesses to naturalized citizens who had proven their loyalty to the United States during the war. And none of the businessmen were deported.

A Trip to Charleytown – How the early years of a German American community were brought to life through local news reports to a regional German language newspaper

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This program describes how the author used four decades of local news reports to the *Missouri Volksfreund* to bring to life the early years of a rural German American settlement to write A Trip to Charleytown, The German American Community at St. Elizabeth, Missouri 1880-1920 (2023 ed., 425 pages).

The *Missouri Volksfreund* was a weekly German language newspaper published in Missouri's capital, Jefferson City, that provided international, national, state and local news for the benefit of the approximately fifteen thousand German speaking, first and second-generation immigrants in a seven-county settlement region around Jefferson City. Community news was provided by local correspondents on a weekly basis with some less frequent news reports by contributors from related German settlements in Missouri and Oklahoma.

The author will show how local news to a regional newspaper like the *Missouri Volksfreund* can be studied to obtain information about a community which goes beyond what can be gleaned from the translations of letters written by immigrants, from macro studies of settlement regions, or from metropolitan German language newspapers. The correspondents to the *Volksfreund* wrote as the voice of the local community. Nothing personal. They wrote as journalists, which is why the newspaper reports are a reasonably reliable way to take the modern observer back in time to experience what life was like in the earliest decades of settlements formed by the mid-19th century wave of German migration to mid-America.

Local news from diligent correspondents made the *Missouri Volksfreund* a newspaper of record with reports of marriages, births, deaths, crops, floods, entertainment, celebrations, elections, church, school, music, misfortunes, progress, bad roads, etc. Local news also included information that only Germans could read, such as cloaked references to availability of alcoholic beverages in "dry" counties. The author will show how he used other local German language materials, such as schoolbooks, prayer books, hymnals, and business records, to add perspective to the newspaper reports and to write twenty-three themed chapters in addition to the full translations.

The program will challenge those in attendance to study collections of other local news reports to regional German language newspapers published between the 1860s and the 1920s. Many of these newspapers have recently been made available online in digital form on newspapers.com and can be word-searched and translated using modern digital tools. The author will share his advice on how to do this and describe the benefits of working with local community sources to add perspective to the translations.

Social Media in Late Nineteenth-century German America

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Robert Reitzel published *Der arme Teufel*, a weekly journal in Detroit, Michigan, from December 6, 1884, until his death on March 31, 1898. During his years as editor, Reitzel used *Der arme Teufel* as a forum for his frequently unorthodox and occasionally radical views. Nonetheless, Reitzel attracted a devoted circle of readers who enjoyed the journal not so much for the radical theories of its editor, as for its considerable attention to literature. Today one can purchase sets of several issues of Reitzel's journal on the internet for just under $1000. At the time of publication, readers of the *Der arme Teufel* found a much less expensive method of sharing their enthusiasm for Reitzel's writing. "Reitzel Freunde," as they were known, would gather at the home of a single subscriber to share and discuss the latest issue. At times they would sponsor lectures featuring Reitzel's musings. Taken together, the efforts of various "Reitzel Klubs" created a network of supporters who spread the journal's reputation far beyond the limited circle of actual subscribers, inspiring and engaging fans as disparate as Edna Fern, German American poet, and Emma Goldman, radical firebrand and anarchist.

The Future(s) of Pennsylvania German Studies

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We are proposing to continue a roundtable/special session in Austin from 2024 that will explore the future(s) of Pennsylvania Germans (Pennsylvania Dutch) as a diasporic North American cultural group, and the future(s) of the scholarship about them. This discussion is meant to serve as a continuing catalyst for future discussions, and we look forward to a dialogue with others at the symposium. There are a range of questions to examine, including:

1. A continuing discussion of the usefulness of a post-vernacular view of Pennsylvania German life, and the formation of other linguistic expressions of identity.
2. The meaning of "ethnic and/or cultural identity" in the 20th century, and how Pennsylvania German culture(s) compare with that of other cultural groups, including German Americans, others whose ancestors immigrated to the US, and also to Indigenous peoples. Examining the formation of diasporic communities and cultures, and interactions with other cultural groups.
3. Scholarship about and comparisons between different subgroups of Pennsylvania Germans, including the "Church" (non-sectarian) and "Plain" (sectarian) peoples.
4. Plans to digitize and make important collections of folklife materials accessible to the public.
5. The role of regional institutions in presenting cultural events that maintain a sense of Pennsylvania German heritage.
6. The role of material culture in expressing Pennsylvania Dutch identity, in the past, present, and future.
7. The relationship between scholarly and community expertise.
8. At the 2003 SGAS symposium in Baltimore, Simon Bronner organized a session on the future of Pennsylvania German studies in which he suggested new approaches that examined consumption instead of production, metaphor and imagination instead of symbol and image, and hypertext instead of manuscripts. To what extent have people followed up on these suggestions and do they offer directions for the future?
9. Patrick Donmoyer has observed that there is an important generational break among the Church Pennsylvania Germans, such that the last generation to learn the Deitsch language at home and experience a more communal and folk based daily life are elderly, mostly born before World War II.

What opportunities and challenges does this generational change offer for scholarship? Many of the issues to be discussed concerning culture, identity, heritage, and assimilation are relevant for other ethnic/cultural groups. We look forward to hearing from others and starting a discussion that will be comparative and bring the scholarship about Pennsylvania Germans/Dutch into a broader perspective including other German Americans and other groups both in the US and elsewhere.

Invaluable Mediums: The Printed Word of German American Agents in the Business of Migration to the Midwest, 1869–1874

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An immigrant from Breslau, Silesia, Michigan agent M.H. Allardt felt his upbringing empowered his ability to gain the trust of potential immigrants from Central Europe. Indeed, a petition from Saginaw County—an area with a large population of German-Americans—argued that agents "must be a German." Anyone else "could not affect the least thing." Allardt communicated with German speakers across Central Europe through the printed word. In an 1870 letter written to Michigan's Governor Henry Baldwin during Allardt's time as an agent in Central Europe, Allardt described his newspaper, Der Michigan Wegweiser, as "an invaluable medium." German-American agents in other Midwestern states agreed. Forty-eighter Eduard Pelz dedicated much of his life's work to promoting Minnesota abroad. In Germany at the same time as Allardt, Pelz published several "Emigrations-Monographien," and edited his own newspaper, Der Pfadfinder. Like Allardt, Pelz conveyed his knowledge of and experience in the migratory journey to interested parties within these publications.

Employing the linguistic skillset and linkages of their largest immigrant population with personal and business allies in Europe, Midwestern states and industries sought to resolve their own need for agricultural and industrial labor in the mid- to-late nineteenth century. Just as Allardt and Pelz viewed the printed word as "invaluable mediums," so, too, were they seen as mediums through which governments and companies of the region could appeal to immigrants. Highlighting Allardt and Pelz' printed counsel to demonstrate how former immigrants utilized their "expertise" in service to their adopted homelands, I bridge the field of the history of knowledge with the study of migratory infrastructures that supported immigrants on their journeys. Their "expert" contributions through the printed word exhibit a significant method by which former immigrants strengthened immigration to the Midwest.

The Krahn Case in Milwaukee: The Tragedy of Seeing Your Name in English Print

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In the second quarter of 1850, stories of the early April tarring and feathering of the Prussian-born Herman Krahn and its aftermath appeared in not just the newspapers of Milwaukee (the city where it happened) but throughout America. At stake in these stories were the newly established state of Wisconsin's ability to establish order, the reputations of named individuals and a broadly defined group of immigrants, and various other tangential matters. One such matter is how word of mouth (Krahn being punished extralegally for local rumors that he neglected his wife, contributing to her death) supposedly caused a riotous environment that needed to be corrected through deliberative legal systems and, of course, by the sober moralizing of the (often English-speaking) newspaper editor. What sorts of persons are these rioters, people across Wisconsin and the country were made to ask, and who was this William Miller, who would receive the harshest sentence in the case?

On this the 175th anniversary of the event, this paper considers the vulnerabilities and values of a complex Milwaukee German-speaking immigrant community. An unfortunate death, vigilante violence, and formal and informal attempts at correction all had lasting effects on how those immigrants were viewed, where they fit in society, and what their future prospects were. Beyond this, an upswell of support for Miller's pardon later that year, with petitions signed by some of Milwaukee's most powerful, pitted different authorities against each other.

By considering this episode via various contemporary figures and a range of news outlets, as well as via the much later reconstruction by physician and chronicler of German Milwaukee Rudolph Koss (who arrived in Milwaukee later than the event and its related legal proceedings), this paper considers how shame and anonymity factored into this story but also how reputations were publicly leveraged in a growing city where reputations and social bonds deeply mattered. This story is about who gets named (and why) as well as the necessary but risky ways in which stories are spread and stands are taken.

Qualität setzt sich durch:
German American Brewers and Print Advertising in the Pre-Prohibition Era

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As the preeminent makers of fermented malt beverages from the mid- to late 19th into the early 20th centuries, German American brewers had considerable influence over not just the production of lager beer, but also how it was advertised. Brewing industry executives of the era, most of whom were of a German background, employed similar approaches across the nation in printed publicity to emphasize the quality of their brews, the growth in size of successful breweries, innovative approaches in the production process, and importance to both the home community and external markets.

This work shall demonstrate several distinct phases of German American brewery print advertising, in both German- and English-language publications, of increasing sophistication over time, all of which draw upon the theme of product quality as an attribute of German cultural and manufacturing norms that have survived into the modern era.

1) Initial German American brewery print advertising, from approximately the 1840s into the 1860s, of small size and with few to no graphics and minimal text, but in what text there is emphasizing product quality, purity, and healthful character.

2) Early modern German American brewery print advertising, from the 1860s into the 1880s, small- to medium-sized and characterized typically by basic, often stock images to draw attention to the beer and imagery widely associated with beer and brewing, to set it apart from other publicity for other products, and with an ongoing attempt to claim superior quality compared to that of competitors.

3) Mature German American brewery print advertising, from the 1880s into the early 20th century, featuring sophisticated and increasing detailed, expansive graphics, factory scenes and other images of success attained, listings of the various brews made by the firm, and ample claims to product quality and superiority compared to all other examples.

4) Anticipatory German American brewery print advertising, continuing to emphasize product quality and attributes but from a more defensive posture against growing prohibitionist sentiment and the need to defend both the future availability of beer as a wholesome beverage of moderation and the existence of breweries as providers of important jobs, tax revenue and other financial benefits, and in service of the notion of "personal liberty" in line with existing American ideals and principles.

The Losing of the Midwest:
Are We Underestimating the Role of Persisting Ethnic Affiliations?

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There is much to suggest that "German Americans" as an ethnic group should no longer play a role in 21st-century American politics: for over 100 years, they have not made a significant appearance as a political interest group (Glazer and Moynihan 1963; Rippley 1976), and for over 30 years, social scientists have been proclaiming the end of ethnic affiliations among white Americans (Gans 1979; Alba 1990; Alba and Nee 2005). Furthermore, to contemporary anthropology and sociology, talk of the "twilight" of white ethnicity (Kamphoefner 2021) carries an air of liberation: finally, the times in which ethnicity was treated as a relatively unreflective social category are coming to an end. Primordial explanations are now considered outdated, and the construction of ethnic boundaries has become a consensus (Hutchinson and Smith 1996; Barth 1998; Wimmer 2013). Consequently, by most criteria that constitute a politically active ethnic identity in American society, we may say that a consciously formulated "German" identity with political impact is a thing of the past.

And yet, research suggests that the Midwestern swing vote from Barack Obama to Donald Trump in 2016 was linked to an unexpected variable: self-reported "German" ancestry at the county level (Dentler et al. 2021). Four years later, several counties with strong German-American heritage withdrew their support for Trump, only to return to his coalition in 2024. What are we observing here? Have certain ethnic dynamics from the 19th century or early 20th century persisted into the present (Kleppner 1970; Jensen 1971)? Or are there other factors—economic, social, religious, or attitudinal—that more effectively explain these seemingly volatile political preferences?

Currently, the field of German American Studies, strongly oriented toward the past, struggles to provide valuable answers, leading some colleagues to simply deny the phenomenon altogether. This talk suggests that an ethnographic interest in the lebenswelt of today's self-described "German Americans" is more pressing now than at any point in the past fifty years. With German being a moribund language in the United States, it is important to observe other areas that may serve as indicators of ongoing group formation. Examples may include professional preferences, religious values, or cultural connections that remain subtly relevant.

Mapping the Front Page: the Louisiana Staats-Zeitung and Eugenics in Antebellum New Orleans

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During several years of publication, the Louisiana Staats-Zeitung maintained a consistent format: the melodramatic and controversial serial The Mysteries of New Orleans took up the front page, and editorials and political news appeared on the second page. This separation visually divided fiction (assumed to be addressed to women readers) from "serious" facts and opinions to the voting population. This changed for several weeks in March of 1854, when an anonymous series of essays titled "Das Fortschreiten der Menschenracen: Eine akademische Vorlesung," appeared on the front page underneath the serial novel.

The visual combination of "scientific" essays about eugenics with a steamy melodrama on the front page of the Staats-Zeitung provides a ready-made ideology for German immigrants to New Orleans. The front page featured two genres that ostensibly addressed two different audiences and two different spheres – public and private, voting and non-voting, men and women – to offer a holistic world view that valorized white immigrants and their understanding of the newly coined (1845) U.S. concept of manifest destiny.

The eugenics essays describe the white race as unique in its "sensitivity to freedom." They describe whites' rapid evolution, as well as their burgeoning "principles of selection," and assure readers that the combination of various white European immigrant populations will create an ever-improving American citizenry.

The Mysteries of New Orleans, the Staats-Zeitung's serial melodrama about recent German immigrants to New Orleans, portrays several different versions of successful (and unsuccessful) adaptation for German immigrants to New Orleans in March of 1854. For example, the story features an ode to Live Oaks, a strong and beautiful tree that that has admirably conformed to the city's climate from its European origins. Another feature in the March entries is the cautionary tale of German immigrant Celestine, who arrives in New Orleans still fragile from an unhappy life in Germany. While the rest of her family cheerfully adapts to what the city offers, Celestine stays immersed in past European traumas until her early death.

In response to reader complaints about the eugenics essays' placement directly under the fiction series, combining "frivolous" stories with "scientific" discussion, the author of Mysteries of New Orleans publicly scolds his readers for their "[un]cosmopolitan point of view." According to him, to separate these two genres is to "shatter one [connection] in order to be bound to the other."

Antebellum "race science" and melodramatic fiction (often called "women's literature") combine and complement each other in a way that promotes a single idea: that radical and selective adaptation is part of the German immigrant's destiny, and is the best path to an antebellum southern version of the American Dream. Themes of adaptation and hybridization appear in both essay and fiction, and the paper openly discourages any dualism between the two genres.

Pardon My Political Speech:
German American Newspapers and the Sedition Act of 1798

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On July 14, 1798, John Adams signed the Sedition Act of 1798 into law, hurdling the young United States towards its first constitutional foray with First Amendment rights and one of the first institutional pressure tests of the American presidency against abuses of power. At least 26 Americans were prosecuted under the Sedition Act, which served as a show of force against speech that was critical of the government and was justified as necessitated against potential threats from European powers.

While the Sedition Act, and its companion Alien Act, were passed, the United States was home to over 277,000 German Americans—a community who was soon targeted by both Federalists and Antifederalists in key elections such as the 1799 U.S. Senate race in Pennsylvania and the 1800 presidential election. Even so, thus far, studies discussing the character of "seditious material" that was prosecuted under the Sedition Act of 1798 has been limited to English-language newspapers, thus overlooking the extent to which Antifederalists were able to reach German American voters in their language through their publications. This paper explores the English common law and Germanic concepts of sedition to better understand how German Americans may have responded to the Sedition Act at the time of its passage. Moreover, this paper analyzes contemporary sources to more holistically identify the impacts that the Sedition Act may have had on German American newspapers and in effecting German American political culture near the turn of the nineteenth century.

German-American Print Material in the German Federal Foreign Office

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The Auswärtiges Amt (Foreign Office) at Wilhelmstrasse 76 was established in 1870 for the North German Confederation and then in 1871 for the German Empire. The Auswärtiges Amt was particularly interested in the activities and lives of German abroad. At this time, of course, as the Bancroft treaties were still nascent, there was some uncertainty as to the status of German immigrants. So, from the view of the Auswärtiges Amt such immigrants might be seen to be in fact simply German citizens abroad. The newly unified German Empire had its own internal stresses, such as the Kulturkampf (1871-78) between Bismarck and Pope Pius IX. Bismarck's Germany was interested in tracking how such issues were perceived abroad, and the files show that the Auswärtiges Amt was also keen to track the growth and influence of the Germans and German institutions in America. They often received clippings from German-language newspapers printed in the United States aimed at German-speaking communities. This paper will survey some of the topics that are being tracked in these and other print materials held in the Auswärtiges Amt during the late nineteenth century and attempt to limn a picture of the interests and concerns of Imperial Germany.

Henry Nehrling's Career Pinnacle: The Printing of Die Nordamerikanische Vogelwelt (1891) and the North American Birds of Song and Beauty (1893, 1896)

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Henry Nehrling (1853–1929) was born into a community of German immigrants who had settled amidst the "primeval forests" of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. His childhood fascination with the plethora of birds and plants surrounding him never faded, leading him to become internationally known among ornithologists and horticulturists. Trained as a Lutheran school teacher, he continued his ornithological observations and honed his writing skills while living and teaching in Illinois, Missouri, and Texas. Along the way, he developed an intriguing network of supporters among established German Americans and English-speaking natural scientists, allowing him to publish, in 1891, *Die nordamerikanische Vogelwelt* (Milwaukee, George Brumder). This quarto publication with letterpress typesetting and chromolithography color plates also appeared in English as the two-volume *Our Native Birds of Song and Beauty* (1893 and 1896). This work was not intended as a scientific treatise; instead, Nehrling avoided technical jargon and depicted his subjects in eloquent detail, seeking "to inspire our young people with a tender regard for the feathered minstrels of our woodlands, fields and meadows, groves and gardens." Indeed, Nehrling had produced a book his younger self could have afforded and had greatly desired.

This presentation will examine the first part of Henry Nehrling's life, tracing his travels, studies, writings, and networks, up to the time he became Custodian (Director) of the Public Museum in Milwaukee and the publication of his birdlife books.

Exiled Artists in a Caribbean Dictatorship:
German and Austrian Jewish Narratives in Trujillo's Dominican Republic

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In the late 1930s and 1940s, Jewish artists from Germany and Austria—including painter George Hausdorf and photographer Kurt Schnitzer—sought refuge in the Dominican Republic as part of a broader migration following Nazi persecution. Their relocation was made possible by Rafael Trujillo's calculated offer at the 1938 Évian Conference to accept up to 100,000 Jewish refugees. While this offer appeared humanitarian on the surface, it was deeply rooted in Trujillo's racial agenda: the migration of European Jews was meant to serve a project of blanqueamiento, or whitening, the Dominican population, and to rehabilitate Trujillo's international image in the wake of the 1937 Parsley Massacre.

Alongside these Jewish exiles were Spanish artists fleeing Francoist repression, such as muralist José Vela Zanetti, surrealist Eugenio Granell, and modernist Josep Gausachs. This paper examines how these Jewish and Spanish artists navigated the contradictions of seeking safety and artistic renewal under a dictatorship marked by racial violence and authoritarian control. Focusing on the works and trajectories of Hausdorf and Vela Zanetti, it explores how European artistic forms interacted with Caribbean aesthetics, politics, and expectations. Some, like Vela Zanetti, aligned with Trujillo's state-sponsored cultural projects, while others, like Hausdorf, eventually distanced themselves and left the country.

Through archival research and art criticism, this study analyzes how European refugee artists were simultaneously instrumentalized by the regime and able to reshape Dominican cultural memory. Their presence complicates dominant narratives of exile, revealing how forced migration, race, and state power intersected in Trujillo's Dominican Republic. The paper highlights how the Sosúa settlement and the broader refugee experience were bound up not only with questions of survival and creativity, but also with the racialized logic of authoritarian modernization.

The American Midwife:
The German American Initiative Behind America's First Midwifery Journal

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In 1895, three German American physicians—A.A. Henske, Henry H. Summa, and O.E. Treutler—published The American Midwife, a professional medical journal specifically for midwives in the United States. The editors were strong proponents of midwifery, with all three physicians actively involved in midwife schools in Saint Louis, MO. Their aim was to fill a significant gap in the medical literature available to midwives. The editors explained that "midwives in America have so far been neglected by publishers of medical literature. ... The journals of obstetrics and gynecology, so far published, are intended for physicians only, and cannot be utilized by our midwives." Thus, the journal sought to provide midwives with the latest developments in the field, discuss important cases, and improve both the skills of midwives and their professional standing in the United States. The American Midwife shared several similarities with its German counterpart, Allgemeine Deutsche Hebammenzeitung, which was first published in the 1880s, and was also quite popular among German-speaking immigrant midwives.

The American Midwife was heavily influenced by the German American background of its founders and German ideas about midwifery, making it a notable element of German American print journalism. The journal featured a variety of medical articles on topics related to midwifery and obstetrics, as well as editorials on the state of midwifery in the United States. Articles were published in both German and English to maximize accessibility, but it was mainly read by German midwives and graduates of local midwifery school. Nevertheless, the journal received positive feedback, particularly from German American midwives, who expressed their appreciation through letters to the editors. This proposed paper aims to analyze how German-American influences shaped The American Midwife, comparing it to other midwifery journals of the time, and exploring the transatlantic connections between The American Midwife and Allgemeine Deutsche Hebammenzeitung. The American Midwife is a noteworthy remnant of German American influence on midwifery and medical journalism and provides fascinating insights into a variety of themes such as gender, medicine, immigration, and professionalization of healthcare.

German American Almanacs of Milwaukee Publisher George Brumder

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The most notable publisher of German-language media in Milwaukee in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was George Brumder (1839–1910). Born in Breuschwickersheim, Alsace, Brumder emigrated to Wisconsin in 1857 and enjoyed considerable commercial success through enterprises based in Milwaukee that brought out newspapers, periodicals, and books for German-speaking families in Wisconsin and beyond. The scope of Brumder's publications was as diverse as their readers, who included farmers and other rural dwellers as well as highly educated urbanites. In a comprehensive bibliography of Brumder-published works, Gerhardt Becker (2000) identified over five hundred titles on topics ranging from agriculture to religion to European and American history to schoolbooks to fiction and drama.

In this presentation, I will analyze the content of Brumder publications by focusing on German-language almanacs for subscribers to Brumder-published newspapers. Brumder hardcover almanacs appeared annually from 1881 to 1924, until 1918 under the title Germania Kalender. Anti-German sentiments during the First World War motivated Brumder's company in 1919 to rename the almanac the Milwaukee America Kalender, though its content remained largely unaltered. Over the years, Brumder's almanacs grew to more than 300 pages in length and featured a mix of practical information, short essays on contemporary and historical American and global topics, and literary writings intended to both edify and entertain, all complemented by high-quality images. Special sections for female readers, youth, and young children aimed to advance solid moral values, a reflection of Brumder's strong Lutheran faith. Particularly noteworthy are many texts in Low German. Though Brumder grew up in an Alsatian-speaking community, many of his readers were Platt speakers who undoubtedly appreciated the opportunity to read poetry and prose in their native tongue.
It is a truism that the commercial success of George Brumder depended on bringing out material that was of interest to his German American audience, thus the print media his readers consumed offer us a window on family and community life during the era when the use of the German language reached its zenith in the United States. Brumder's almanacs offer rich sources of data for researchers that to date remain largely untapped.

Reference

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Saur's World: Translating Newsprint in Christoph Saur's Workshop in Colonial Pennsylvania

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German migrants have shaped the world of American print since the first trickles of German migration in the seventeenth century. No German migrant exercised greater influence in the world of colonial print than Johann Christoph Saur (1695-1758), who printed the most successful German-language newspaper in the colonies prior to the Revolution, and whose memory would shape Pennsylvania institutions until the late nineteenth century. In the mid-eighteenth century, however, Saur's world was not limited to Pennsylvania. Indeed, his world was one of transatlantic and transcontinental dimensions. Although most scholars have preferred to focus on his almanacs, pamphlets, and Bibles, I show that Saur exercised significant influence through his printed newspaper. In the Pensylvanische Berichte (founded 1739), Saur translated paragraphs of news taken from English-language newspapers, thus exercising considerable influence in how German readers in early America interpreted global events. By comparing paragraphs from English-language newspapers with the translated ones in Saur's newspaper, I show how the German reading experience curated by Saur (through paragraph arrangement, hidden commentaries, and word choice) was marked by eschatological dread and political anxiety. Saur served as the nexus point that linked transatlantic news with German readers, influencing how they interpreted political issues, contentious elections, and armed conflict when it finally broke out in 1754. For many German settlers, Saur's world was their world too.

Ferdinand Hassler, a Swiss-born Mathematician and Geodesist, Planned and Directed the First Systematic Survey of the Eastern Seaboard of the United States

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President Thomas Jefferson saw a need for accurate charts of the new nation's harbors and coastline. In 1807 Jefferson selected Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler (1770-1843) as the first superintendent of the United States Office of the Coast Survey, the oldest science organization of the federal government. Hassler was a Swiss-born mathematician, surveyor and geodesist who had served as professor of mathematics at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY. He was the first research scientist hired by the United States government.

Hassler's papers show that he early on envisioned the creation of a national mapping organization. His dogged persistence and determination in facing down political obstacles ultimately ensured the survival of the Coast Survey. Hassler built an organization that employed mathematicians, geodesists, topographers, hydrographers, instrument-makers, engravers, and printers who worked together to collect, process and publish cartographic data. His adherence to scientific integrity, accuracy and precision left a lasting legacy.

The First German Humor Magazine in the United States

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Literary historians often refer to Joseph Ferdinand Keppler's Puck, the German-language humor magazine founded in 1871 in St. Louis, Missouri, as the first German humor magazine in America, but this distinction belongs to Adolf Strodtmann's Die Lokomotive, founded eighteen years earlier in 1853 in Philadelphia. Strodtmann, a political refugee of the 1848 Revolution in Germany, arrived in the United States in 1852 just three months before his good friend Carl Schurz. He settled in Philadelphia, where in 1853 he established a bookstore and published the weekly German humor and literary magazine Die Lokomotive until his funding ran out in 1854. Keppler, whose father had emigrated from Austria to New Frankfort, Missouri, because of his involvement in the 1848 Revolution, followed his parents to Missouri in 1867 and settled in St. Louis. In 1869 he began publishing the humorous weekly, Die Vehme, Illustriertes Wochenblatt für Scherz und Ernst, but it survived less than a year. In 1871 he founded Puck, Illustrierte Wochenschrift, which also lasted less than a year. However, five years later Keppler resurrected Puck in New York City, and a year later started a successful English version, which continued to be published until 1918.

This presentation will compare both German humor magazines with regard to the editors' intended purpose and content of each weekly.

Written for the People: German Translations of American Government Documents

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From the earliest days of the United States, official American government documents have been published in German translation, most famously the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia in 1776. A century later, a multitude of official documents from the local to the federal level were available in German across the country. Sometimes, government agencies commissioned the translations and printed the German versions themselves. In other cases, private publishers took up the translations and the printing of the documents. They also offered summaries, compilations, or otherwise edited versions.

This presentation will look at different types of such publications from the mid to the late nineteenth century. It will explore questions such as authorship, the motivation for and quality of the German translations, and the audiences — both perceived and real. Examples include:

· Materials explicitly written for and addressed to non-English speaking immigrants, such as Wisconsin, ein Bericht über Bevölkerung, Boden, Klima, Handel und die industriellen Verhältnisse dieses reichen Staates im Nordwesten der nordamerikanischen Union published by the Wisconsin Commission of Emigration in 1868, to entice potential emigrants from German-speaking countries to make their home in the state.

· Official American government publications documenting new laws, legislatives acts, decrees, reports, announcements, etc., that were officially translated from the original English into German and other languages and published by the relevant government agency. For example: Bericht des Commissionär des General-Landamtes, der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika, fuer das Jahr 1866 and Bericht des Superintendenten der Volks-Schulen des Staates Pennsylvanien: für das mit dem 3ten Juni 1867 endende Jahr.

· Government publications like the above that were translated and printed by private publishers, such as Teutsche Gesetzbücher von Ohio, a subscription series by Espisch and Walker, Germantown, Ohio, advertised in 1840.

· (Partial) translations and German-language summaries in the German American press of government documents as well as meeting protocols. One example is the front page of Der Vaterlandsfreund und Geist der Zeit, published in Canton, Stark County, Ohio, on August 14, 1840, which presents the quarterly budget report of Stark County as well as a summary of recent acts of Congress.

“Halte, was du hast” Wisconsin Synod Lutherans Print in German

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The year 2025 marks the 175th anniversary of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Originally established in the Milwaukee area as the Die erste deutsch. evang.-luth. Synode von Wisconsin, this German immigrant ecclesiastical organization, immediately needed printed materials in its native language that would serve the needs of its people in a new geographic and social setting. The Wisconsin Synod primarily sought to preserve and transmit conservative confessional Lutheranism in the first several generations. The motto, “Halte was du hast,” crowned the synod’s first regular publication, the Gemeindeblatt. Its message, “Hold what you have,” reflects the conservative concern of the ministers who encouraged Lutheran immigrants to preserve their faith and pass it on to future generations. Wisconsin Synod leaders also recognized that as the synod faced new challenges and opportunities in its frontier immigrant context, it must also apply theological principles in ways that precluded simplistic repristination of the 16th century Reformation. The resulting “Wauwatosa Theology” came to life in the German publications of the synod.

To meet the needs of its laity, pastors, and scholars, the Wisconsin Synod locally produced various printed materials in the German language to meet its high theological standards. These German American Lutherans required many printed materials: hymnals, service agendas, synodical reports, catechisms, bibles, and devotional literature. Regular publications: the Gemeindeblatt and the Theologische Quartalschrifft not only served to communicate to and inform laity and pastors within the Wisconsin Synod but also spread its news and theology across the nation and back to the German homeland.

The early years of the synod’s printing endeavors were contracted with local print shops for specific, small-scale, jobs. However, the synod soon realized that it required a regular and consistent relationship with a single establishment. An ideal printer was found in Georg Brumder, a Wisconsin Synod Lutheran, whose sisters married two of the Wisconsin Synod’s presidents. As the demand for synod-produced resources grew, the synod established its own Northwestern Publishing House in 1891.

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod required German materials for well over a century—despite the erosion of a German-speaking demographic accelerated by two world wars. In the post-war years, the synod experienced an irreversible transition from needing German materials to holding on to them for personal comfort. Still, the synod continued to print officially in German regularly until 1970.

Fraktur as Cultural Identity:
Printing Traditions and the Material Culture of the Milwaukee German American Press

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According to Oehlerts' Guide to Wisconsin Newspapers, Milwaukee was home to at least 46 German-language newspapers between 1844 and 1957. The diversity in the German immigrant press reflected the various political, religious, and cultural identities found within the large German American community that, by 1880, made up 27% of the city's population. What these publications had in common was a shared language and the way they chose to print it. Continuing the printing tradition of the homeland, German text was printed in Fraktur, the blackletter typeface. Producing periodicals using Fraktur long-term required the establishment of a robust German-language printing industry that could permanently meet the demand of the intricate printing process from the production of the movable type to a trained workforce of speedy typesetters. The finished newspaper offered the German American reader a traditional and familiar reading experience while also standing out clearly against the city's English-language print products. In this new environment, the use of Fraktur became more than the simple continuation of a tradition. The German-language press contributed to the formation of a German American cultural identity in print, not only in contrast to mainstream print culture, but also within its own pages where it utilized the stark difference between typefaces to signal cultural belonging.

By exploring the material culture of the historical news printing process and Milwaukee's German-language newspaper products, this paper will discuss the continuation of German printing traditions and the way in which Fraktur evolved into a German American print cultural identity separate from its origins.

Bridging Cultures and Building Lives:
The Role of Aufbau in the German–Jewish Exile Community, 1933–1941

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In two separate, full-length papers under this title, we will explore the multifaceted role of the German-language newspaper Aufbau during the years 1933–1941, a crucial period marked by a surge in German-speaking émigrés fleeing Nazi rule to the United States. Published by the German-Jewish Club of New York, Aufbau initially appeared as a biweekly newsletter in 1934 before evolving into a weekly publication. Its readership consisted primarily of German-Jewish exiles and immigrants seeking to navigate the dual pressures of preserving their cultural heritage while integrating into a new American society.

This two-part presentation will investigate how Aufbau served as both a cultural bridge and a practical guide for its readers. On the one hand, the paper maintained strong connections to German-speaking culture through literary, artistic, and intellectual content, preserving a sense of identity and belonging for those uprooted by persecution. On the other hand, it also functioned as a resource for integration, offering advice on learning English, finding employment, navigating immigration processes, and understanding American customs and values.

By analyzing Aufbau's content, including cultural features, advice columns, personal notices, and community announcements, these papers will shed light on the complexities of the exile and immigrant experience. Rather than focusing on political developments, the emphasis of both papers will be on how Aufbau balanced the preservation of cultural ties with the imperative to foster a sense of belonging in a new homeland.

This presentation will contribute to the understanding of how exilic media served as both a lifeline to the past and a roadmap to the future for displaced communities, offering insights into the broader challenges and strategies of cultural and social integration.

Gendered Reactions of German Americans to U.S. Government Propaganda during World War I

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During World War I, German Americans faced significant hostility due to U.S. government propaganda that painted them as potential traitors. Public reactions by German Americans came in different forms, from assimilation efforts such as downplaying one's heritage to paying heavily for war bonds and war bond stamps.

This paper looks at the private reactions as documented in the letters to relatives in Germany. The sources are mostly located in the Gotha *Auswandererbriefe* archive. While it comes to no surprise that letters to Germans would not questions their war enthusiasm, the nuances in reactions by male and female writers are significant. While a deeper analysis is still needed, it appears that women were mostly lamenting the casualties and describe the relieve efforts that German Americans made collecting money for the Swiss Red Cross that would pass on the funds to the German sister organization. Men, on the other hand, would echo the German government's propaganda and express their believe of a victory as in the Franco-Prussian War in 1871. Both groups would write about their ostracization by society and the oppressive measures on their language, culture, and religion.

The number of letters was, at times, limited through the interruptions of postal connections between the two countries upon the entry of the United States. Few examples of letters that were written, returned, but finally re-sent have to stand in for these years.

Kurt Vonnegut: Indianapolis and Dresden

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"My parents had separated me so thoroughly from my Germanic past that my captors might as well have been Bolivians or Tibetans, for all that meant to me." So wrote the novelist Kurt Vonnegut Jr. in his 1981 book Palm Sunday: An Autobiographical Collage. The captors mentioned were the German soldiers who captured Private Vonnegut during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. His expressed indifference was the result of the collapse of the proud and public German-American culture of Indianapolis and the nation. A domestic casualty of the First World War. His experience as a prisoner of war provided him with his own German experience and the inspiration for his masterwork decades later.

Vonnegut's roots were German through and through and he identified himself as a German-American from Indianapolis. He was a member of the fourth generation of Vonneguts in the city. The Vonneguts were one of several leading German-American families, leaders in business and culture. "Vonnegut" was a household name in Indianapolis because of the success of the Vonnegut Hardware Company with its extensive catalogue and neighborhood hardware stores throughout Indianapolis. Its motto in later years was "You can get it at Vonnegut's." The writer's immigrant great-grandfather founded the company in the 1850s. The patriarch, Clemens, from Munster, Westphalia, sold nails and hammers for building the growing city, and he also was building culture in the city. He was a founder of the first Turnverein, the Maennerchor, the Freidenkerverein, and worked tirelessly for decades to raise the standards and practices of the Indianapolis public schools. The writer's grandfather and father were both prominent architects, designing landmark buildings as Indianapolis grew and prospered. The name Vonnegut was associated with the growth of the city and its institutions. Kurt Vonnegut's success with Slaughterhouse-Five brought the name Vonnegut to the international level.

Two cities shaped the writer Kurt Vonnegut: Indianapolis and Dresden. But in neither city did he write. His writing was fueled and shaped by his experiences in both. His family lived, worked and contributed to building Indianapolis. But in Dresden, the Florence on the Elbe, Vonnegut witnessed the destruction of a cultured city in just one night. That traumatic experience provided him a story that would propel him into literary stardom twenty-five years later, Slaughterhouse- Five.

Working from Home: Lessons from Die Hausfrau:
Monatsschrift fuer die Frauenwelt Amerikas (January–December 1920)

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Die Hausfrau is a monthly magazine from the early twentieth century centered on the smooth operation of the home with tips for German American immigrant women for every day, such as recipes, gardening, and sections to entertain the children. In this qualitative literary analysis, written from a feminist historical perspective, I will explore the discourse surrounding the "home" in the early 20th century by reviving a collection of traditions that may still be useful to us today in the 21st century as we rediscover the importance of working from home in a post pandemic context. The research method and approach feature a qualitative literary analysis and close reading of the content of one year (1920) of magazines with an emphasis on the experiences of the creation of "home" for German immigrant women. This presentation will feature:

I. A literature review of Die Hausfrau placing the analysis within the context of academic research.

II. A close reading of Die Hausfrau, the magazines of the year 1920, found within the archives of the Max Kade Institute of German-American Studies Library at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which will provide the basis for the archival research of the traditions surrounding the home for German immigrant women of the previous century.

III. A section called "Traditions": that will "revive" family celebrations of comfort from the past that inform our contemporary experiences of working at home in the present.
IV. The conclusions section will include ideas for further research.

Like most magazines, Die Hausfrau is organized similarly each month. The layout includes: a very attractive cover, usually including a picture of a young woman or child, followed by sections: Help from America for those from the suffering homeland, a German poem, a German story, a story about the world, the letters to the editor, photos of contemporary times, a section of a German novel, a song, a story for children, a novelle, colorful activities, funny stories and lessons for the children, presents for the holidays, crafts, home economics, letters, and patterns for crafts, recipes and advice for the month, random ideas for the home or hearth, new fashions, treasure chest, gardening advice for the month, health suggestions, cleaning tips, letters from the readers, mailbox of the editor, missing persons and family. The guiding research question is: What can we learn about working from home today by researching the traditions found in Die Hausfrau, the monthly women's magazines for German immigrant women of the last century?

German American Brewers and the End of Prohibition

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In response to growing support for national prohibition, German-American brewers advertised that beer was a healthy drink and highlighted the civility and Gemütlichkeit of German-American beer gardens in contrast to American saloons with a less than stellar reputation. In combination with the rise of anti-German sentiment during the First World War and the growing national move to refrain from drinking alcohol for the war effort German-American brewers lost out in the fight against Prohibition (1920-1933). Prohibition was a difficult time for German-American brewers big or small and German-American drinking culture was restricted.

Asking questions such as: how did German-American brewers mobilize and advertise, how did communities organize events, how did the end of Prohibition show up in German-American politics and how were German-Americans viewed by other Americans? This paper explores German-American and Anglo-American responses to the end of Prohibition in 1933 in newspapers across Ohio. More specifically, this paper focuses specifically on the cultural and responses to the end of Prohibition. Looking at newspapers like The Cincinnati Enquirer, The German-American Bulletin in Dayton Ohio, the Siebenbürgisch-Amerikanisches Volksblatt in Cleveland, and The Columbus Dispatch. Additionally, this paper looks at how German-American brewers communicated with each other about the end of Prohibition through The American Brewer Journal. This paper aims to add a localized and community perspective of the German-American experience at the end of Prohibition to the broader historiography of German-American history and the history of Prohibition.

Revisiting Low German Epiphany Traditions in Southern Illinois

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The southern Illinois communities of Germantown and Teutopolis, settled by Low German speakers, preserve the European tradition surrounding the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, in which individuals, dressed as "Magi," perform a song recounting the biblical narrative of the "Three Kings'" journey to Bethlehem. In this presentation, I more comprehensively explore these songs, at least one of which appears to be a homegrown creation, without analogue in European traditions, and therefore should be of particular interest to scholars of German-American studies.

In Germantown, the tradition has involved performances, often in elderly care homes, comprising not only a "Three Kings Song," but also an unrelated, narrative parody, sung in the style of a litany, which appears to be a local invention. Entirely in Low German, this "litany" was only partially remembered by the sole remaining performer. Utilizing recordings of performances from 1986, it was possible to recreate the full text and translation of the song, including correcting some lyrics misremembered/misheard by the speaker. Passed down entirely orally, such errors in transmission are unsurprising. However, a written copy of the accompanying "Three Kings Song" has been preserved. Although seemingly intended to be sung entirely in High German, several Low German "intrusions" are evident in the transcription, although unmarked as such by the community.

The mantels of the "Kings" have been picked up by a younger generation in Teutopolis, in an unbroken tradition dating back to the 1880s, wherein a group goes door-to-door on nights leading up to Epiphany, singing their version of the "Three Kings Song". This version includes reference to writing a blessing for the household on a Lilienstrunk, "lily stalk," referring to the tradition of chalking the letters "CMB" and the year above the lintel, a connection which the performers were previously unaware of, despite engaging in their own version of this practice.

Claude McKay and the Harlem Renaissance in the Weimar Republic

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The place of Germany within the intellectual history of Black American thought is a well-established subdiscipline within German studies broadly and German American studies more specifically. From at least the late mid-nineteenth century forward, Black American thought developed in complicated and often contentious dialogue with German thinkers such as Herder and Wagner. After 1900, such dialogue increased in scope not only due to Germany and the United States's concurrent rise on the world stage, but for technological, cultural and economic reasons. Encounters in print accelerated as transnational routes of exchange widened via the introduction of mass media and associated communication technologies (the gramophone, telegraph, and film). In addition, an expanding market for popular culture saw Black American artists, especially musicians, take ever greater advantage of new possibilities for Atlantic travel. The Great War, finally, radicalized these trends, sending hundreds of thousands of Black Americans across the pond, or rather, From Harlem to the Rhine.

During the 1920s, Germany's well-known fascination with jazz during the Weimar Republic and the presence of numerous Black American jazz players are one legacy of these developments. Another, less understood example is the vigorous intellectual and aesthetic exchange between Black writers of the Harlem Renaissance (W.E.B. Du Bois, Alain Locke, Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, and Claude McKay) and German culture and society in the 1920s. In this paper, I focus on the Jamaican-born poet, author, and political activist Claude McKay, who spent two extended periods in Weimar Berlin (1923 and 1930). Drawing on previous work, as well as new research involving translations of McKay's poetry into German and archival material in the form of letters McKay sent from Berlin, I want to show that McKay's encounter with Weimar Germany captures an important shift in the history of German and Black American dialogue. With my paper I hope not only to provide a better understanding of McKay in Berlin and the Harlem Renaissance in Germany, but to provide a case study for including and historicizing such German-American histories of chance, rather than design.

German American and Austro-American *Trachtenvereine* in Print: Advertising (for) the *Verein* (1910s-1930s)

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This contribution investigates German-American and Austro-American *Trachtenvereine* (ethnic customs associations) as subject and publishers of print media in the U.S. Thereby focusing on practices of theses associations and their depiction in print media from the 1910s to the 1930s. This was the early period of this movement in the U.S. with the majority of foundations in the Midwest and at the East Coast. *Trachtenvereine* were brought to the U.S. by Bavarian and Tyrolian migrants. They combine well-established structural characteristics of German-American societies with a unique representation of alpine cultural customs. Their focus is the conservation of customs through practice rather than written form, whereby their activities are mostly preserved in print media. Although the practices of *Trachtenvereine* reproduced a specific kind of German ethnicity, they were directed at everyone - regardless of their ethnicity. In fact, the number and language of publications show they were popular beyond the limits of the general German-speaking audience in the U.S. Since *Trachtenvereine* were mainly concerned with festivities, they strongly depended on print media. They needed sizable audiences to attend their events. Therefore, both the anti-German climate during the World Wars and the Great Depression forced them to become more active and use publications to reach out to their potential audience. Whereas they used multiple print genres. *Trachtenvereine* advertised in newspapers with short announcements, published both short and elaborate advance notices and elaborate reports of their events with numerous details. The lengthier publications tried to appeal to the nostalgic sentiments of German-Americans and others, addressing atmosphere and conviviality. Moreover, the material allows us to reconstruct a sequence of different genres for the same event and enables us to compare publications in German and English as well as from the Midwest and the East Coast. To complement the analysis this talk also draws on the minutes of some organizations to contextualize the printed materials. This will facilitate a comprehensive understanding of their activities showing motivations and intentions related to print media. Consequently, this contribution will provide novel insights into German-American and Austro-American *Trachtenvereine* activities related to print media, during a period of resurgent anti-German climate. Therefore, it will shed light on the little-understood complexities of associational life, festivities, and the connected production of print media at the beginning of the 20th century.

Delayed Media Response to Einstein's World-changing Letter

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The media report about Alfred Einstein's 1939 encouragement to President Roosevelt to begin work on atomic fission had to be delayed until after World War II. The encouragement came in a highly classified letter from the 1921 Nobel Prize-winning physicist, and it received a highly classified response. Einstein's letter was not only a top-secret document, but it embodied an intentional initiative to action offered by a lifelong pacifist. What resulted from the correspondence, although slow in coming, was the 1942 Manhattan Project that developed nuclear weapons, ultimately used to destroy Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing 400,000 people. By this time in 1945, after the worst destruction of human lives in history, media reportage in books, journals, and film, began to explore the initially unknown facts behind what came to be known as a "document that changed the world". The letter from Einstein came to be studied within the context of his pacifism and the secrecy of the Roosevelt administration. Vast amounts of media around the world have since explored the role the German American physicist played in the development of the atomic bomb, an event he, according to sources, later came to regret. The story of Einstein's lifelong pacifism, and how the Roosevelt letter (in itself, a non-print medium) fit into it, along with his published travelogues about South America, are not well-known to the general public. This study will explore the media reactions to the Einstein-Roosevelt correspondence, as well as the consistency in Einstein's approach to pacifism.