

BENJAMIN PETER HEIN

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Employment

2019-present Assistant Professor of History, Brown University, Providence, RI
2019 (spring) Lecturer, Department of History, Stanford University, Stanford, CA
2010-11 Administrator/ Staff, Center for Civic and Community Engagement, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Education

2018 Ph.D., History, Stanford University, Stanford, CA
2010 B.A., History, Economics, s. c. l., Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Overview of Research and Teaching

Trained in the history of modern Germany and global history, I am interested in cultural exchanges spawned by the circulation of ideas, people, and goods across Europe and the North Atlantic World. My work asks how such movements shaped major historical transformations in the European past, from the industrial revolution to the formation of nation-states and the emergence of a new political subject. I teach courses on the history of capitalism, migration, and war, as well as on the philosophy and methods of historical inquiry.

Publications

Monographs

The Migrant's Spirit. How Industrial Modernity Came to the German Lands
(Oxford University Press, 2025)

“War Stories. The Lives of Soldiers and the Rules of Commerce”
[in progress]

Journal articles (peer reviewed)

“Old Regime in a New World: Frankfurt’s Financial Market in the 19th Century,”
The Journal of Modern History, vol. 92, no. 4 (2020): 735-773.

“Peoples Migrations? Revisiting the Politics of Leaving in Nineteenth-Century
Germany” [under review]

“Soldiers and the Early Phases of Industrialization: The Case of Electoral
Saxony” [in progress]

Book reviews

“Between Borders: The Great Jewish Migration from Eastern Europe by Tobias
Brinkmann (Review).” *German Studies Review* 48, no. 3 (2025): 536–38.

“An Economic History of the First German Unification: State Formation and
Economic Development in a European Perspective by Ulrich Pfister and
Nikolaus Wolf, eds. (Review). *Central European History* 58, no. 4
(2025): 487-489.

“From Old Regime to Industrial State: A History of German
Industrialization from the Eighteenth Century to World War 1 by
Michael Kopsidis and Richard H. Tilly (Review).” *Central European
History*, vol. 54, no. 4 (2021): pp. 702-704.

“Austrian Reconstruction and the Collapse of Global Finance, 1921–1931 by Nathan Marcus (Review).” *German Studies Review*, vol. 43, no. 3 (2020): 629-632.

“The Nomad In Us.” Review of *Against the Grain: A Deep History of the Earliest States* by James Scott. *Taxis Magazine* (2019).

Introduction to H-Diplo Roundtable XXI-14 on Edith Sheffer’s *Asperger’s Children: The Origins of Autism in Nazi Vienna*, eds. Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins and Diane Labrosse. Co-authored with Michelle Kahn and Samuel Huneke.

General interest publications

“Migration, Creativity, and the Construction of Knowledge,” *GHI Washington Blog: Migrant Knowledge* (2019).

“Stanford humanities scholars put the human back into economics,” *Stanford Report* (2014).

“Meet Caesar, man of letters, says Stanford’s Christopher Krebs,” *Stanford Report* (2013).

“Rachel Maddow urges students to master the art of argument in her first return to Stanford,” *Stanford Report* (2013).

“Teaching in the streets of Istanbul, Stanford historian urges students to look beyond the monuments,” *Stanford Report* (2012).

“Getting to know you: Stanford scholar examines domestic surveillance in the USSR,” *Stanford Report* (2012).

“Stanford researcher maps melodies used in Holocaust to control prisoners,” *Stanford Report* (2012).

Invited Talks

2026 “The Migrant’s Spirit. How Industrial Modernity Came to the German Lands.” Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts.

2026 “The Migrant’s Spirit. How Industrial Modernity Came to the German Lands.” Rice University, Houston, Texas.

2025 “The Migrant’s Spirit. How Industrial Modernity Came to the German Lands.” New York University, New York.

2024 “Contract Regiments in the Eighteenth Century.” University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany.

2021 “Rethinking the Language of Class in the German Lands, 1776-1848.” German Historical Institute Research Seminar, Washington DC.

2016 “Nation Incorporated: Forty-Eighters and the Business of Nation-States.” Geballe Research Workshop: Approaches to Capitalism at the Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University.

Workshop and Conference Presentations

2026 “A Stocking Frame from the Army? On War and Industrialization in Electoral Saxony.” European Labour History Network Conference, Barcelona, Spain.

2024 “Mercenaries and Industrialization.” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. (panel co-organizer)

- 2023 “Land and Other Arguments for Industrial Modernity.” Council for European Studies, Reykjavik, Iceland.
- 2022 “The Politics of Migration.” Annual Conference of the World History Association, University of the Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain.
- 2021 “Württemberg, 1817; or, The Spirit of Migration.” Brown European History Workshop, Brown University, Providence, RI.
- 2021 “Emigration and Revolution in the German Lands.” Annual Conference of the Consortium for the Revolutionary Era, 1750-1850, conducted online.
- 2020 “The Frankfurt Story. Financial Markets, Power, and the Struggle for North America.” Annual Conference of the American Historical Association, New York, NY. (panel organizer)
- 2019 “The Whistleblower in German Society. Reflections on Sovereignty in the North Atlantic World,” GSA Annual Conference, Portland, OR.
- 2019 “The Migration Story and the Global Turn in German Citizenship.” German Historical Institute Conference: The Politics of Sovereignty and Globalism in Modern Germany, Washington D.C.
- 2019 “Germany’s GmbH: Securing the Liberal Order in an Age of Mass Migration.” Stanford Center for Law and History, Stanford University.
- 2018 “Of Greenbacks and Anti-Semites: Atlantic Perspectives on Central European History.” West Coast Germanists’ Workshop, German Historical Institute and UC Davis.
- 2017 “Migrant Letters and ‘Capitalist Spirits.’ German Commercial Law in an Atlantic World Context, 1850-1870.” 21st Annual Congress of the European Business History Association (EBHA), Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien.
- 2016 “Making Kinship Pay: Money and Inheritance in Nineteenth Century Migrant Correspondence.” Migration (With)out Boundaries Annual Conference at Michigan State University, Lansing, MI.
- 2016 “Emigration, German America, and the Idea of Deutsche Bank, 1848-1878.” Harvard University CON-IH 16 Conference (“Global and International History: The Economic Dimension”), Cambridge, MA.

Grants & Fellowships

- 2025 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend Grant (\$8,000)
- 2022 Cogut Institute Faculty Fellowship, Brown University
- 2021 Richard B. Salomon Faculty Research Award, Brown University (\$13,000)
- 2019 Junior Faculty Development Fund Award, Brown University (\$5,000)
- 2019 Humanities Research Fund Award, Brown University (\$1,800)
- 2018 Commencement Speaker, Stanford University History Department
- 2016-17 Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (\$29,000)
- 2014-15 Free University of Berlin Graduate Exchange Fellowship (\$15,000)
- 2014-16 The Europe Center Research Grant, Stanford University (\$6,100)
- 2014 Stanford H & S Graduate Research Opportunities Grant (\$5,000, *declined*)
- 2013 Fritz Thyssen Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, IICAS at UC San Diego ((\$4,877)
- 2013 Stanford H & S Graduate Research Opportunities Grant (\$5,000, *declined*)
- 2012 Phi Beta Kappa
- 2010 Charles E. Shepard Scholarship for Graduate Study, Emory University (\$10,000)
- 2010 Matthew A. Carter Citizen-Scholar Award, Emory University
- 2009 George P. Cuttino Research Scholarship, Emory University (\$4,800)

Teaching

- Awards* Brown Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Access Ambassador Award (2021)
Finalist, Stanford History Department Best Sources & Methods Course (2016)
Stanford University Teagle Foundation Graduate Teaching Award (2012)
- Courses at Brown* Hist1994: History Honors Thesis Workshop, part 2[undergraduate seminar]
Hist1993: History Honors Thesis Workshop, part 1[undergraduate seminar]
Hist1992: History Honors Thesis Prospectus Workshop [undergraduate seminar]
Hist2972A: Histories of Modernity (co-taught with Tiraana Bains) [graduate seminar]
Hist0150A: History of Capitalism [lecture]
Hist0150A: History of Capitalism (co-taught w/ Lukas Rieppel) [lecture]
Hist0228B: The Great Departure: How Europe Became Modern [lecture]
Hist523P: The First World War [undergraduate seminar]
Hist1241A: Migration in European History [lecture]
Hist1965I: Industrial Revolution in Europe [undergraduate seminar]
Hman1976G: Politics of Migration [undergraduate seminar]
- Courses at Stanford* Hist38G/138G: Europe and Its Great Migrations [lecture]
Hist106B: The Invention of the Economy [seminar]
Hist234K: Economic Miracles? Crisis and Recovery in Modern Europe (co-taught w/ Edith Sheffer) [seminar]
- Graduate advising* PhD Field Examiner: Jakob Lippert (2025), Norman Frazier (2025-26)
Dissertation Committee: Jakob Lippert, Jorge Rosario Rosario, James Wang (2023)
Research Assistantships: Jorge Rosario Rosario (2023), Norman Frazier (2023), Jakob Lippert (2024), Nicholas Gandolfo-Lucia (2025).
- Undergraduate advising* Honors theses: Adam Bollt (2025, honors), Mica Maltzman (2025, honors)
First- and Second-year Advisor (2020-26)
History Department Concentration Advisor (2024-present)
Faculty Advisor to the Brown Journal of History (2021-22, 2024-present)

Service

- Director of the Honors Program, Brown Department of History (2025-present)
Member, Undergraduate Committee, Brown Department of History (2024-present)
Member, Faculty Executive Committee (FEC), Brown University (2024-present)
Member, Priorities Planning Committee (PPC), Brown Department of History (2021/22)
Founder and Co-Convener of the Brown European History Workshop, Brown Department of History (2020-present)
Co-Convener 'Frische' Intensive Reading Seminar, Brown Department of History (2021)
Peer reviewer for *The Journal of Social History*

Professional Associations

- American Historical Association

German Studies Association
World History Association
Society for Military History