

Erika Lee Weidemann Bravo

Texas A&M University
History Department

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, History Texas A&M University, 2020

Dissertation Title: "A Malleable Identity: The Immigration of Ethnic Germans to North America, 1947-1957"

Advisor: Walter Kamphoefner

Master of Arts, History Texas A&M University, 2016

Bachelor of Arts, History Pacific Union College, 2014

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Research Associate 2020–present
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Research Partner Historian, Texas A&M University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Lecturer, Spring 2024 History Department, Texas A&M University

- U.S. History, 1877 to the present

Instructor of Record, 2021-present History Department, Texas A&M University

- Immigration & Ethnicity
- The Historian's Craft
- U.S. History, 1877 to the present

Graduate Assistant Lecturer, 2019-2020 History Department, Texas A&M University

- World Civilizations, 1500 to the present
- U.S. History, 1877 to the present

Discussion Leader, Spring 2016 History Department, Texas A&M University

- U.S. History, 1877 to the present

Visiting Lecturer, Summer 2015 History Department, Pacific Union College

- World Civilizations, 1500 to the present

Teaching Assistant, 2014-2019 History Department, Texas A&M University

- U.S. History, 1877 to the present

- U.S. History to 1877
- Texas History
- Western Civilizations to 1500

Teaching Assistant, 2012-2014

History Department, Pacific Union College

- Introduction to Ancient History
- Introduction to Latin American History
- The World Since 1945
- U.S. History to 1877
- U.S. History, 1877 to the present
- World Civilizations to 1500
- World Civilizations, 1500 to the present

CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2024 Reviewer, *Explorations: The Texas A&M Undergraduate Journal*
- 2024 Organizer, “Internships and Research at the National Museum of the Pacific War,” Graduate Professional Development Workshop, March 28, 2024.
- 2023-2024 Undergraduate Committee, TAMU History Department
- 2023-2024 Undergraduate Planning Team, TAMU History Department
- 2023-2024 Proposal Reviewer, LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Scholar Thesis Program
- 2023 Steering Committee, “Never Forgotten: Battlefield Archaeology and Military History at Texas A&M University” Symposium
- 2017-2019 Teaching Assistant Orientation and Training, TAMU History Department
- 2017-2018 Graduate Representative, Undergraduate Committee, TAMU History Department
- 2016-2017 Graduate Representative, Climate and Inclusion Committee, TAMU History Department

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2024-present Editor, *American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Journal*
- 2024 Member, Symposium Advisory Committee, National Museum of the Pacific War
- 2022 Peer Reviewer, *Great Plains Quarterly*, “Zwieback, Charivaris, and Tütje Cultural Geographies: Ethnic-Religious Entertainments of Nebraskan German Russian Mennonites.”
- 2020-present Editorial Review Board member, *Heritage Review*, Germans from Russia Heritage Society
- 2016-present Co-Chair, Germans from Russia Heritage Society Youth Committee
- 2013-2016 Committee member, Germans from Russia Heritage Society Youth Committee

SELECTED GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2023 Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research Symposium and Small Conference Grant, TAMU, \$5,000
- 2023 College of Arts & Sciences matching grant, TAMU, \$6,000
- 2023 History Department Travel Grant, TAMU, \$3,000
- 2022 History Department Travel Grant, TAMU, \$2,000
- 2019 Office of Graduate and Professional Studies Travel Grant, TAMU, \$750
- 2018 Glasscock Center Graduate Student Research Fellowship, TAMU, \$2,000
- 2018 Department of History Summer Research Grant, TAMU, \$2,500
- 2018 Albert Bernard Faust Research Fellowship, Society for German American Studies, \$500
- 2017 Keeble Dissertation Award, Texas A&M Foundation Grant, \$5,000
- 2017 Glasscock Center Research Matching Grant, TAMU, \$1,000
- 2017 German Script Award, Quadrangle Historical Research Foundation, \$1,000
- 2017 Keeble Dissertation Fellowship, Texas A&M Foundation Grant, \$3,000
- 2016 Fasken Research Award, College of Liberal Arts, TAMU, \$500
- 2016 Language and Professional Development Award, College of Liberal Arts, TAMU, \$8,000
- 2015 Department of History Summer Research Grant, TAMU, \$2,000
- 2015 College of Liberal Arts Professional Development Award, TAMU, \$4,500
- 2014 Betty M. Unterberger Memorial Fellowship, TAMU, \$5,000
- 2013 John Christian History Award, Pacific Union College, \$500

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

"Identity and Complicity: The Post-World War II Immigration of Chortitza Mennonites." In *European Mennonites and the Holocaust*, edited by Mark Jantzen and John D. Thiesen. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020, 269-289.

Articles

"Canada or the United States?: The Paths of Three Ethnic German Families in the Wake of World War Two." *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 53 (2018): 133-49.

Book Reviews

Review of *Prisoners of War: Europe: 1939–1956*, by Bob Moore. *Yearbook of German-American Studies*. Forthcoming.

Review of *Threat of Dissent: A History of Ideological Exclusion and Deportation in the United States*, by Julia Rose Kraut. *Journal of American Ethnic History* 42, no. 3 (Spring 2023): 132–133.

Review of *Terror Flyers: The Lynching of American Airmen in Nazi Germany*, by Kevin T. Hall. *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 56 (2021): 149-150.

Review of *The United States Immigration Policy and Immigrants' Responses: Past and Present*, by Dorota Praszalowicz and Agnieszka Malek, editors. *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 53 (2018): 259-261.

Review of *Broken Lives: How Ordinary Germans Experienced the Twentieth Century*, by Konrad H. Jarausch. *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 53 (2018): 214-215.

Review of *Simple Pleasures: Stories from My Life as an Amish Mother*, by Marianne Jantzi. *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 52 (2017): 290-291.

Review of *Dear Willy: The True Story of a Life Well Lived* by Claire Ohlsson Geheb. *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 52 (2017): 300-302.

Encyclopedia Entries

"Anderson, Joseph Henry." *Online Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*.

"Harlan, Russell M." *Online Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*.

"Nye, Vernon." *Online Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

2024 "High Impact Learning Opportunities and America's Missing in Action," Society for Military History Conference, Alexandria, Virginia, April 18-21, 2024.

2024 "Identity and Immigration: A World War II Case Study," Society for German-American Studies symposium, Austin, Texas, April 4-6, 2024.

2023 "Student Participation in Partner Research Projects," Fourth Annual Hub & Spoke Symposium, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Virtual Conference, December 15, 2024.

2023 "Undergraduate Research Lightning Round," Never Forgotten: Conflict Archaeology and Military History at Texas A&M University, College Station, November 8-10, 2023.

2023 "Collaboration in the Search for the Missing in the Netherlands East Indies, 1945-1949," Organization of American Historians Conference, Los Angeles, March 30-April 2, 2023.

2022 "The Chest Radiograph Project," Third Annual Hub & Spoke Symposium, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, December 8, 2022.

2021 "German Shoot-Down Records Project," Second Annual Hub & Spoke Symposium, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, December 2, 2021.

2021 "The MCC, Aid Organizations, and the Immigration of Chortitza, Ukraine, 1947-1957," MCC at 100: A Mennonite Studies Conference, The University of Winnipeg, September 30-October 1, 2021.

2021 "Help the Brethren: North American Immigrant Organizations, 1945-1959," Society for German-American Studies, Virtual Conference, April 21-23, 2021.

2020 "Netherlands East Indies World War II Casualty Project," First Annual Hub & Spoke Symposium, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, December 10, 2020.

2019 "A Malleable Identity: Post World War II Ethnic German Immigration to North America," Association of Seventh-day Adventist Historians, Southwestern Adventist University, Keene, Texas, May 16-18, 2019.

2019 "Over the Sea: The Travels and Travails of Post-World War II Immigrants to North America," Society for German-American Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, April 11-13, 2019.

2018 "Canada or the United States?: Religion and Legislation in the Post-War Immigration of Ethnic Germans from Chortitza," Society for German-American Studies, Indianapolis, Indiana, April 19-21, 2018.

2018 "Survival and Trial: The Post-War Experience of Chortitza Mennonites," Mennonites and the Holocaust International Conference, North Newton, Kansas, March 16-18, 2018.

2017 "Ethnic German Lives: The Photograph Collection of Rudolph Zaft," Society for German-American Studies, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 19-21, 2017.

2016 "Fluid and Malleable: Ethnic German Resettlement, 1945-1949," Society for German-American Studies, San Antonio, Texas, April 28-30, 2016.

2016 "Returned to the Reich: Ethnic German Resettlement, 1943," Texas A&M History Conference, College Station, Texas, April 1-2, 2016.

2016 "Distinctly German: The SDA Church's Beginnings in Ukraine," Association of Seventh-day Adventist Historians, La Sierra, California, March 16-18, 2016.

2015 "A Place to Belong: German Immigration to America in the 1950s," Society for German-American Studies, St. Louis, Missouri, April 8-10, 2015.

2013 "Ethnicity and Loyalty: the *Volksdeutsche*'s Relationship to the Soviet Union," Association of Seventh-day Adventist Historians, Lincoln, Nebraska, April 28-31, 2013.

Discussant

2018 Commenter, Texas A&M History Graduate Student Organization Conference, March 23-24, 2018

INVITED TALKS

2023 "Careers in History," Southern Adventist University, April 18, 2023.

2023 "Netherlands East Indies World War II Casualty Project," Indo-Pacific Directorate, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, January 3, 2023.

- 2022 “Changing Identities: Mennonite Ethnic German Immigration after World War II,” Research Centre for Diaspora, Migration and Exile (MIDEX), University of Central Lancashire, January 19, 2022.
- 2022 “German Shoot-Down Records Project,” Europe Mediterranean Directorate, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, June 21, 2022.
- 2021 “The MCC in the Post-World War II Period,” Roundtable on the MCC and National Socialism, University of Winnipeg, Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies, November 4, 2021.
- 2021 “The Netherlands East Indies in World War II,” Indo-Pacific Directorate, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, February 9, 2021.
- 2020 “Tracing Ethnic Germans,” Europe Mediterranean Directorate, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, July 28, 2020.
- 2018 "Religion as Identity in the Quest for Immigration," Germans from Russia Heritage Society, Pierre, South Dakota, July 19, 2018.
- 2017 "Trading Identity for Survival: The Ethnic Germans of Chortitza," Germans from Russia Heritage Society, Bismarck, North Dakota, July 14, 2017.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2024 “Scholarly Opportunities for History Students,” Undergraduate Professional Development Workshop series, Texas A&M University, March 5, 2024.
- 2021 “The Postdoc,” Graduate Professional Development Workshop series, Texas A&M University, October 29, 2021.
- 2018 "From Chortitza to Canada and the United States: The Post-World War II Immigration of Ethnic Germans," Glasscock Center for the Humanities, Texas A&M University, October 16, 2018.

PUBLIC HISTORY, RESEARCH, AND ARCHIVAL WORK

- 2023-present Supervisor, Aggies Missing in Action Research Project, Texas A&M University
- 2022-present Supervisor, Chest Radiograph Digitization Project, Texas A&M University in partnership with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- 2021-present Research historian and translator, German Shoot-Down Records Project, Texas A&M University in partnership with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- 2020-present Principal Investigator, History Research Internship, Texas A&M University in partnership with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

- 2020-present Research historian, Netherlands East Indies World War II Casualty Project, Texas A&M University in partnership with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- 2020 Researcher and author of *Huffines Institute: The History* for the Huffines Institute, Texas A&M University
- 2018 Independent Researcher for NHK (Japanese National Television) and Marketplace (National Public Radio), George H.W. Bush Library and Museum, College Station, Texas
- 2017-2018 Archivist, Naval Order of the United States, Cushing Library, Texas A&M University
- 2013-2014 Student Archivist, Special Collections, Nelson Memorial Library, Pacific Union College
- 2011-2013 Student Archivist, Pitcairn Islands Study Center, Pacific Union College
- 2011–2012 Assistant Curator, Union County Historical Society & Herzstein Museum

RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- 2021-present Select Center for Teaching Excellence workshops
- 2020-2021 Academy for Future Faculty, Texas A&M University Center for Teaching Excellence
- 2018 Teaching Endorsement, Texas A&M University History Department
- 2016 Oral History Advanced Summer Institute, UC Berkeley, August 8-12, 2016
- 2014-2019 Texas A&M University History Department Professional Development Workshop Series

LANGUAGES

- German: Intermediate proficiency
- Spanish: Intermediate proficiency
- Russian: Beginner proficiency

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2024-present Society for Military History
- 2023-present American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
- 2018-present Organization of American Historians
- 2018-present Immigration and Ethnic History Society
- 2017-present American Historical Association
- 2014-present Society for German-American Studies
- 2013-present Germans from Russia Heritage Society