

CURRICULUM VITAE
ELISABETH ENGEL

Research Fellow in North American and Transatlantic History
German Historical Institute
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MAIN AREAS OF INTEREST

Early and modern North America; history of risk and uncertainty; history of race and religion; Atlantic and transnational history; colonial and missionary history; postcolonial studies

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT

“Risks Will Be Taken: Insurance and the Insecure Beginnings of American Independence, 1770s-1840s”

EDUCATION

- 2014 PhD (Magna cum laude) in Modern History, Freie Universität Berlin
 Dissertation “African American (Anti-)Colonialism: The African Methodist Episcopal Church and Colonial Africa, 1918-1939”
 Advisors: Michaela Hampf and Sebastian Conrad
- 2011-2012 Visiting PhD student, Department of History, Columbia University
- 2007 MA in Political Science, Anglo-American History and English Language and Literature
- 2003-2007 Undergraduate study in Political Science, Anglo-American History and English Language and Literature, University of Cologne and Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Since Research fellow in North American and Transatlantic History
Oct. 2014 German Historical Institute Washington (GHI)
- 2014 Lecturer in British and North American History, Department of History, University of Kassel
- Teaching assignment in North American History, John F. Kennedy Institute, Freie Universität Berlin (summer term)

Visiting scholar, Department of History, Johns Hopkins University
(summer semester break)

Visiting scholar, Centre canadien d'études allemandes et
européennes, Université de Montréal (winter semester break)

2009-2013 PhD candidate in North American History, Graduate School of
North American Studies, John F. Kennedy Institute, Freie
Universität Berlin

2010/11 Teaching assignment in North American History, John F. Kennedy
Institute, Freie Universität Berlin (winter term)

2008-2009 Assistant professor (wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin), Department
of Anglo-American History, University of Cologne

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Encountering Empire: African American Missionaries in Colonial Africa, 1900-1939. Transatlantic Historical Studies, vol. 56. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner, 2015.

Edited Volumes

With Eva Bischoff. *Colonialism and Beyond: Race and Migration from a Postcolonial Perspective.* Periplus Studien, vol. 17. Münster: Lit, 2013.

Edited Series

Transatlantische Historische Studien. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag. With Simone Lässig, Axel Jansen, and Jan Jansen (since 2015).

Edited Special Issues

With Nicholas Grant. Special Issue: "Going South: Tracing Race and Region in the Post-emancipation Black Atlantic." *Journal of American Studies*. Forthcoming spring 2018.

With James Kennedy and Justin Reynolds. Special Issue: "The Theory and Practice of Ecumenism: Christian Global Governance and the Search for World Order, 1900-1980." *Journal of Global History* (articles submitted for peer review, publication tentatively scheduled for the second half of 2018).

Journal articles

With Nicholas Grant, "Going South: Tracing Race and Region in the Post-Emancipation Black Atlantic," *Journal of American Studies*, Special Issue: "Going South: Tracing Race and Region in the Post-Emancipation Black Atlantic," edited by Elisabeth Engel and Nicholas Grant. Forthcoming spring 2018.

"Southern Looks? A History of African American Missionary Photography of Africa, 1890s-1930s," *Journal of American Studies*, Special Issue: "Going South:

Tracing Race and Region in the Post-Emancipation Black Atlantic,” edited by Elisabeth Engel and Nicholas Grant. Forthcoming spring 2018.

“A wild, ungovernable thing’: Risk and Insurance at the Beginning of American Independence, 1770-1840,” *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* 58 (Spring 2016): 71-85.

“From Sex in Colonial Africa to Anticolonialism in the Bedroom: Reflections on the African American Missionary Position.” *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* 57 (Fall 2015): 101-19.

“The Fe-male Within: Ventriloquists, Tricksters and Cyborgs as Inappropriate/d Femininities in and of Black Female American Gangsta Rap,” *UIP Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 1, no. 2 (January 2010): 64-81.

Book chapters

“Risk and Representation in the Early Republic,” *Perilous Passages: The Birth of Risk in 19th-Century American Culture*, edited by Karin Hoepker and Jeanne Cortiel (in preparation).

“W.E.B. Du Bois: *The Souls of Black Folk*, or: The Sex of Black Folk,” *race&sex: Eine Geschichte der Neuzeit. 49 Schlüsseltexte aus vier Jahrhunderten neu gelesen*, edited by Jürgen Martschukat and Olaf Stieglitz, 248-55. Neofelis: Berlin, 2016.

“Provincializing Pan-Africanism: The African Methodist Episcopal Church and British West Africa,” *Provincializing the United States: Colonialism, Decolonization, and (Post)colonial Governance in Transnational Perspective*, edited by Eva Bischoff, Norbert Finzsch and Ursula Lehmkuhl, 181-204. Heidelberg: Winter, 2014.

with Eva Bischoff, “Colonialism and Beyond: Race and Migration from a Postcolonial Perspective,” *Colonialism and Beyond: Race and Migration from a Postcolonial Perspective*, edited by Elisabeth Engel and Eva Bischoff, 3-19. Münster: Lit, 2013.

“‘In the First Place You Must Combine’: Visionen von *Race* und Globalität in Britisch-Westafrika” [Visions of race and the global in British West Africa], *Aufbruch ins postkoloniale Zeitalter: Globalisierung und die außereuropäische Welt in den 1920er und 1930er Jahren*, edited by Sönke Kunkel and Christoph Meyer, 168-89. Globalgeschichte, vol. 12. Frankfurt am Main: Campus, 2012.

Peer-reviewed online publications

“Hugo Wesendonck,” *Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German-American Business Biographies, 1720 to the Present*, vol. 2, edited by William J. Hausman. German Historical Institute. Last modified August 25, 2016. URL: <http://www.immigrantentrepreneurship.org/entry.php?rec=278>

Critical introduction to *Excitable Speech: A Politics of the Performative*, by Judith Butler. In *Online Library of Key Texts in Modern Science*. London: Mouseion Professors Ltd. Mai 2015.

Book reviews

New Directions in the Study of African American Recolonization, edited by Beverly C. Tomek and Matthew J. Hetric. *Journal of Southern History* (forthcoming).

Beautiful Data: A History of Vision and Reason since 1945, by Orit Halpern. *Canadian Journal of History / Annales canadiennes d'histoire* 52, no. 3 (forthcoming Winter 2017).

The Prism of Race: W.E.B. Du Bois, Langston Hughes, Paul Robeson, and the Colored World of Cedric Dover, Nico Slate. H-Soz-u-Kult, H-Net Reviews. August 2015. URL: <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=44922>

“From the New South to the Global South: A Global History of Colonization”, review of *Alabama in Africa: Booker T. Washington, the German Empire, and the Globalization of the New South*, Andrew Zimmerman. *Books and Ideas*, November 21, 2012. ISSN: 2105-3030. URL:

<http://www.booksandideas.net/From-the-New-South-to-the-Global.html>

Blogposts

“The (African) American Missionary Movement in Africa in the Early Twentieth Century,” *Process: A Blog for American History*, August 29, 2017. URL: <http://www.processhistory.org/engel-american-missionaries/>

“Towards a History of Missionary Knowledge? Impressions from the Conference ‘Mapping Entanglements,’” *History of Knowledge*, March 2, 2017. URL: <https://historyofknowledge.net/2017/03/02/towards-a-history-of-missionary-knowledge/>.

Translation

Dirk Moses, “Der nichtdeutsche Deutsche und der deutsche Deutsche: Stigma und Opfer-Erlösung in der Berliner Republik.” In *Demokratie im Schatten der Gewalt: Geschichten des Privaten im deutschen Nachkrieg*, edited by Daniel Fulda, Dagmar Herzog, Stefan Ludwig-Hofmann and Till van Rahden, 353–78. Göttingen: Wallstein, 2010.

TEACHING

2017/18 “Risiko und Unsicherheit im Zeitalter der Revolutionen” [“Risk and Uncertainty in the Age of Revolutions”], undergraduate seminar in international history, University of Trier

2015, 2016 “Archival Summer Seminar in Germany” (two weeks introduction to reading German script and researching in German archives for

North American PhD students), German Historical Institute
Washington

- 2014 “Visuals and Visibility in African American History” (taught in English), BA North American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin
“Visualizations of Blackness in Modern American Culture” (taught in English), BA History/American and English studies, University of Kassel
“Was macht einen Text wissenschaftlich? Einführung ins wissenschaftliche Schreiben” [“How Do Texts Become Academic? Introduction to Scholarly Writing“] BA History/American and English studies, University of Kassel
- 2010/11 “Traders, Slaves and Pirates: The Ship in American History and Culture” (taught in English), BA North American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin
- 2008/09 “Theory and Methods of Postcolonial Studies (advanced)” and “African American Movements in the 20th Century” (both taught in English), BA History/MA North American Studies, University of Cologne
- 2008 “Introduction to Theories and Methods of Postcolonial Studies” (taught in English) and
“(Post)koloniale Räume im British Empire des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts” [“(Post)colonial Spaces in the British Empire, 19th and 20th Centuries“], BA History/MA North American Studies, University of Cologne

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Member of the advisory board of the digital humanities project *To Enter Africa from America: U.S. Empire, Race, and the African Question, 1847-1919* led by Jeanette Eileen Jones, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (since 2016)
- Staff representative of the GHI Washington (since 2016)
- Member of the editorial board of the “Transatlantische Historische Studien” [Transatlantic Historical Studies], Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart (since 2015)
- Organization of the GHI Research Seminar for presentations and discussions of postdoc projects by international scholars (biweekly, since 2015)
- Founding member of the African Network in Global History (since 2009)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

- 2014 Franz Steiner Prize for Transatlantic History, awarded for dissertation by the Franz Steiner Verlag and the GHI Washington for an outstanding scholarly manuscript in the fields of transatlantic history or North American history
- 2014 Global Humanities Research and Teaching grant, German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst)
- 2014 Postdoctoral fellowship, Centre canadien d'études allemandes et européennes, Université de Montréal
- 2009-2013 PhD scholarship, German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft)
- 2011/12 Visiting PhD scholarship, Columbia University
- 2012 Annette Baxter Travel Grant, American Studies Association (ASA)
- 2010, 2011 Doctoral research grants, GHI Washington
- 2009 Doctoral research grant, GHI London

MEMBERSHIPS

African Network in Global History; Radical Americas Network; Critical Approaches to Race and Ethnicity (CARE)

LANGUAGES

German (mother tongue), English (fluent), Latin, Spanish, Lithuanian, and Russian (basic)

ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES, LECTURE SERIES, AND PANELS

- 2017 "Learning at the Margins: The Creation and Dissemination of Knowledge among African Americans and Jews since the 1880s," international conference, September 7-9, 2017, Washington, DC (with Kierra Crago-Schneider, Yvonne Poser, and Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson)
- "Mapping Entanglements: Dynamics of Missionary Knowledge and 'Materialities' across Space and Time (16th-20th Centuries)," international conference, February 10-11, Washington, DC (with Sabina Brevaglieri)
- "The Making of the Digital World," spring lecture series of the GHI, March-May. Washington, DC (with Anne Schenderlein)

- “Scales in Digital Mapping: New Approaches to Linking Cultural Experiences in American History,” panel at the AHA annual meeting, Denver
- 2016 “Uncertainty and Risk in America: (Un)stable Histories from the Late Colonial Period to the Gilded Age,” international workshop, June 30-July 2, Freie Universität Berlin (with Sebastian Jobs)
- 2015 “The U.S. South in the Black Atlantic: Transnational Histories of the Jim Crow South since 1865,” international workshop, June 4-6, Washington, DC (with Nicholas Grant and Mischa Honeck)
- 2014 “Religious Globalization: Theory and Practice of the *Oikumene* in the 20th Century,” panel at the Fourth European Congress on World and Global History in Paris, September 3 (with Justin Reynolds)
- 2010 “States of Emergency: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Dynamics of Crises,” 3rd International Conference of the Graduate School of North American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, June 11-12, 2010
- 2009 “Colonialism and Beyond: History from a Postcolonial Perspective,” lecture series of the Department of Anglo-American History, University of Cologne, (with Eva Bischoff and the student council)

INVITED LECTURES

- “Risky Matters: Perspectives on the Beginnings of Insurance in North America,” Shelby Cullom Davies Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University, April 2018
- “Measuring Risk in the Age of Revolution: Perspectives from the North American Insurance Business,” University of Essen-Duisburg, January 2018
- “Risk and Security in the American Revolutionary Era,” University of Marburg, December 2017
- “Wild, Ungovernable Things: Risk and Insurance in Early America,” University of Erfurt, June 2016
- “Risks Will Be Taken: Insurance and the Uncertain Beginnings of American Independence, 1770s-1840s,” University of Mainz, November 2015
- “Meeting the Native: African American Missionary Self-fashioning in Colonial Africa,” Université de Montréal, March 2014
- “Evangelical Encounters in the Black Atlantic: African American Missionary Work in Colonial Africa in the Late 1930s,” McGill University, Montréal, November 2011

- "African Americans' 'Civilizing Mission' in Colonial Africa during the Interwar Years," Lecture Series "Colonialism and Beyond," University of Cologne, July 2010

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Learning How to Construct the Unknown: The Practice of Risk in Early North American Insurance Manuals," Learning by the Book conference, Princeton University, June 2018 (accepted)
- "Fear at the Beginning of American Independence: Approaching the Spatial History of Insurance," annual meeting of the AHA, Denver, January 2017
- "What One Had Got to Lose: Insurance and the Conditions of Failure in Revolutionary America," The Failed Individual conference, Mannheim, November 2015
- "Southern Looks: The Image of Africa in African American Missionary Photography since 1900," The US South in the Black Atlantic (Workshop), Washington, DC, June 2015
- "Constructions of Risk in Revolutionary America: A Transatlantic Perspective," annual meeting of the Society for German-American Studies (SGAS), St. Louis, April 2015
- "Risk as a Cultural Dynamic," Principles of Cultural Dynamics Workshop, Johns Hopkins University, December 2014
- "Theories and Practices of the 'American Negro' in the International Missionary Council's Modern World Mission," annual meeting of the AHA, Washington, DC, January 2014
- "Bourgeois Radicals? Considerations on the Role of African American Missionary Photography and Film in the Early 20th Century," founding conference of the Radical Americas Network, London, January 2013
- "Indigenizing Black Christianity in the South Atlantic," annual meeting of the American Studies Association (ASA), San Juan, November 2012
- "The African Methodist Episcopal Church, Ecumenical Internationalism and the Modern World Mission in Colonial Africa, 1918-1939," Graduate Conference on International History, Harvard University, March 2012
- "Diseases of Civilization: African American Missionaries and Anti-colonial Biopolitics in Colonial Africa," Center for International History, Columbia University, April 2010
- "Anticolonialism as a Way of Life: The African Methodist Episcopal Church and Colonial Africa during the 1920s and 1930s," annual meeting

of the German Association for American Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien), Wittenberg, February 2010

- “Anticolonial Racism? African Americans’ Racial Uplift Ideology as Civilizing Mission,” founding conference of the African Network of Global History (ANIGH), University of Ilorin, Nigeria, December 2009
- “Crossing the Color Line - Becoming Anticolonial? Afro-AmerikanerInnen als AkteurInnen der (De)kolonisierung Afrikas zwischen den Weltkriegen,” Jacobs Universität Bremen, August 2009

Washington DC, October 15, 2017