

John Eicher

Curriculum Vitae

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2017- Assistant Professor, Department of History, Pennsylvania State University-Altoona, Altoona, PA
- 2016-2017 Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of Migration, German Historical Institute, Washington DC
- 2015-2016 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

EDUCATION

- 2015 Ph.D., History, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Fields: Modern Europe, Modern Germany, Modern Latin America
Dissertation: "Now Too Much for Us: German and Mennonite Transnationalisms, 1874-1944"
- 2009 MA, History, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
- 2005 BA, Interdisciplinary (History, Religion, Sociology), Goshen College, Goshen, IN

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Under Contract *Exiled Among Nations: German and Mennonite Mythologies in a Transnational Age*, Cambridge University Press.

Book Chapters

- 2017 "Comparative Narratives: *Russlanddeutsch* Migration Stories." In *Jenseits der "Volksgruppe": Neue Perspektiven auf die Russlanddeutschen zwischen Russland, Deutschland und Amerika* [*Beyond the "Volksgruppe": New Perspectives on Russian Germans between Russia, Germany, and America*]. Edited by Victor Dönninghaus, Jannis Panagiotidis, and Hans-Christian Petersen. Berlin: De Gruyter, 73-85.
- 2014 "Diaspora Hermeneutics: Mennonite refugee narratives between the World Wars." In *New Perspectives in Diasporic Experience*. Edited by Connie Rapoo, Maria Luisa Coelho and Zahira Sarwar. Oxford: Interdisciplinary Press. E-book, 35-47.

Referred Articles

- 2018 "Rustic Reich: Nazi Impressions of South America's German-Speaking Enclaves." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 60, no. 4 (October), 998-1028.

- 2017 “A Sort of Homecoming: The German Refugee Crisis of 1929.” *German Studies Review* 40, no. 2 (May), 333-352.
- 2017 “‘Every Family on Their Own’?: Iowa’s Mennonite Farm Communities and the 1980s Farm Crisis.” *Journal of Mennonite Studies* 35, 81-102.
- 2011 “‘Our Christian Duty:’ Piety, Politics, and Temperance in Berne, Indiana, 1886-1907.” *Indiana Magazine of History* 107, no. 1 (March): 1-31.

Book Reviews

- 2018 Review of *Martyrs Mirror: A Social History*. David L. Weaver-Zercher. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015. For *Conrad Grebel Review* 36, no. 1.
- 2017 Review of *European Mennonites and the Challenge of Modernity over Five Centuries: Contributors, Detractors, and Adapters*. Edited by Mark Jantzen, Mary S. Sprunger and John D. Thiesen. North Newton, Kansas: Bethel College, 2016. For *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 91, no. 2.

AWARDS & PRIZES

- 2017 D. C. Priestersbach Dissertation Prize in the Humanities and Fine Arts, University of Iowa Graduate College (awarded biennially, the recipient is also the University’s nominee for the CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award)
- 2016 Dissertation Prize in German-Canadian Studies, Spletzer Family Foundation and University of Winnipeg German-Canadian Studies Program
- 2012 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of Iowa Council on Teaching
- 2011 Thornbrough Award for best article of 2011, *Indiana Magazine of History*, Indiana University and Indiana State Historical Society

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

External funding

- 2016-2017 (shortlisted) Post-doctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, Volkswagen Foundation and A. W. Mellon Foundation
- 2012-2013 Dissertation Fellowship, Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, Freie Universität Berlin
- 2013 Research Grant, Mennonite Historical Society
- 2011 Intensive Language Course Grant, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- 2010 Constant H. Jacquet Research Award, Religious Research Association

Internal funding

- 2018 Advisory Board Award for Research and Creative Activity, PS-A Advisory Board

- 2018 Research Development Grant, PS-A Research and Sponsored Programs
- 2018 Supplementary Travel Grant, PS-A Division of Arts and Humanities
- 2014-2015 Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Year Fellowship, UI Graduate College
- 2014-2015 (declined) Marcus Bach Fellowship, UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- 2014 Travel Fund Award, UI Graduate Student Senate
- 2014 Travel Grant, UI Graduate and Professional Student Government
- 2010-2012 Crossing Borders Fellowship, UI International Programs
- 2012 Lawrence E. Gelfand Fellowship, UI Department of History
- 2011 Graduate College Summer Fellowship, UI Graduate College
- 2010 Stanley Grant for International Research, UI International Programs
- 2010 Research Grant, UI Graduate and Professional Student Government
- 2010 Professional Advancement Travel Grant, UI Graduate Student Senate

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

- 2014-2017 Research Associate, "Seven Points on Earth: Mennonites and Farm Culture in the Twentieth Century," PI: Professor Royden Loewen, University of Winnipeg. Sponsor: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.
- 2015-2016 Teaching Affiliate, "German Iowa and the Global Midwest." PIs: Professors Glenn Ehrstine, Elizabeth Heineman, and H. Glenn Penny, University of Iowa. Sponsor: University of Iowa, Office of Research and Economic Development.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 "Mennonites as a Case Study of German and Religious Transnationalism during the 1930s," prepared for the Forty-First Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Atlanta. 6 October.
- 2017 "Not Quite Nazis: Ethno-Religious Nationalism and Germans in South America," prepared for the "Religion and Ethno-nationalism in the Era of the Two World Wars Symposium," University of Toronto, 21-23 May.
- 2016 "Fleeing the Farm and Feeding the World during the 1980s Farm Crisis," delivered at the Forty-First Annual Conference of the Social Science History Association, Chicago, 17 November.

- 2015 “Comparative Narratives: *Russlanddeutsche* Migration Stories,” delivered at the Bundesinstitut für Kultur und Geschichte der Deutschen im östlichen Europa, Berlin, 18 November.
- 2014 “Dilemma in the Desert: The international attachments of Mennonite *Auslandsdeutsche* in Paraguay,” delivered at the Thirty-Eighth Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Kansas City, 20 September.
- 2013 “Mennonite and Farm Culture in Iowa,” delivered at the “7 Points on Earth” Workshop, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, 7 December.
- 2013 “Diaspora Hermeneutics: Mennonite refugee narratives between the World Wars,” delivered at the Sixth Global Conference on Diasporas, University of Oxford, 7 July.
- 2011 “Preliminary Findings on Mennonite Immigration to the Paraguayan Chaco,” delivered at the Twelfth Annual Crossing Borders Convocation. University of Iowa, 26 February.
- 2009 “‘Our Christian Duty:’ Piety, Politics, and Temperance in Berne, Indiana.” Delivered at the Thirty-First Annual Mid-America Conference on History, Norman, OK, 1 October.

INVITED TALKS AND COLLOQUIA

- 2016 “Mennonites, Germans Abroad, and the Construction of Religious and National Narratives,” delivered at the German Historical Institute Annual Retreat, Washington DC, 27 September.
- 2015 “Outreach and Research Outcomes from Community-Based Archaeology ‘Roadshows’” panel discussant, Seventy-Third Annual Plains Anthropological Society, Iowa City, IA, 16 October.
- 2015 “Local Decisions, Global Ambitions: Mennonite Land Use in the United States,” delivered at the 16th Mennonite World Conference, Harrisburg, PA, 24 July.
- 2015 “The Garden and the Wilderness,” delivered at the Department of Religious Studies Spring Colloquium, The University of Texas at Austin, 2 February.
- 2013 “Weise wie Schlangen und unschuldig wie Tauben: Die mennonitischen Völkerwanderungen von der alten durch die neue Welt,” delivered at the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies Forschungskolloquium, Freie Universität Berlin, 20 June.
- 2013 “Between the Red Heaven and the Green Hell: Mennonite Immigration from the Soviet Union to the Paraguayan Chaco 1929-1947,” delivered at the Lateinamerika-Institut, Forschungskolloquium zur Geschichte Lateinamerikas, Freie Universität Berlin, 5 May.

COURSES TAUGHT

Department of History, Pennsylvania State University-Altoona, Altoona, PA (2017-)

Assistant Professor

“Europe Since 1848” (HIST 120)

“Germans Beyond Germany, 1500-1914,” (HIST 435)

“Latin American History Since 1820,” (HIST 179)

“Migrants and Refugees in Modern Europe, 1914-Present” (HIST 435)
“Western Heritage II, 1500-Present” (HIST 2)

Department of History, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA (2008-2016)

Visiting Assistant Professor

“The First World War: Art, Memory, and the (Re)Making of History” (HIST 4499)
“German America: The Largest Minority” (HIST 1004)
“The Holocaust in History and Memory” (HIST 4478)
“Introduction to the History Major” (HIST 2151)
“Twentieth Century Europe: The Cold War and After” (HIST 4461)

Graduate Instructor (Instructor of Record)

“European Nationalism in Historical Perspective, 1789-1945”
“The First World War in a Global Perspective”
“The German Atlantic World”
“Modernization in the United States and Germany”
“Peasants and Nations: Nineteenth-century France and Germany”
“Visions of Modernity: America, Germany, and the Soviet Union”

Teaching Assistant

“USA in a World at War 1931-1945 (online)”
“Western Civilization II, 1450-1789”
“Western Civilization III, 1789-1991”

Iowa Young Writers' Studio, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA (2012)

Teacher (Instructor of Record)

“Building Stories/Writing Architecture”

COURSES PREPARED

“Authoritarianism and Neoliberalism in Modern Latin America” (advanced)
“Infectious Disease in the Atlantic World: From Pox to Polio, 1775-1975” (advanced)
“European Borderlands, 1806-1993” (advanced)
“History, Theory, and Narrative” (advanced)
“Modern Germany: 1871-Present” (introductory)

SERVICE

2018 Search committee member, Tenure-track early America, PS-A Department of History
2017 Committee member, *Nosferatu* public humanities initiative (in cooperation with the Altoona Symphony Orchestra)

PUBLIC HISTORY EXPERIENCE

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, West Branch, IA (2009-2012)

GS-4 Park Guide (Interpretation, seasonal)

Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harper's Ferry, IA (2008)

GS-5 Park Ranger/Museum Technician (Interpretation, seasonal)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Global Aid Network, Gießen, Germany (2006-2007)

Donations Coordinator

Mennonite Church USA Archives, Goshen, IN (Summer, 2006)

Assistant Archivist

Seattle Emergency Housing Service (AmeriCorps), Seattle, WA (2002-2003)

After-school Program Tutor Coordinator

AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association

German Studies Association

Religious Research Association

Social Science History Association

LANGUAGES

German: Advanced written and verbal

Spanish: Intermediate written and verbal

REFERENCES

Available upon request