

Dr. Jeremy Best

Assistant Professor, Iowa State University of Science and Technology

Academic affiliation:

Department of History
Ross 603
Ames, IA 50011-1202
515/294-1418
bestja@iastate.edu

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Modern European History* 2012
University of Maryland (College Park, Maryland)
- M.A.T. in Elementary Education* 2004
The Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Maryland)
 - Certification in Elementary Education, Maryland State Department of Education
- B.A. in History, German* 2002
Vanderbilt University (Nashville, Tennessee)
 - *Magna cum laude*, High Honors in History (History Honors Advisor: Dr. Helmut Walser Smith)

APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor, Department of History 2015-Present
Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa)
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History 2014-2015
Appalachian State University (Boone, North Carolina)
- Adjunct Lecturer, Department of History 2013-2014
Appalachian State University (Boone, North Carolina)

PUBLICATIONS

- Best, Jeremy. *Toy Soldiering: West German Rearmament, the Holocaust, and the United States*. Manuscript in development.
- Best, Jeremy. *Heavenly Fatherland: German Missionary Culture and Globalization in the Age of Empire*. German and European Studies. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2021.
 - Phi Alpha Theta Best First Book Award, 2021
- Best, Jeremy. "The Kaiser's Silver: German Nationalism and the 1913 *Nationalspende* for Christian Mission." Article in development.
- Best, Jeremy. "Empire and the development of Missiology." In *The Oxford History of Modern German Theology*, Volume II, edited by Mark Chapman. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. Under contract.
- Best, Jeremy. "Godly, International, and Independent: German Protestant Missionary Loyalties before World War I." *Central European History* 47, no. 3 (Fall 2014): 585-611.
- Best, Jeremy. "Science for Mission and Empire: The *Allgemeine Missions-Zeitschrift* and Missionary Nationalism." In *Missions and Media: The Politics of Missionary Periodicals in the Long Nineteenth Century*, edited by Felicity Jensz and Hanna Acke, 39-56. Missionsgeschichte Archiv Series. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2013.

Dr. Jeremy Best

Assistant Professor, Iowa State University of Science and Technology

Best, Jeremy. Review of *The Berlin-Baghdad Express: The Ottoman Empire and Germany's Bid for World Power* by Sean McMeekin. *Marine Corps University Journal* 2, no. 1 (Spring 2011): 132-134.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

<i>Miller Faculty Fellowship (A History of Genocide)</i> Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa)	2021
<i>Holocaust Educational Foundation Course Development Grant</i> Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois)	2021
<i>LAS Research & Travel Grant (Toy Soldiering, canceled due to COVID-19)</i> College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa)	2020
<i>LAS Research & Travel Grant (Toy Soldiering)</i> College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa)	2019
<i>Publication Subvention Grant (\$10,000)</i> Office of the Vice President for Research, Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa)	2018
<i>LAS Research & Travel Grant</i> College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa)	2018
<i>Jack and Anita Hess Faculty Seminar, "Silenced Voices and Marginalized Histories: Roma and Sinti in the Holocaust"</i> Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Washington, District of Columbia)	2018
<i>Foreign Travel Grant</i> Faculty Senate, Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa)	2017
<i>CEAH Research Grant, "Mission Culture at Home: Popularizing the Heavenly Empire"</i> Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities, Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa)	2016
<i>Holocaust Educational Foundation Course Development Grant</i> Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois)	2016
<i>LAS Small Grant (Heavenly Fatherland)</i> College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa)	2016
<i>Holocaust Educational Foundation Summer Institute Fellow</i> Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois)	2014
<i>German Historical Institute Conference Grant</i> German Historical Institute (Washington, District of Columbia)	2013
<i>Gordon Prange Dissertation Fellowship</i> Department of History, University of Maryland (College Park, Maryland)	2011
<i>German Historical Institute Fellow</i> German Historical Institute (Washington, District of Columbia)	2010
<i>Fulbright Fellow</i> German-American Fulbright Commission/Institute for International Education (Berlin, Germany)	2009-2010

Dr. Jeremy Best

Assistant Professor, Iowa State University of Science and Technology

Prospectus Development Grant

2008

University of Maryland, Department of History (College Park, Maryland)

AWARDS AND HONORS

Phi Alpha Theta Best First Book Award for *Heavenly Fatherland*, Phi Alpha Theta, August 2021.

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Nazi Legacy: Reconstruction Efforts and Memory Projects since 1945 Seminar, at the German Studies Association Conference 2020, Washington, D.C. 1-4 October 2020. (forthcoming, postponed to October 2021)
- “Let’s Kill Hitler! When Game Night Meets German History,” at the German Studies Association Conference 2019, Portland, Oregon. 3-6 October 2019.
- “Heavenly Fatherland: German Missionary Culture and Globalization – Lightning Talk,” at the Iowa State University Faculty Research Day, Ames, Iowa. 28 March 2019. Recording at <https://vimeo.com/album/5881906>.
- “Speaking in Tongues: What Germans Talked about When They Talked about Race,” Iowa State University Department Colloquium, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. 31. January 2019.
- “Missionaries in the Professoriate: *Missionswissenschaft* and the German University, 1880-1914,” at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado. 17-20 November 2018.
- “Traveling Preachers and Traveling Exhibits: Missionary Representations of Africa and Africans,” at the German Studies Association Conference 2018, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. 27-30 September 2018.
- “Universalist Destruction, 1914: German Protestantism and Global Evangelism,” at the 2018 App Spring Conference in World and Economic History, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina. 15 April 2018.
- “Teaching Christians or Training Laborers? Schools and Language in German East Africa,” at the Ecclesiastical History Society Winter Meeting, Magdalene College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK. 14 January 2017.
- “An Alternative ‘Racial Imaginary,’” at the German Studies Association Conference 2015, Washington, District of Columbia. 1-4 October 2015.
- “Imagining Africans in Silesia: Missionary Culture and Globalization in the Nineteenth Century,” at the Appalachian State University History Department Seminar, Boone, North Carolina. 19 March 2015.
- “The once verdant German mission realm lies desolate:” World War I, German Missionaries, and the Versailles Peace Treaty,” at Legacy of World War I Conference, Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 14-15 November 2014.
- “*Weltpolitik* and *Missionspolitik*: German Foreign Affairs before World War One,” at 2014 North Carolina Association of Historians Annual Meeting, Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City, North Carolina. 4 April 2014.
- “German Protestant Missionary Allegiances and the Global Nineteenth Century,” at “Place, (Dis)Place and Citizenship,” at the Eleventh Annual Conference in Citizenship Studies, Center for the Study of Citizenship, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. 20-22 March 2014.
- “Competing Missions from God: The Complications of Universal Christian Brotherhood,” at the Appalachian State University History Department Seminar. Boone, North Carolina. 19 February 2014.
- “Local Prayers, Global Worship: Nineteenth-Century German Mission Societies and the Revival of Missionary Spirit in the *Heimat*,” at the German Studies Association Conference 2013, Denver, Colorado. 3-6 October 2013.

Dr. Jeremy Best

Assistant Professor, Iowa State University of Science and Technology

- “Evangelizing against the Nation: The Case of the *Ausschuß der deutschen evangelischen Missionen, 1880-1919*,” at the German Studies Association Conference 2012, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 4-7 October 2012.
- “‘Founding a Heavenly Empire’: Raising *Missionsgeist* and Mission Funds in the *Heimat*,” at the 18th Transatlantic Doctoral Seminar, German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C. 2-5 May 2012.
- “The Battle for Souls: Protestant and Catholic Struggles over Mission Territories in German East Africa, 1884-1914,” at the Boston College Biennial Conference on the History of Religion, Department of History, Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts. 30-31 March 2012.
- “Schools in the Wilderness: Nineteenth-Century German Protestant Missionary Conceptions of Race and Culture,” at the History Department Graduate Colloquium, University of Maryland, College Park. 2 November 2011.
- “Science for Mission and Empire: The *Allgemeine Missions-Zeitschrift* and Missionary Nationalism,” at “Politics within Nineteenth Century Missionary Periodicals Workshop,” Religion und Politik Exzellenzcluster, Westfälische Wilhelms Universität Münster, Germany. 2 December 2010.
- “Edinburgh to Versailles: The German Missionary Movement and the First World War,” at the German Studies Association Conference 2010, Oakland, California. 10 October 2010.
- “Missionary Nationalism: Politics in the Literature of German *Missionswissenschaft*, 1874-1919,” at Doctoral Seminar, German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C. 9. September 2010.
- “Imperial Theology: Protestant Theology in the Colonial Propaganda of Friedrich Fabri and Paul Rohrbach,” at the 5th Annual Loyola University Chicago History Graduate Student Conference. Loyola College Chicago. 24 April 2009.

INVITED TALKS

- “A German Culture of Anti-Nationalism: Protestant Missionaries in an Imperial Age,” School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, 25 August 2021.
- “Don’t Ask Me How Long This Took: Writing *Heavenly Fatherland*,” Phi Alpha Theta, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. 24 March 2021.
- “*Heavenly Fatherland* and the Pre-History of Empire,” Department of History, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. 25 February 2021.
- “*Heavenly Fatherland* Book Launch;” Mosse Program in History, Department of History, and Center for German & European Studies; University of Wisconsin; Madison, Wisconsin. 22 February 2021
- “Primary Sources and Wargaming in Weimar Germany,” Department of History, Goucher College, Baltimore, Maryland. 15 February 2021.
- “Facing Atrocity: Panel Discussion,” Department of German and Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell College. Grinnell, Iowa. 3 April 2019.
- “White Lies: The Deceptions of White Nationalists on College Campuses,” Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies and Department of History, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina. 16 April 2018.
- “Approaching Difficult Topics in the Classroom: Pedagogy Roundtable.” Vectors of Violence: Persecution and Complacency in Nazi Germany and the Great Plains. Sam and Frances Fried Holocaust and Genocide Academy, University of Nebraska at Omaha and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Omaha, Nebraska. 28 March 2018.
- “Hitler’s Legacy: White Nationalists & College Campuses,” Diversity Week, Des Moines Area Community College – Carroll Campus, Carroll, Iowa. 12 February 2018.

Dr. Jeremy Best

Assistant Professor, Iowa State University of Science and Technology

“Why is there a Neo-Nazi on my Campus? A German Historian Explains,” Phi Alpha Theta and the Lectures Program, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. 14 November 2017.

“The Disappearance of German-Iowans,” Local programming with German Iowa and the Global Midwest, Ames Public Library and Ames Historical Society, Ames, Iowa. 27 March 2017.

“Approaching the Millennium before the Apocalypse: German Protestant Missionaries’ Imagined International,” Modern German History Seminar, Institute for Historical Research, University of London, London, UK. 11 January 2017.

“Confessions and Colonies: German Mission Politics in the Nineteenth Century,” Forschungskolloquium für Mittlere und Neuere Geschichte, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany. 11 May 2010.

“Mehrdeutige Mittler des Reiches: Missionare und kaiserliche Politik in Deutschland des 19. Jahrhunderts,” Colloquium zur Zeitgeschichte, Friedrich-Meinicke-Institut, Free University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany. 22 April 2010.

PROFESSIONAL, PUBLIC AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

“Cy, Is That Racist? Identifying and Confronting White Nationalism in Education,” Division of Student Affairs Webinar. Iowa State University. 15 October 2020.

“Cy, Is That Racist? Identifying and Confronting White Nationalism in Education,” Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching Webinar. Iowa State University. 9 September 2020.

“Cy, Is That Racist? Identifying and Confronting White Nationalism in the Classroom and Beyond,” 2020 Thomas L. Hill Iowa State Conference on Race and Ethnicity. Pre-Conference and Conference. 4 and 6 March 2020.

History Unfolded Interactive Event. Local Programming partnership with Ames Public Library and Ames Historical Society. Ames, Iowa. 9 April, 2018.

Commentator, “Holocaust Remembrance Evolving with Tourism and Technology,” *Talk of Iowa*. Iowa Public Radio. 5 April 2018.

“Teaching Against White Nationalism: How One Historian Took Action.” *Perspectives on History* 55, no. 9 (Dec. 2017): 27-30.

Local organizer and co-sponsor. German Iowa and the Global Midwest. Local programming partnership with Ames Public Library, Ames Historical Society, and Story County Genealogical Society. Ames, Iowa. 15 March – 24 April 2017.

Events: Opening Reception, 15 March 2017

Lecture: Lawrence McDonnell, “From Germans to Americans: Ethnicity, Class, and the Experience of Battle in the Civil War,” 22 March 2017

Lecture: Jeremy Best, “The Disappearance of German-Iowans,” 27 March 2017

Workshop: Scharlott Goettsch Blevins, “Finding Your German Ancestors,” 29 March 2017

Community Event: “Germany: A Celebration of Food and Music,” 1 April 2017

Lecture: Kierra Crago-Schneider, “Waiting with Packed Suitcases: European Jewish Refugees, 1938-1957,” 18 April 2017

Workshop: “Iowa News During the Holocaust,” 24 April 2017

Interviewee. “Napoleon Bonaparte and Modern German History.” St. Ambrose Radio KALA 106.1 FM, Davenport, Iowa, Broadcast October 7, 2016. [Napoleon Bonaparte and Modern Germany - ROI 197](#)

“Germans Slaughtered Blacks Before they Slaughtered Jews, but You Shouldn’t Draw a Line between both Genocides.” The History News Network. <http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/163307> (accessed July 12, 2016).

Interviewee. “Mind Body Medicine: Bruno Groening,” Local Talk KHOI Community Radio, Ames, Iowa. Broadcast May 16, 2016. [Mind Body Medicine](#)

Dr. Jeremy Best

Assistant Professor, Iowa State University of Science and Technology

“Berlin: Before, With, and After the Wall,” at “1989-2014: 25 Years After the Wall, A Global Studies Roundtable, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina. 6 November 2014.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religious and political history; the history of race in Europe and the world; modern Germany and Central Europe; missionary culture; imperialism and colonialism; globalization; the history of gaming; West German reconstruction; American-German relations

UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Reviews Co-Editor, H-TGS (Transnational German Studies) 2020-Present
H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online

Chair, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Board (Ames, Iowa) 2020-Present
Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT), Iowa State University

Committee Member, Study Abroad Scholarship Committee (Ames, Iowa) 2020-Present
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Iowa State University

Councilor, Iowa Council for Holocaust Education 2019-Present

Committee Member, Student Fulbright Award Committee (Ames, Iowa) 2018-Present
Study Abroad Center, Iowa State University

Committee Member, Scholarship Committee (Ames, Iowa) 2017-Present
Department of History, Iowa State University

Faculty Adviser, Alpha Lambda Delta/Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Societies, Iowa State Chapter 2017-2019
Iowa State University (**Ames, Iowa**)

- Delta Gold Award (2017, 2018) for greater than 50% increase in Alpha Lambda Delta membership

Associate Editor, History Matters (undergraduate journal of historical research) 2014-2015
Department of History, Appalachian State University (**Boone, North Carolina**)

Faculty Advisor, History Club 2013-2015
Department of History, Appalachian State University (**Boone, North Carolina**)

Board Member and Secretary, Board of Directors 2011-2013
Beacon House, (**Washington, District of Columbia**)

Graduate Representative, Graduate Committee 2008-2009
Department of History, University of Maryland (**College Park, Maryland**)

Graduate Representative, Nathan and Jeanette Miller Center for Historical Studies 2007-2008
Department of History, University of Maryland (**College Park, Maryland**)

Co-Director, Graduate Colloquium 2007-2009
Department of History, University of Maryland (**College Park, Maryland**)

President, History Graduate Student Association 2006-2007
Department of History University of Maryland (**College Park, Maryland**)

Dr. Jeremy Best

Assistant Professor, Iowa State University of Science and Technology

Board Member, Alumni Advisory Board 2004-2005
Teach for America: Baltimore (**Baltimore, Maryland**)

Corps Member, Teach for America 2002-2004
Teach for America: Baltimore (**Baltimore, Maryland**)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Historical Association
- Central European History Society
- Ecclesiastical History Society (UK)
- German History Society (UK)
- German Studies Association
- H-Net