

Matthew Robert Childs, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Department of World Languages and Cultures
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
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[Umwelt Directory Profile](#)

EMPLOYMENT

2026-Present	Visiting Assistant Professor Department of World Languages and Cultures, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2024–2026	Visiting Assistant Professor Department of German and Russian, Wake Forest University

EDUCATION

2024	Department of German Studies, University of Washington <u>Degree</u> : Ph.D. in German Studies Dissertation: <i>Era of Uncertainty: Catastrophe in Nineteenth-Century German Literature</i> (directed by Prof. Jason Groves)
2015	Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, Florida State University <u>Degree</u> : M.A. in German
2013	Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics and Department of Classics, Florida State University <u>Degree</u> : B.A. in German and Classical Civilizations

PUBLICATIONS

Scholarly Books and Monographs

In progress *Catastrophe and Critique: Between Containment and Outbreak, 1755–1888*

Peer-Reviewed Essay Collections

In progress *Race and Germany: History, Discourse, Pathways*. Edited by Matthew Childs and Jonathan Warren.

In progress *Critical Catastrophe Studies*. Edited by Matthew Childs and Christoph Weber.

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

2024 “The Value of Literature: The Discard of Society in Wilhelm Raabe’s *Pfisters Mühle: Ein Sommerferienheft*.” *On_Culture*, vol. 17.

2021 “Kleist, Rousseau, and *Das Erdbeben in Chili*: Catastrophe as the Road to Reconciliation.” *Lessing Yearbook/Jahrbuch*, pp. 151–66.

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Essay Collections

In revision “The Catastrophe Paradigm: Kleist, Critique, and the New World Order.” *Critical Catastrophe Studies*, edited by Matthew Childs and Christoph Weber.

In revision “Conclusion: Catastrophe and Critique in the 21st Century.” *Critical Catastrophe Studies*, edited by Matthew Childs and Christoph Weber.

Peer-Reviewed Forum Publications

2025 “Naturkatastrophe.” *Umwelt-Wiki*, Umwelt Center for Germanic Studies and Environmental Humanities, Ohio State University. ([link](#))

- 2024 “Goethe’s *Faust* and *Sorge* in the Age of Imperialism and Colonialism.” *Goethe Yearbook*, vol. 31, pp. 151–57.

Peer-Reviewed Public-Facing Publications

- 2023 “Rethinking the West: Promise and Crisis of a Concept.” *Transatlanticism*. ([link](#))
 2023 “East Comma West - Münster.” *Rethinking the West: Promise and Crisis of a Concept*. ([link](#))

Invited Book Reviews

- In progress* Kontje, Todd. *Global Germany Circa 1800: A Revisionist Literary History* (Review). *Colloquia Germanica*.

Book Reviews

- In progress* Kowalewski, Jakub (Ed.). *The Environmental Apocalypse: Interdisciplinary Reflections on the Climate Crisis* (Review). *Ecokritike*.
 2026 Niekerk, Carl. *Enlightenment Anthropology: Defining Humanity in an Era of Colonialism* (Review). *Goethe Yearbook*, vol. 33.
 2026 Simpson, Patricia Anne. *German Empires and Decolonial Fantasies, 1492–1942* (Review). *Kult-Online*, no. 72.
 2025 Dupuy, Jean-Pierre. *How to Think About Catastrophe: Toward a Theory of Enlightened Doomsaying* (Review). *Kult-Online*, no. 71.
 2025 Tautz, Birgit. *Translating the World: Toward a New History of German Literature around 1800* (Review). *Goethe Yearbook*, vol. 32.
 2025 Turner, Bryan S. *A Theory of Catastrophe* (Review). *Kult-Online*, no. 70.
 2024 Ebach, Malte. *Goethe in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Enlightened Solutions for Modern Hubris* (Review). *Goethe Yearbook*, vol. 31, pp. 180–82.
 2022 Riedel, Peter Philipp. *Gelassene Teilnahme: Formen urbaner Muße im Werk Goethes* (Review). *Focus on German Studies*, vol. 29.

Additional Projects in Progress

- “Heterotopia and Race in Caroline Fischer’s *William der N***.” (article)
 “The White Stuff: Sugar and Capitalist Energies in Wilhelm Raabe’s *Pfisters Mühle: Ein Sommerferienheft* and *Sankt Thomas*.” (article)
 “*Faust*, Care, and Containment: Goethe’s Critique of Colonialist and Imperialist Paradigms.” (article)
 “En-Lightening Struggle: An Analysis of Light Metaphors in Goethe’s *Faust*.” (article)
 “‘Zuckungen’ and ‘Gefühlsader’: Catastrophe Thinking and Nervous Realism in Georg Büchner’s *Lenz*.” (article)

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Extramural

- 2026 Metzler-Mews Conference Travel Grant (American Association of Teachers of German)
 2026 German Studies Association Conference Community Fund (German Studies Association)
 2026 Graduate Student, Independent Scholar, and Contingent Faculty Travel and Research Fund (Goethe Society of North America)
 2025 Graduate Student, Independent Scholar, and Contingent Faculty Travel and Research Fund (Goethe Society of North America)
 2023 German Studies Grant (PAMLA)
 2022 Heidelberg University Association Scholarship (Heidelberg University Association)

2020	Gloria Flaherty Scholarship (Goethe Society of North America)
Intramural	
2026	Provost's Fund for Faculty Travel (Wake Forest University)
2025	Faculty Development Award (Wake Forest University)
2025	Humanities Institute, Interdisciplinary Faculty Workshop Seminar Grant (Wake Forest University)
2025	Wake the Arts Center Fund (Wake Forest University)
2025	Humanities Institute Guest Speaker Grant (Wake Forest University)
2025	Faculty-Student Engagement Fund (Wake Forest University)
2024	Faculty Development Award (Wake Forest University)
2024	Center for the Advancement of Teaching: New Faculty Learning Community Fellowship (Wake Forest University)
2022	Simpson Center for the Humanities Society of Scholars Summer Fellowship (University of Washington)
2020–2021	Antoinette Wills Endowed Scholarship (University of Washington)
2019–2020	Joff Hanauer Fellowship for Excellence in Western Civilizations (University of Washington)
2015–2016	Max Kade Foundation Fellowship
2015	Sauerlander Scholarship Award (University of Washington)
2015	Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics Graduate Student Excellence Award (Florida State University)
2013	Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics Community Service Award (Florida State University)

CONFERENCE PAPERS, ROUNDTABLES, GUEST LECTURES, AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers

2026 (<i>upcoming</i>)	"Race, Colonialism, and Imperialism: Notes from a German Culture Classroom." German Studies Association Annual Conference (24–27 September, Phoenix, AZ)
2026	"A Tradition of Catastrophe, or a Catastrophic Tradition? German and Italian Preoccupations with the End of the World." American Association for Italian Studies Annual Conference (3–5 June, Sassari, Italy)
2026	"Heterotopia, Imperial and Colonial Spatial Paradigms, and Race in Caroline Fischer's <i>William der N**</i> ." Modern Languages Association Annual Conference (8–11 January, Toronto, Canada)
2025	"AI and Intentionality: A Critical and Practical Approach to AI in the Language Classroom." South Atlantic Modern Language Association (6–8 November, Atlanta, GA)
2025	"Artificial Intelligence in the German Language Classroom: Placing Process over Product in Writing Assignments." Foreign Language Association of North Carolina Conference (4–5 October, Winston Salem, NC)
2025	"The White Stuff: Sugar and Capitalist Energies in Wilhelm Raabe's <i>Pfisters Mühle: Ein Sommerferienheft</i> and <i>Sankt Thomas</i> ." German Studies Association Annual Conference (25–28 September, Arlington, VA)
2024	"Faust, Care, and Containment: Goethe's Critique of Colonialist and Imperialist Paradigms." In seminar on "The Diversities of Care in the Long Nineteenth Century," German Studies Association Annual Conference (26–29 September, Atlanta, GA)

- 2024 “Energetic Waterways: The Flow and Ebb of Germany’s Rivers from *Werther* to *Pfisters Mühle*.” Modern Languages Association Annual Conference (4–7 January, Philadelphia, PA)
- 2023 “Catastrophic Transformations: Changing Perspectives on Catastrophe in Nineteenth-Century German Literature.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association Annual Conference (25–29 October, Portland, OR)
- 2023 “Foggy Pasts, Shifting Presents, Uncertain futures: Wilhelm Raabe’s *Pfisters Mühle: Ein Sommerferienheft*.” ESCCS and TransHumanities Joint Summer School, Justus Liebig Universität Giessen (19–23 June, Giessen, Germany)
- 2023 “The Ethics of Narrating Catastrophe: Kleist’s *Das Erdbeben in Chili*.” 72nd National Postgraduate Colloquium in German Studies, University of London (28–29 April, London, UK)
- 2019 “‘Zuckungen’ and ‘Gefühlsader’: The Desire and Impossibility of Literary Realism in Georg Büchner’s *Lenz*.” German Studies Association Annual Conference (3–6 October, Portland, OR)
- Roundtables**
- 2020 “Irony and Colonial Subversion in Goethe’s *Faust II*.” Modern Languages Association Annual Conference (9–12 January, Seattle, Washington)
- Campus Lectures**
- 2024 “Kuhle Wampe, oder Wem gehört die Welt? Brecht, Epic Theater, and Film.” For Prof. André Schütze, Department of German Studies, University of Washington
- 2023 “Bild und Wort. Bildende Kunst und literarischer Text im 18. Jahrhundert am Beispiel der Laokoon-Gruppe.” For Prof. Kai Sina, Germanistik-Institut, Universität Münster
- 2018 “On Dipesh Chakrabarty’s ‘The Climate of History: Four Theses.’” For Prof. Sabine Wilke, Department of German Studies, University of Washington
- Workshop Presentations**
- 2024 “Sugar High: Capitalist Energies in Wilhelm Raabe’s *Pfisters Mühle: Ein Sommerferienheft*.” Inaugural Workshop of Ohio State University’s *Umwelt Center for Germanic Studies and Environmental Humanities*
- 2020 “Moral Catastrophe: Kleist’s *Das Erdbeben in Chili*.” Goethezeit Dissertation Workshop, Goethe Society of North America, Goethe Atkins Conference (online)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2026–Present **Visiting Assistant Professor**, Department of World Languages and Cultures, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2024–2026 **Visiting Assistant Professor**, Department of German and Russian, Wake Forest University
- GER370: Directed Independent Study (Spring 2026)
 - GES335: German Film Through the Ages (Spring 2026)
 - GER330: German for Professional Purposes II (Spring 2026)
 - GER210: From War to War: German Culture Amidst Chaos, Conflict, and Change (Spring 2026)
 - GER329: German for Professional Purposes I (Fall 2025)
 - GES340: The Crisis of Civilization: Vienna around 1900 (Fall 2025)
 - GES340: Welcome to the Anthropocene: Contemporary German Culture and the Environment (Fall 2025)
 - GER153: Intermediate German – Germany Today (Spring 2025)

	GER318: German Conversation – The World is in Berlin (Spring 2025)
	GES340: Masterworks in Translation – The Measure of Man: Race/ism and Germany (Spring 2025)
	GER153: Intermediate German – Stories from the DDR (Fall 2024)
	GES340: German Masterworks in Translation – Catastrophe and Critique (Fall 2024)
	GES340: German Masterworks in Translation – Umwelt: Nature, German Literature, and the Environmental Imagination (Fall 2024)
2026	German Language Instructor , Vecino Center for Language and Culture, Winston-Salem, NC German Level 1 German Level 2
2023–2024	Pre-Doctoral Instructor , Department of German Studies, University of Washington GERM371: Vampires, Vamps, and Villains: Introduction to Weimar Film (Spring 2024, as Teaching Assistant to Prof. Andre Schuetze) GERM101: First-Year German (Winter 2024) GERM103: First-Year German (Fall 2023)
2022–2023	English Language Instructor , Sprachenzentrum, Universität Münster Academic Writing (Winter & Summer 2022–23) Debating in English (Winter & Summer 2022–23) From Seattle to New York: Cultural Studies U.S.A. (Winter & Summer 2022–23)
2017–2022	Pre-Doctoral Instructor , Department of German Studies, University of Washington GERM423: Studies in Twentieth-Century German Literature and Culture – Crisis and Catastrophe in Twentieth-Century German Literature (Spring 2022) GERM102: First-Year German (Winter 2022) GERM101: First-Year German (Fall 2021, Online/Zoom Course) GERM100: Intensive First-Year German (Summer 2021, Online/Zoom Course) GERM203: Second-Year German (Spring 2021, Online/Zoom Course) GERM111: Basic German Review (Fall 2020, Online/Zoom Course) GERM100: Intensive First-Year German (Summer 2020, Online/Zoom Course) GERM202: Second-Year German (Spring 2020, Online/Zoom Course) GERM203: Second-Year German (Winter 2020) GERM101: First-Year German (Fall 2019) GERM100: Intensive First-Year German (Summer 2019) GERM102: First-Year German (Spring 2019) GERM202: Second-Year German (Winter 2019) GERM201: Second-Year German (Fall 2018) GERM103: First-Year German (Spring 2018) GERM102: First-Year German (Winter 2018) GERM101: First-Year German (Fall 2017)
2019–2020	German Language Instructor , Language Strides German Language School Deutsch 4: Beginner, A 1.2 (Fall 2019) Deutsch 5: Beginner, A 1.2 (Winter 2020) Deutsch 6: Beginner, A 2.1 (Spring 2020) Intensive German for Beginners: Beginner, A 1.1–1.2 (Summer 2020)

2016–2017	English Language Instructor , Sprachenzentrum, Universität Münster Language Skills for the Humanities and Social Sciences (Summer 2023) Academic Writing (Winter & Summer 2022–23) Debating in English (Winter & Summer 2022–23) English Conversation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (Winter 2023)
2013–2015	Graduate Language Instructor , Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, Florida State University Intermediate German (Spring 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2014) Elementary German II (Spring 2015, Spring 2014) Elementary German I (Fall 2014, Fall 2013)
2012–2015	Intern and Substitute Language Instructor , German School of Tallahassee
2010–2012	Latin Tutor , Eta Sigma Phi Classics Honor Society, Florida State University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Extramural Service

2026	Peer Reviewer , Lessing Yearbook
2025	Peer Reviewer , Goethe Yearbook
2025	Peer Reviewer , Ecocritique

University Service

2025	Interviewer and Committee Member , Fulbright Committee, Wake Forest University
2025	Discussion Leader , “Project Wake: A Brave New World,” Office of Academic Advising, Wake Forest University
2021–2022	Arts and Sciences Advisory Council for Students Graduate Student Representative , College of Arts and Sciences, University of Washington

Departmental Service

2026	Organizer and Mentor, (Undergraduate) Directed Independent Study, “Anthropology around 1800,” Spring Semester , Department of German and Russian, Wake Forest University
2025–Present	German Studies Major Curriculum Committee Member , Department of German and Russian, Wake Forest University
2025–Present	Outreach Committee Member , Department of German and Russian, Wake Forest University
2025–Present	Co-Organizer , Fall Event Series: “Falling Walls: Memories of German Reunification,” Department of German and Russian, Wake Forest University
2024–Present	Co-Organizer , Kaffeestunde, Department of German and Russian, Wake Forest University
2025	Organizer , “Rude Girl: My Life on Both Sides of the Atlantic.” Guest Lecture by Prof. Priscilla Layne, Wake Forest University
2023–2024	Graduate Student Representative to the Diversity Committee , Department of German Studies, University of Washington
2019–2021	Graduate Student Representative to the Graduate Student Recruitment Committee , Department of German Studies, University of Washington
2020–2021	Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty , Department of German Studies, University of Washington
2019–2020	Graduate Student Representative to the Graduate Curriculum Committee , Department of German Studies, University of Washington
2019–2020	Graduate Student Representative to the Diversity Committee , Department of German Studies, University of Washington

2017–2020	Co-Organizer for Kaffeestunde , Department of German Studies, University of Washington
2018–2019	Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty , Department of German Studies, University of Washington
2015–2016	Co-Organizer for Germanics Film Series , Department of German Studies, University of Washington

PROFESSIONAL AND PROFESSIONALIZATION ACTIVITIES

2025–2026	Faculty Convener and Participant , “The First Book: Proposals and Early Work.” Humanities Institute, Interdisciplinary Faculty Workshop Seminar (Wake Forest University)
2025–2026	Participant and Certificate Recipient , “Leadership and Character Certificate Program.” The Program for Leadership and Character (Wake Forest University)
2021–2025	Participant , “Race and Imperialism in the Age of Goethe.” Virtual Reading Group, Goethe Society of North America (Online)
2025	Selected Participant , Course Design Institute, Center for the Advancement of Teaching (Wake Forest University)
2025	Selected Participant , Magnolias Curriculum Project, Office of Sustainability (Wake Forest University)
2025	Participant , “WISE (workshop on Intercultural Skills Enhancement) Conference.” Center for Global Programs & Studies (Wake Forest University)
2024	Participant , “AI Fest.” Wake Forest Information Systems (Wake Forest University)
2024	Selected Participant , Center for the Advancement of Teaching, New Faculty Learning Community (Wake Forest University)
2024	Advisor , “Goethe’s Welt/Welten.” Atkins Goethe Conference, Goethe Society of North America (Trinity University, San Antonio, TX)
2024	Participant , “Empowering Language Learning with AI” (Wake Forest University)
2024	Selected Participant , “Diversity and Social (In)Justice in German as a Foreign Language.” Professionalization Seminar of InterDaF at the Herder-Institut, supported by AATG and the Transatlantik-Programm der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Universität Leipzig)
2024	Co-Organizer , “Culture and Conflict.” Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference (University of Washington)
2023	Co-Organizer , Panel Series on “Catastrophe and Critique.” German Studies Association Annual Conference (Montréal, Canada)
2023	Participant , “Hyak Teaching Conference and Workshop.” American Association of Teachers of German, Washington State Chapter (Hyak, WA)
2022	Selected Participant , “Internationaler Ferienkurs für deutsche Sprache und Kultur der Universität Heidelberg.” (Universität Heidelberg)
2021	Lead Organizer , “Conceiving the (Un)quiet Mind: Representations of Mental Health in Literature, Media, and Art.” Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference (University of Washington)
2021	Co-Organizer , “Transcultural Approaches to Europe.” Interdisciplinary Colloquium (University of Washington)
2020	Selected Participant , Goethe Society of North America Dissertation Workshop (Online)

- 2019 **Co-Organizer**, “Residues and Remnants: (re)Presenting Cultural Memory, Contamination, and Destruction.” Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference (University of Washington)
- 2017–2019 **Co-Organizer**, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Studies Graduate Research Cluster (University of Washington)
- 2018 **Selected Participant**, “DaF in den USA: Grundzüge und Perspektiven.” DAAD-Fortbildungskurs (University of California, Berkley)

ADMINISTRATIVE, EDITORIAL, AND TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024–Present **Editorial Board Member**, *Augenblick* (Digital Journal for Undergraduate Research in German Studies, University of British Columbia)
- 2023–2024 **Co-Editor**, *Process: Journal of Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Scholarship* (Digital Journal)
- 2021–2022 **International Program Coordinator for Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, and Scandinavia**, NorthWest Student Exchange (Seattle, WA)
- 2020–2021 **Lead Teaching Assistant for the German Language Program**, Department of German Studies, University of Washington (Seattle, WA)

LANGUAGE TEACHING COMPETENCIES

English
German
Latin

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Teachers of German
German Studies Association
Goethe Society of North America
Modern Languages Association

REFERENCES

Assoc. Prof. Tina Boyer, Wake Forest University
Assoc. Prof. Jason Groves, University of Washington
Prof. Jonathan Warren, University of Washington
Prof. Christoph Weber, University of North Texas
Assoc. Prof. Ellwood Wiggins, University of Washington
Prof. Emerita Sabine Wilke, University of Washington

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