

Elisabeth Marie Piller
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
Historisches Seminar
Rempartstraße 15 KG IV
D-79085 Freiburg
Elisabeth.piller@geschichte.uni-freiburg.de

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

since Nov 2020	Assistant Professor (tt) for Transatlantic and North American 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
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” with Alan Kramer, Samuël Kruizinga and Jonas Scherner

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS/EDITED WORKS

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

- Review, *h-diplo roundtable XXIII-37*: <https://hdiplo.org/to/RT23-37>
- Review, *American Historical Review* <https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhad007>
- Review, *European History Quarterly*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/02656914211049090p>
- Review, *Sehepunkte*, <http://www.sehepunkte.de/2021/07/35471.html>
- Review, *Central European History*: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0008938922000437>
- Review, *Giornale di Storia costituzionale* 44/2 (2022): 339-40.

Special Issue, *Contemporary European History* 30/2 (2021) on “Cultural Diplomacy and Europe’s Twenty Years’ Crisis, 1919-1939”; co-edited with Ben Martin

Humanitarianism and the Greater War, 1914–24. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2023; co-edited with Neville Wylie

REFEREED INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Prelude to Re-Education – US Internationalists, Students and the German Problem, 1919-1949” *English Historical Review* (in print, 2023).

“(In)Gratitude, US Ascendancy and Transatlantic Relations after the Great War” *Contemporary European History*, advance access (2023): doi: 10.1017/S096077732300053X.

“Despondence, Dependence and Dignity – On the Dilemmas of Being an Object of International Charity in Western Europe: A Weimar German Case Study” *European Review of History*, advance access (2023): <https://doi.org/10.1080/13507486.2023.2209111>

“Beyond Hoover. Rewriting the History of the Commission for Relief in Belgium (CRB) through Female Involvement” *International History Review* 45/1 (Jan 2023): 202-224.

“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.

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

“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.

CHAPTERS/OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Imperium wider Willen? – Visuelle Darstellungen der USA als Kolonialmacht um 1900“ in: Ronald Asch, Peter Eich, eds. *Visualisierungen des Imperialen*, 85-119, 2023 (in press)

“Introduction: Humanitarianism and the Greater War” in: Elisabeth Piller and Neville Wylie (eds.) *Humanitarianism and the ‘Greater War’, 1914–24*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2023, 1-28.

“Abandoning Poland. Great War Humanitarianism as a History of Failure” in: Elisabeth Piller and Neville Wylie (eds.) *Humanitarianism and the ‘Greater War’, 1914–24*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2023, 187-209.

“Die Rückkehr der Imperien? Putins Krieg und seine globalen Implikationen.” *Journal of Modern European History* 20/2 (May 2022), 148-160, with Dietmar Neutatz et al.

“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.

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

“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 and Michael Dreyer (eds.) *Weimar und die Neuordnung der Welt. Politik, Wirtschaft, Völkerrecht nach 1918*. Stuttgart: Steiner, 2020.

“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](https://nbn-resolving.org/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 and Branden Little, “Discussion: Humanitarianism” in: Ute Daniel et al. (eds.) *1914-1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War*, [10.15463/ie1418.11168](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:he:10-15463/ie1418.11168) (2017).

“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*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, 189-211.

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

BOOK REVIEWS

Review, h-diplo roundtable on Emily Levine, *Allies and Rivals German-American Exchange and the Rise of the Modern Research University* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2021).

Author’s response, h-diplo roundtable on Elisabeth Piller, *Selling Weimar. German Public Diplomacy and the United States, 1918–1933* (h-diplo roundtable XXIII-37, May 2022).

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.

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

2019-2022	Research Council of Norway, Post-Doctoral Research Project, University of Oslo (\$ 350 000)
2018-2020	Irish Research Council, Post-Doctoral Research Project, University College Dublin (\$ 100 000)
2013-2017	Faculty of Humanities Doctoral Fellowship, Department of Historical Studies, NTNU, Norway (\$ 300 000)

SMALLER FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS (selected)

- Botstiber Institute Austrian-American Studies Grant, 2023
- Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship, German Historical Institute Washington DC, 2023
- Research Support Fellowship, Hoover Institution Library & Archives, 2023
- Harry S. Truman Library Research Grant 2023
- Research & Travel Grant, Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft, University of Freiburg, 2023
- SHAFR Global Scholars and Diversity Grant 2019
- Fellowship, Global Humanitarian Research Academy, Imperial & Global History Centre, University of Exeter, July 2018
- Research Fellowship, Rockefeller Archives Center, June-July 2018
- NTNU Excellence Travel Grant, 6-month stay in New York City, 2016
- Research Fellowship, Horner Memorial Library, Philadelphia, Aug 2015
- Doctoral Research Fellowship, German Historical Institute, Washington DC, Aug-Nov 2013
- Balch Fellowship, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, July 2013

- Research Fellowship, Landesgraduiertenakademie Baden-Württemberg, Aug 2012
- Fellowship, SHAFR Summer Institute 2012, June 2012, University of Connecticut
- Phi Beta Kappa – National Honors Society (USA), since 2005

AWARDS/HONORS (selected)

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2023 | Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (London) |
| 2022 | Transatlantic Studies Association-Cambridge University Press Book Prize 2022 (for <i>Selling Weimar</i>)
- awarded annually to the best book published within a given year in the broad field of transatlantic studies |
| 2020 | Friedrich-Ebert-Preis (for the dissertation)
- awarded annually by the Forschungsstelle Weimarer Republik (University Jena) for the best dissertation or habilitation on the Weimar Republic |
| 2019 | Franz Steiner Preis for Transatlantic History (for the dissertation)
- 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. |
| 2018 | Ifa-Forschungspreis Auswärtige Kulturpolitik , 2018 (for the dissertation)
- awarded annually by the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen in Stuttgart for an exceptional and groundbreaking dissertation on culture and foreign policy |
| 2008 | Pinckney Award
- awarded to an Outstanding Senior in History, University of Tennessee |
| 2007 | Leroy P. Graf Award
- awarded to 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 (cancelled due to Covid)
- 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; Contemporary European History; Journal of Global History; Cultural & Social History; International History Review; Journal of Global History; Manchester University Press, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS (selected, since 2017)

- 7/2023 "Around the World in Eighty-Two Days—Herbert Hoover's 1946 World Tour, the Famine Emergency Committee and the Making of the American Century" Research Colloquium (Sulimma/von Contzen), University of Freiburg
- 6/2023 The Greatest Humanitarian of Them All? The US Military in a World of Crises (roundtable), Annual Conference, *Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations*, Washington DC (organized with Julia Irwin)
- 6/2023 "A Professor in Berlin. Ambassador Jacob G. Schurman and US Post-Conflict Diplomacy in Germany, 1925–1929," *The Days After. U.S. Post-Conflict Diplomacy since 1783*, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University
- 1/2023 Keynote Roundtable (with Camilo Erlichman and Laure Humbert), Besetzter Alltag. Neue Perspektiven auf die westalliierten Besatzungen (1945-1955), EHESS Paris
- 9/2022 "‘To Watch a Revolution at First Hand.’ US-Öffentlichkeit und amerikanische Austauschstudenten im ‘Dritten Reich’, 1933-1938." *Nationalsozialismus und Internationale Öffentlichkeit*, Bochum
- 9/2022 Roundtable: "Humanitarianism as Global Networks and Activism," Herrenhäuser Konferenz, *Governing Humanitarianism: The Past, Present, and Future of Global Equity and Social Justice*, Hanover.
- 9/2022 "Humanitarian Anti-Communism: US Responses to Civil Wars in Russia, Spain, Greece and China" *Humanitarianism in an Age of Civil Wars: Europe, 1917-1949*, University College Dublin
- 6/2022 "The Cultural Blockade: A Tale of Power and Paranoia," Conference, *The Blockade in the Era of the Two World Wars*, Trondheim, Norway. (conference co-organizer)
- 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
- 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.
- 9/2021 The Sea Blockade and the Rise of Humanitarian Diplomacy, 1914-1945, workshop: The Blockade in the Era of the Two World Wars (online)
- 6/2021 "The History of Aid as a History of International Relations," Roundtable: 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 (online).
- 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 (conference organizer).
- 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.
- 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," <i>International History Seminar</i> , 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," <i>Conference, Global War, Global Connections, Global Moments</i> , University of Zurich
11/2017	"The 'Theodore Roosevelt-Professorship' at the University of Berlin: American Public Diplomacy and Transatlantic Relations, 1905–1934," <i>Conference, Pursuing the Rooseveltian Century</i> , 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, <i>Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations</i> , Washington DC.
2/2017	"American War Relief, Cultural Mobilization and the Myth of Impartial Humanitarianism, 1914–1917," Conference, <i>The United States and World War I</i> , Heidelberg University.

CHAIR/COMMENT

4/2023	Comment to: Adam Seipp, "Amis: German Society and the US Army, 1945-1995", North Carolina German Studies Seminar
2/2022	Response to Charlotte Faucher "Transnational Tensions and Cooperation in the Development of Cultural Diplomacy in Europe, 1870-1940", Aberdeen & Bonn Global Conversations
10/2021	Commentator, Mixed Loyalties? German Minorities between Nationalism, Solidarity, and Fascism; Annual Conference, German Studies Association, Indianapolis
2/2021	Chair: Why Fight? Ideology and politics in militaries and paramilitary organisations, 1916-2001, Centre for War Studies, University College Dublin
3/2019	Chair: Post-War Transitions in Europe: Politics, States and Veterans (1918-1923), Centre for War Studies, University College Dublin
6/2018	Chair: Panel 79: Networks of Power and Pedagogy: International Education at the End of Empire, 1920-1960, Annual Conference, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, 2018

PUBLIC TALKS/PODCASTS

7/2023	The Marshall Plan at 75 – A Critical Introduction, Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz
4/2023	Chair: Roundtable Discussion – What does the Marshall Plan Mean Today? University of Freiburg
3/2023	'Transatlantic Relations Now and Then' Online-Seminar: Germany and the USA - How do transatlantic relations work? (for high school/college students) Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, Kaiserslautern
2/2023	Roundtable discussion: 'Kein Ende in Sicht? Putins Krieg gegen die Ukraine – eine Zwischenbilanz' University of Freiburg, public panel on the war in Ukraine

1/2023	'What Unites and Divides Us? Transatlantic Relations Now and Then' (for young professionals) Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, Kaiserslautern
7/2022	Roundtable Discussion: Ein Abend über Carl Schurz – Zwischen transatlantischer Heldenverehrung und postkolonialer Kritik, Carl Schurz Haus, Freiburg
5/2022	Die USA und der Ukrainekrieg. Eine historische Einordnung, Bremer Gesellschaft, Freiburg
3/2022	Roundtable Discussion: Die Rückkehr der Imperien? Putins Krieg und seine globalen Implikationen
11/2021	Podcast, „Wissenschaftler nach Berlin – Wie die USA ihre Botschafter auswählen“, Episode 58, Quo Vadis USA? Podcast of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies
11/2021	Debating the War, Aiding the Victims. US Neutrality, 1914-17, EUCOR Ringvorlesung: Stephen Crane at 150, University Freiburg
11/2021	Das ambivalente Imperium. Visuelle Darstellungen der USA als Kolonialmacht um die Jahrhundertwende, Ringvorlesung: Visualisierungen des Imperialen, University Freiburg
9/2021	Expert Talk: Defining Diplomacy: Changes and Challenges for American Ambassadors in Germany, Friends of Freiburg Alumni-Network
3/2021	"Selling Weimar. German Public Diplomacy and the United States," Public Talk, German Society of Pennsylvania.
3/2021	Podcast Interview, New Books Networks
3/2019	"The Transnational Turn and the Making of International History," <i>Roundtable Discussion: Transnationalism</i> , Post-Graduate Week, Trinity College Dublin.

TEACHING

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

Winter 2023	The United States and the Vietnam War Mentorship Seminar for M.A. Students
Summer 2023	The Marshall Plan at 75 (Lecture Series) New Perspectives on the Marshall Plan The Spanish-American War and US Ascendancy America's Berlin (Excursion)
Winter 2022	Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the New Deal Empires after Empire (Lecture Series)
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 USA 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. USA

University College Dublin

Spring 2019	HIS32450 Wars & Humanitarianism in the Modern World
-------------	---

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