

Elisabeth Marie Piller
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
Historisches Seminar
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

From Nov 2020	Assistant Professor (tt) for North American and Transatlantic History, Department of History, University of Freiburg
2019 – 2020	Post-Doctoral Fellow (Norwegian Research Council), Department of History, University of Oslo
2018 – 2019	Government of Ireland Post-Doctoral Fellow (Irish Research Council), Centre for War Studies, University College Dublin
2017 – 2018	Visiting Assistant Professor of American History, Dept. of Language & Literature, NTNU
2013 – 2017	PhD candidate and Departmental Lecturer, Dept. of Historical Studies, NTNU
2012 – 2013	Junior Lecturer, American and British History, Department of Language & Literature, NTNU

EDUCATION

2018	PhD, Dept. of Historical Studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
2011	M.A., University of Heidelberg, Germany American and Modern History: summa cum laude
2008	B.A., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA, History/Religious Studies (Honors): summa cum laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The United States and Europe since 1776
U.S. Foreign Relations in the 20th Century
Cultural History of Diplomacy and International Relations (19th and 20th c.)
Public Opinion and International Politics in the Media Age
History of Humanitarianism

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

“The Good Samaritan of all the World.” US Humanitarians, Postwar Europe and the Making of the American Century” (2nd book)
“The Blockade in the Era of the Two World Wars” (grant proposal) with Alan Kramer and Jonas Scherner

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Selling Weimar. German Public Diplomacy and the United States, 1918-1932 (Stuttgart: Steiner, 2021)

With the support of the German Historical Institute Washington DC also available open access: <https://www.steiner-verlag.de/Selling-Weimar/9783515128476>

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

“The Transatlantic Dynamics of European Cultural Diplomacy: Germany, France and the Battle for U.S. Affections In the 1920s” *Contemporary European History* 30/2 (May 2021): 248-264

with Benjamin Martin, “Cultural Diplomacy and Europe’s Twenty Years’ Crisis, 1919-1939: Introduction” *Contemporary European History* 30/2 (May 2021): 149-163

“A Tumultuous Relationship: Nicholas Murray Butler and Germany in the Era of the Two World Wars” *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* 67 (Nov 2020): 71-100.

“Managing Imponderables. The Rise of U.S. Tourism and the Transformation of German Diplomacy, 1890-1933” *Diplomatic History* 44/1 (Jan 2020): 47-75.

“American War Relief, Cultural Mobilization and the Myth of Impartial Humanitarianism, 1914–17” *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 17/4 (Oct 2018): 619-635.

“To Aid the Fatherland. German-Americans, Transatlantic Relief Work and American Neutrality, 1914–17” *Immigrants and Minorities. Historical Studies in Ethnicity, Migration and Diaspora* 35/3 (Nov 2017): 196-215.

“German Child Distress, American Humanitarian Aid and Revisionist Politics, 1918–1924” *Journal of Contemporary History* 51/3 (July 2016): 453-486.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

“Eine Diplomatie des Mitleids? Die deutsche Kindernot, das amerikanische Hilfswerk und die Hoffnungen und Nöte revisionistischer Außenpolitik in den Anfangsjahren der Weimarer Republik“ in Andreas Braune und Michael Dreyer (eds.) *Weimar und die Neuordnung der Welt. Politik, Wirtschaft, Völkerrecht nach 1918*, Stuttgart: Steiner, 2020

- Revised and abridged German version of “German Child Distress, American Humanitarian Aid and Revisionist Politics, 1918–1924” *Journal of Contemporary History* 51/3 (2016): 453-486

“Can the Science of the World Allow This?” – German Academic Distress, Foreign Aid and Cultural Demobilization, 1919–1924.” Tomas Irish and Marie-Eve Chagnon, eds. *The Academic World in the Era of the Great War*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, 189-211.

with Philipp Gassert, “East Germany: ‘Solidarity with Red Prague.’” In Philipp Gassert and Martin Klimke, eds. *1968: Memories and Legacies of a Global Revolt* 2009, 159-161.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Student Exchange: French and German Competition for US Students in the 1920s” <http://ow.ly/z4Va50ELMNT> (2021)

“European Student Relief, Humanitarianism, and Post-World War I Reconciliation” in: Fabian Klose, Marc Palen, Johannes Paulmann und Andrew Thompson (eds.), *Online Atlas on the History of Humanitarianism and Human Rights*, <urn:nbn:de:0159-2019042427> (2019)

“Eradicating Misunderstanding? The Institute of International Education, Student Exchanges & Transatlantic Relations in the 1920s”, Rockefeller Archive Research Report, Sleepy Hollow, NY <http://rockarch.issuelab.org/resources/33683/33683.pdf> (2018)

with Peter Gatrell, Rebecca Gill und Branden Little, “Discussion: Humanitarianism” in: Ute Daniel et al. (eds.) *1914-1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War*, <10.15463/ie1418.11168> (2017)

BOOK REVIEWS

Mary Elisabeth Cox, *Hunger in War & Peace. Women and Children in Germany, 1914-1924*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019 (h-diplo review essay 305, Jan 2021)

Charlotte Lerg, *Universitätsdiplomatie. Wissenschaft und Prestige in den transatlantischen Beziehungen, 1890-1920*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2019 (Connections. A Journal for Historians and Area Specialists und hsozkult, July 2020)

J. Charles Schenking, “Giving Most and Giving Differently: Humanitarianism as Diplomacy Following Japan’s 1923 Earthquake” und Guy Aiken, “Feeding Germany: American Quakers in the Weimar Republic” *Diplomatic History*, September 2019 (h-diplo, article review 938, March 2020)

Martin Wroblewski, *Moralische Eroberungen als Instrumente der Diplomatie. Die Informations- und Pressepolitik des Auswärtigen Amtes 1902 – 1914*. Göttingen: V & R unipress, 2016. *Diplomatica. A Journal of Diplomacy and Society* 1 (April 2019): 133-135

Chad Fulwider, *German Propaganda and U.S. Neutrality in World War I*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2016. *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 16/3 (July 2017): 381-382.

UNDER REVIEW

with Neville Wylie (eds.) *Humanitarianism in the Era of the Great War, 1912–23*. Manchester: Manchester University Press (Manchester University Press)

“Abandoning Poland. Or How to Write the History of Great War Humanitarianism as a History of Failure” in: Elisabeth Piller and Neville Wylie (eds.) *Humanitarianism and the Greater War, 1912–23*

“Difficult Ambassadors. German Professors, Propaganda and the United States in the Era of the Great War, 1905 – 25” in David Hall (Hrsg.), *Intellectuals and the Great War*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Journal article on US Internationalism and Democracy Promotion in Germany, 1918–1948

Journal article on gendering Great War humanitarianism

IN PREPARATION

with Alan Kramer und Jonas Scherner (eds.) *The Blockade in the Era of the Two World Wars* (special issue)

An American Epic? Decentering U.S. Humanitarian Exceptionalism in the Twentieth Century (journal article)

“Despondence, Dependence, Dignity – On the Dilemmas of Being an Object of American Charity in the Twentieth Century,” (journal article, special issue edited by Romain Fathi)

“(In)Gratitude, US Ascendancy and Transatlantic Relations after the Great War” (journal article, special issue edited by Ludivine Broch, Albertine Bloemendal and Jorrit van den Berk)

IN THE NEWS

“Joe Biden is sending an academic to Germany. Here’s why it might pay off,” *Washington Post*, July 7 2021

LARGE RESEARCH GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS

Poor Little Belgium and the Greater War. The Commission for Relief in Belgium and the Humanitarian Mobilization of the World

- Research Council of Norway, Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 2019-2022 Irish Research Council, Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 2018-2020

German Cultural Diplomacy and the United States, 1918-1933

- NTNU Doctoral Fellowship, Faculty of Humanities, NTNU, 2013-2017

SMALLER FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS (selected)

- SHAFR Global Scholars and Diversity Grant (to attend SHAFR Conference 2019),
- Fellow, Global Humanitarian Research Academy, Imperial and Global History Centre at the University of Exeter, July 2018
- Research Fellow, Rockefeller Archives Center, June-July 2018
- NTNU Excellence Travel Grant
- Research Fellow, Horner Memorial Library, Philadelphia, Aug 2015
- Doctoral Research Fellow, German Historical Institute, Washington DC, Aug-Nov 2013
- Balch Fellow, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, July 2013
- Research Fellow, Landesgraduiertenakademie Baden-Württemberg, Aug. 2012
- Fellow, SHAFR Summer Institute 2012, June 2012, University of Connecticut
- Phi Beta Kappa – National Honors Society (USA), since 2005

AWARDS/PRIZES (selected)

- **Friedrich-Ebert-Preis, 2019** (for the dissertation)
The Friedrich-Ebert-Preis is awarded annually by the Forschungsstelle Weimarer Republik (University Jena) for the best dissertation or habilitation on the Weimar Republic
- **Franz Steiner Preis for Transatlantic History, 2019** (for the dissertation)
The Franz Steiner Preis is awarded biannually by the Franz Steiner Verlag and the German Historical Institute Washington, DC to an outstanding scholarly book manuscript in the field of North American studies or transatlantic relations from the early modern period to the present.
- **Ifa-Forschungspreis Auswärtige Kulturpolitik, 2018** (for the dissertation)
The ifa-Forschungspreis is awarded annually by the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen in Stuttgart for an exceptional and groundbreaking dissertation on culture and foreign policy
- **Pinckney Award 2008**
for an Outstanding Senior in History, University of Tennessee
- **Leroy P. Graf Award 2007**
for an Outstanding Undergraduate Student in History, University of Tennessee

STAYS AS VISITING SCHOLAR

- Visiting Fellow, Charles Warren Center for American History, Harvard University, Fall 2020 (postponed due to Covid-19)
- Visiting Scholar, History Department, University of Manchester, Spring 2018
- Visiting Scholar, European Institute, Columbia University, Fall 2016

PEER REVIEW FOR

Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, Journal of Military History, Diplomatic History, European Review of History/Revue Européenne d'histoire; Journal of Austrian-American History; Journal of Belgian History, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond;

CONFERENCE PAPERS & TALKS (selected, since 2017)

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| 9/2022 | "'To Watch a Revolution at First Hand.' US-Öffentlichkeit und amerikanische Austauschstudenten im 'Dritten Reich', 1933-1938." <i>Nationalsozialismus und internationale Öffentlichkeit</i> , Bielefeld |
| 9/2022 | "Humanitarianism as Global Networks and Activism," Herrenhäuser Konferenz, <i>Governing Humanitarianism: the Past, Present, and Future of Global Equity and Social Justice</i> , Hanover. |
| 6/2022 | "The Cultural Blockade: A Tale of Power and Paranoia," Conference, <i>The Blockade in the Era of the Two World Wars</i> , Trondheim, Norway. |

- 12/2021 GIs, Cousins and Correspondents: How and What Americans Learned of European Hunger in the Era of the World Wars, Seminar Series: New approaches to Medical Care, Humanitarianism and Violence during the 'long' Second World War, 1931-1953, University of Manchester
- 11/2021 Debating the War, Aiding the Victims. US Neutrality, 1914-17, EUCOR Ringvorlesung: Stephen Crane at 150, Universität Freiburg
- 10/2021 "To Deal with 'the Greatest Power of Tomorrow': The United States and the Democratization of the German Foreign Service, 1900-1933," Panel: The Democratization and Parliamentarization of Germany, Annual Conference, *German Studies Association*, Indianapolis.
 - Commentator, Mixed Loyalties? German Minorities between Nationalism, Solidarity, and Fascism
- 9/2021 The Sea Blockade and the Rise of Humanitarian Diplomacy, 1914-1945, invited talk, workshop: The Blockade in the Era of the Two World Wars (online)
- 6/2021 "The History of Aid as a History of International Relations," Panel: New Directions in the Histories of Humanitarianism and Human Rights, Annual Conference, *Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations*, Washington DC.
- 6/2021 "Despondence, Dependence, Dignity – On the Dilemmas of Being an Object of American Charity in the Twentieth Century," Conference, *The Red Cross Movement, Voluntary Organisations and Reconstruction in Western Europe in the 20th century*, Centre d'Histoire de Sciences Po, Paris.
- 5/2021 "(In)Gratitude, US Ascendancy and Transatlantic Relations after the Great War, Conference, *Gratitude in Transatlantic Relations* (online).
- 4/2021 "Prelude to Reeducation? US Internationalists and German Students, 1919-1949," Panel: New Perspectives on Transatlantic History: German-American Relations in Times of War and Crisis (sponsored by the German Historical Institute Washington DC), Annual Conference, *Organization of American Historians*, Chicago.
- 3/2021 "Selling Weimar. German Public Diplomacy and the United States," Public Talk, German Society of Pennsylvania.
- 11/2020 "The Commission for Relief in Poland, or: Rewriting the History of Great War Humanitarianism as a History of Failure," *Forschungskolloquium, Jessica Gienow-Hecht*, JFK-Institut, FU Berlin.
- 6/2020 "Nicholas Murray Butler and Germany in the Era of the Two World Wars," *Cultures of Diplomacy Seminar*, University of Manchester.
- 2/2020 "U.S. Humanitarian Aid and U.S. Power in the Twentieth Century: A Reinterpretation," *Twentieth Century Seminar*, Norwegian University of Science and Technology.
- 9/2019 "Making a Humanitarian Superpower – Reality, Myth and the U.S. Relief of Belgium in the First World War," *International History Seminar*, Trinity College Dublin.
- 9/2019 "An American Epic? Decentering U.S. Humanitarian Exceptionalism in the First World War," Conference, *Humanitarianism and the Greater War, 1912-1923*, University College Dublin (organized by Elisabeth Piller).
- 6/2019 "Negotiating a 'Humanitarian Space': Herbert Hoover, the Commission for Relief in Belgium and the Origins of a Humanitarian Practice, 1914-1918," Annual Conference, *Society for Historians of*

American Foreign Relations, Washington DC.

- 6/2019 "Beyond Hoover: Re-Assessing the History of the Commission for Relief in Belgium through Female Involvement," Conference, *Integrating Gender in the History of Humanitarian Aid*, University of Angers, France.
- 5/2019 "The *Institute of International Education* and the U.S. Search for Order in Interwar Europe," Conference, *Peace Among the Ruins. The Legacy of Andrew Carnegie's Internationalism and the World Crisis of 1919*, University of Edinburgh
- 5/2019 "Occupation as Opportunity? Global Outreach, Competitive Victimhood and the Agency of the Occupied: Belgium and Germany, 1914-1925," Annual Conference, *Society of Military History*, Columbus, Ohio.
- 3/2019 "The Transnational Turn and the Making of International History," *Roundtable Discussion: Transnationalism*, Post-Graduate Week, Trinity College Dublin.
- 1/2019 "Violence and Care Abroad – Diaspora Communities and Post-War Europe: A German-American Case Study," Conference, *Cultures of Violence and Care in the Aftermath of the First World War*, University of Manchester.
- 10/2018 "'Her Fatherland's Best Propagandist' Margarete Gärtner and the Origins of German Public Diplomacy, 1914-1941," *New Diplomatic History Conference*, Middelburg, The Netherlands.
- 7/2018 "The European Student Relief and Inter-War Internationalism," *Global Humanitarian Research Academy*, Imperial and Global History Centre at the University of Exeter.
- 3/2018 "A Global Humanitarian Front? What the *Commission for Relief in Belgium* Can Tell Us about Moral Alliances during the Great War," *Conflict, Reconstruction, Memory Research Workshop*, Swansea University (invited talk).
- 2/2018 "The Commission for Relief in Belgium: An International History," *International History Seminar*, London School of Economics, (invited talk).
- 1/2018 "The Great War and the Power of Neutrality. The Commission for Relief in Belgium and the Global Public Conscience," *Conference, Global War, Global Connections, Global Moments*, University of Zurich
- 11/2017 "The 'Theodore Roosevelt-Professorship' at the University of Berlin: American Public Diplomacy and Transatlantic Relations, 1905–1934," Conference, *Pursuing the Rooseveltian Century*, Roosevelt Institute for American Studies, Middelburg, the Netherlands.
- 6/2017 "The Frustrations of Giving. 'Ingratitude' and German-American Relations in the Era of the Great War, 1914–24," Annual Conference, *Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations*, Washington DC.
- 2/2017 "American War Relief, Cultural Mobilization and the Myth of Impartial Humanitarianism, 1914-1917," Conference, *The United States and World War I*, Heidelberg University.
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TEACHING

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

Summer 2022	The Old South – Economy, Society and Politics in the American South, 1775-1861
Winter 2021	US Occupation of Germany, 1945-1949/55
	The US and China – History of an Ambivalent Relationship (with Prof. Sabine Dabringhaus)
	Introduction to Archival Research (Excursion, Stadtarchiv Stuttgart)
Summer 2021	The Long Civil Rights Movement
Winter 2020	The American Civil War: Origins, Development, Legacy
	The Ku Klux Klan: Populism, White Supremacy and Violence in the 19 th and 20 th c. US

University College Dublin

Spring 2019	HIS32450 Wars & Humanitarianism in the Modern World
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Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Fall 2017	ENG2900 B.A. Thesis in American History and Politics
Fall 2017	ENG2455 American History and Politics
Spring 2015/16	HIST2810 International History (with Prof. Tore Peterson)
Fall 2015/16	HIST1250 Introduction to Modern History after 1850
Spring 2015	ENG6022 British and American History
Spring 2013/14	ENG6305 American History after 1865
Spring 2013	ENG1402 British History and Culture
Fall 2012	ENG6011 British Studies
Fall 2012	ENG1415 American History

LANGUAGES

German (mother tongue)

English

French

Norwegian

Latin

Dutch, Swedish and Danish (reading knowledge)