

DAVID A. BRENNER, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Texas, 1993

Major field: Germanic Languages and Literatures (i.e., German and Yiddish)

Minor fields: Comparative Literature, Applied Linguistics/Pedagogy

M.A., Brandeis University, 1988

Major field: Comparative Literature (German, Yiddish, French, American)

Minor field: Near Eastern and Judaic Studies

B.A., Wesleyan (Middletown, CT), 1985 *magna cum laude*

Major field: German Studies

Minor field: College of Letters (European Literature, History, and Philosophy)

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Texas A&M University (College Station, TX)

Lecturer in German, International, and Jewish Studies, 2016-present

University of Houston (Houston, TX)

Lecturer in German Studies, Jewish Studies, and Humanities, 2008-2016

Director, Houston Teachers Institute, Honors College, 2009-2010

Kent State University

Assistant Professor of German and Modern Languages, 1998-2007

Director, Ethnic Heritage Programs (Jewish and Holocaust Studies), 1998-2003

University of Colorado

Assistant Professor of Germanic and Slavic Studies, 1994-98

GUEST/VISITING POSITIONS

Visiting Lecturer in German Language and Culture, Middlebury College, Summer 2017

Visiting Asst. Professor of Religious Studies, Rice University, Fall 2008

Fulbright Senior Teaching Scholar, German and Comparative Literature, Univ. Konstanz
2006-2007

Visiting Asst. Professor of German and European Studies, John Carroll University,
2005-2006

Andrew Mellon Visiting Fellow in German Studies, Cornell University,
1997-1998

TEACHING INTERESTS

German Studies, Jewish Studies, European Studies, International Studies, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Interdisciplinary Humanities, Foreign Language/Culture Pedagogy

TEACHING AWARDS

Best Syllabus in German Studies (3rd Prize), German Academic Exchange Service, 1998
Annual "Texas Excellence" Teaching Prize, University of Texas at Austin, College of Liberal Arts, Doctoral Student Category, 1993

UNIVERSITY COURSES TAUGHT

German as a Foreign Language – Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Levels (2016-present, Texas A&M University; 2014-2016, St. Thomas University; 2011-2016, San Jacinto College; 2008-2011, University of Houston; 2004-2007, Kent State University; 1989-1993, University of Texas; 1987-1988, Brandeis University)

History of German Culture and Civilization (2018-present, Texas A&M University)

Introduction to Jewish Studies (2024-present, Texas A&M University)

German Cinema (2018-present, Texas A&M University)

German for Business and Professional Purposes (2019-present, Texas A&M University)

Global Human Rights since 1945 (2019-present, Texas A&M University)

The Holocaust and Medical Ethics (2011-2016, Univ. of Houston, Honors)

Comparative European Literature (2012-2016, University of Houston)

World Cinema (2009-2012, University of Houston)

The Bible as Literature (2012-2016, University of Houston)

Great Books: Antiquity to Renaissance (2008-2011, Univ. of Houston, Honors)

Writing Holocausts: The Literature of Genocide (Spring 2009, University of Houston)

Kafka and the Twentieth Century (Spring 2007, Univ. Konstanz)

Jews and American Film (Spring 2007, Univ. Konstanz; Spring 2011, Univ. of Houston)

Popular Culture and Diversity in the U.S. (Fall 2006, Univ. Konstanz)

Representing the Holocaust in Film (Fall 2006, Univ. Konstanz)

The Fairy Tale in History: From the Grimms to Disney (Fall 2005, John Carroll Univ.)

Intro. to German Literature & Film (Spring 2003/Spring 2004/Spr. 2005, Kent State)

The Image of the Holocaust in Film (Fall 2003, Kent State)

Popular Culture and Diversity in the U.S. (Spring 2003, Kent State)

Holocaust, Genocide, and War Crimes (Spring 2002, Kent State)

Kafka and the Twentieth Century (Spring 2000, Kent State)

German-Jewish Culture since the Enlightenment (Fall 1995, Univ. of Colorado; Spring 1998, Cornell University)

Representing Genocide: History and Memory (Fall 1997, Cornell University)

Contemporary German Culture and Media (Fall 1996, University of Colorado)

Cultural Studies with German Texts (Spring 1996, University of Colorado)
The Intellectual in German Society (Spring 1995, Univ. of Colorado)
Intro. to Modern German Culture and Film (Fall 1994/Fall 1996, Univ. of Colorado)
Popular Literature and the Canon in German (Fall 1994, Univ. of Colorado)

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

I. Authored Books

German-Jewish Popular Culture before the Holocaust. Routledge, 2008 (in paperback, 2014)
Marketing Identities: The Invention of Jewish Ethnicity in Ost und West. Wayne State UP, 1998

II. Translated Books

Siegfried Kreuzer, *Introduction to the Septuagint*. Baylor University Press, 2019. 728 pages (translated with Peter Altman)
Niklas Luhmann, *A Systems Theory of Religion*, Stanford University Press, 2013. 320 pages
Elisabeth Bronfen, *Night Passages: Philosophy, Literature, and Film*, Columbia University Press, 2013. 496 pages. (translated with the author)

III. Chapters

“Kafka’s Kitsch: Laughter, Tears, and Yiddish Theater in Pre-War Berlin” in: *German Jewry: Between Hope and Despair*, ed. Nils Roemer. Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2013. 111-142.
“German-Jewish Performativity: From Butler to Biller.” In *Jewish Longing and Belonging in Modern European Consumer Culture*, eds. Nils Roemer and Gideon Reuveni. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2010. 203-228.
“Laughing Amid Catastrophe in *Train of Life* and Other Holocaust Tragicomedies.” In *Visualizing the Holocaust: Documents, Aesthetics, and Memories*, eds. David Bathrick, Bradley Prager, and Michael Richardson. Rochester: Camden House, 2008. 261-276.
“‘Schlemiel, Shlimazel’: A Proto-Postcolonialist Satire of ‘Germans,’ ‘Jews,’ and ‘Blacks’.” In: *The German-Jewish Press and Jewish History*. Michael Nagel and Eleanore Lappin, eds. Bremen: Edition Lumière, 2008. 303-318.
“‘Torn’ Between Justice and Forgiveness: The Late(r) Derrida on the Death Penalty and Lawful Lawlessness.” In *Crime and Punishment: Perspectives from the Humanities*. Austin Sarat, ed. (Studies in Law, Politics and Society, Vol. 37). New York: MacMillan, 2006. 113-127.
“Uncovering the Father: Kafka, Judaism, and Homoeroticism.” In *Kafka, Zionism, and Beyond*. Mark Gelber, ed. Tübingen: Niemeyer, 2004. 207-218.
“German History, Jewish History, German-Jewish Studies: Old Wine in New Bottles?” Co-authored with Michael Berkowitz. In *Teaching German in Twentieth-Century America*. David Benseler, Craig Nickisch, and Cora Lee Nollendorfs,

eds. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2001. 79-88

- “Reconciliation before Auschwitz: The Weimar Jewish Experience in Popular Fiction.”
In *Evolving Jewish Identities in German Culture: Borders and Crossings*.
Linda Feldman and Diana Orendi, eds. Westport, CT: Greenwood/Praeger,
2000. 45-61.
- “Re(-)dressing the ‘German-Jewish’: A Jewish Hermaphrodite in Wilhelmine
Germany,” in *Borders, Exiles, and Diasporas*. Elazar Barkan and Marie-
Denise Shelton, eds. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1998. 32-45.

IV. Articles

- “From Core Curricula to Core Identities: Critical Pedagogy and Foreign Language/
Culture Education.” *AAUSC Yearbook: Critical and Intercultural Theory and
Language Pedagogy* (2010): 125-140
- “‘Working Through’ the Holocaust Blockbuster: From *Schindler’s List* to *Hitler’s
Willing Executioners*, Globally and Locally.” *Germanic Review* 75.4 (2000):
296-317
- “Neglected ‘Women’s’ Texts and Contexts: Vicki Baum’s Jewish Ghetto Stories.”
Women in German Yearbook 13 (1997): 101-122
- “Making *Jargon* Respectable: The Reception of Yiddish Theater in Pre-Hitler
Germany.” *Yearbook of the Leo Baeck Institute* 42 (1997): 51-66
- “Promoting East European Jewry: *Ost und West*, Ethnic Identity and the German-Jewish
Audience.” *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History* 15.1 (1995): 63-
88
- “Out of the Ghetto and into the *Tiergarten*: Redefining the Jewish Parvenu in *Ost und
West*, 1901-1906.” *German Quarterly* 66.2 (1993): 176-194

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS (in Scholarship of Discovery/Integration)

- Yiddish Book Center Translation Fellowship (project: The Late Prose of I. J. Singer),
2021-2022
- Humboldt Foundation Renewal Grant, Humboldt Universität in Berlin, in Jewish Studies
(sponsor: Dr. Christina von Braun), 4 weeks, 2014
- New York Public Library, Short Term Research Fellowship, 1 month, 2013
- Humboldt Foundation Renewal Grant, Humboldt Universität in Berlin, in German
Studies (sponsor: Dr. Joseph Vogl), 4 weeks, 2012
- Research Grant, Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish Studies, University of Leipzig, 4
weeks, 2008 (declined)
- Fulbright / Humboldt Teaching Scholar, Universität Konstanz, German Studies, Jewish
Studies, and American Studies (sponsor: Dr. Aleida Assmann), ACADEMIC
YEAR 2006-07
- USHMM Research Seminar Fellowship, Center for Advanced Holocaust Research, U.S.
Holocaust Memorial Museum on “The Holocaust and Psychology” (Drs.
Christopher Browning and James Waller), 2 weeks, 2005 (declined)

- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Fellowship, Seminar on Punishment, Politics and Culture, Amherst College (Dr. Austin Sarat), 4 weeks, 2004
- DAAD/German Academic Exchange Service Summer Fellowship, German Studies Seminar, Cornell University (Dr. David Bathrick), 6 weeks, 2003
- USHMM Research Seminar Fellowship, Center for Advanced Holocaust Research, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on “The Holocaust in the Feature and Documentary Film” (Dr. Thomas Doherty), 2 weeks, 2000
- Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Fellow, Cornell University, in German and Jewish Studies, 1 year, ACADEMIC YEAR 1997-1998
- DAAD/German Academic Exchange Service Summer Fellowship, German Studies Seminar, Universität Potsdam/Einstein Forum (Dr. Sander Gilman), 6 weeks, 1998
- DAAD/German Academic Exchange Service Summer Fellowship, German Studies Seminar, Cornell University (Dr. Peter Hohendahl), 6 weeks, 1997
- Guest Lecture Series, German-Jewish Studies, UC-Boulder, Spring 1997
- Graduate Council for Arts and Humanities, UC-Boulder, Small Grant, 1 week, 1997
- Council for Research and Creative Work, UC-Boulder, Two Small Grants, one week each, 1996
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Fellowship, Seminar on Talmud and Jewish Cultural Studies (Drs. Daniel Boyarin and Jonathan Boyarin), Jewish Theological Seminary/Columbia University, 6 weeks, 1996
- Presidential Fund for the Humanities Grant, Collection Development, Univ. of Colorado Library, 1995
- Junior Faculty Development Award for Summer, UC-Boulder, 2 months, 1995
- Graduate Council for Arts and Humanities, UC-Boulder, Summer Travel Grant, 2 months, 1995
- Rosenzweig Center/DAAD Summer Fellowship, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 1 month, 1995
- Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow (category: Federal Chancellor’s Scholar), Technische Universität-Berlin, German Studies/Jewish Studies (sponsor: Dr. Wolfgang Benz), 1 year, ACADEMIC YEAR 1993-94
- Fulbright Research Fellowship, Germany, Technische Universität Berlin, 1 year, ACADEMIC YEAR 1993-94 (declined)
- DAAD/German Academic Exchange Service Summer Fellowship, German Studies Seminar, Cornell University (Dr. Sander Gilman), 6 weeks, 1993
- DAAD/Leo Baeck Institute, Summer Fellowship in German-Jewish History, New York, 6 weeks, 1992
- Dissertation Fellowship, DAAD/German Academic Exchange Service, Technische Hochschule-Aachen, German Studies (sponsor: Dr. Hans-Otto Horch), 1 year, ACADEMIC YEAR 1990-91

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS
(in Scholarship of Teaching)

Summer Institute for Israel Studies, Brandeis University/Schusterman Center, Summer 2023
USHMM Teaching Workshop, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, (Dr. Peter Hayes), 2 weeks, 2015
Pedagogical Research Grant, Institute for Medical Humanities, UTMB-Galveston, Summer 2011
Early Career Teaching Scholar, Faculty Professional Development Center, Kent State University, ACADEMIC YEAR 2004-05
American Library Association Grant, Discussion Series Leader, "Contemporary Jewish Literature: Identity and Imagination," Bowling Green State University / Firelands College, 2004-2005
USHMM Teaching Workshop, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, (Drs. Berel Lang, David Engel, Alvin Rosenfeld), 1 week, 2003
Fellowship from Holocaust Education Foundation, Summer Seminar on Teaching the Holocaust at Universities, Northwestern University (Dr. Peter Hayes), 2 weeks, 1997 (declined)
Undergraduate Symposium, "Holocaust Education," Society for the Humanities, Cornell University, Fall 1997
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, UC-Boulder, Two Assistantships (each declined), 1 semester each, 1996-97

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Editorial Board, *International Journal of Jewish Film, Television and New Media*, 2010-present
Reader, Advanced Placement German Culture/Language Exam, 2012-present
Development Committee, SAT German Exam, 2011-2014
Member, Houston Yiddish Society, 2008-present
Ethics Education Committee, Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, 2011-2013
President, Midwest Jewish Studies Association, 2004-2006
Delegate, Modern Language Association Assembly, 2004-2006
Executive Director, Ohio Commission on Holocaust/Genocide Education, 1999-2004

LANGUAGES

- English: native speaker
- German: near-native fluency
- Yiddish: advanced proficiency
- Hebrew, French, Spanish: intermediate proficiency

*References provided upon request,
as well as a complete list of conference
presentations and public lectures (a list of over
100)*