

GERMAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION: CALL FOR SEMINAR PROPOSALS

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Type:

Conference

Date:

September 15, 2022 to September 18, 2022

Location:

Texas, United States

Subject Fields:

German History / Studies, Humanities, Literature, Film and Film History, Social History / Studies

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The 46th German Studies Association Conference in Houston, Texas, from September 15 to September 18, 2022 will continue to host a series of seminars in addition to conference sessions and roundtables (for general conference information see <https://www.thegsa.org/conference>).

Seminars meet for all three days of the conference. They explore new avenues of academic exchange and foster extended discussion, rigorous intellectual debate, and intensified networking. Seminars are typically proposed and led by two to three conveners (in special cases, there may be four conveners) and must consist of a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 participants, including the conveners themselves. Seminars must be open to applications from interested participants, and conveners are expected to make every effort to aim for broad diversity and include scholars from different disciplines and at different career stages, including graduate students. Seminars may enable extended discussion of a recent academic publication; the exploration of a promising new research topic; engagement with pre-circulated papers; an opportunity to debate the work of scholars with different approaches; or the in-depth discussion of a political or public policy issue, novel, film, poem, musical piece, painting, or other artwork. Conveners are strongly encouraged to structure their seminars around creative and engaging forms of intellectual exchange; lengthy individual presentations are discouraged as they imitate “traditional” panels and may hamper discussion, collaboration, and innovative thinking. We hope that the work of seminars will eventually be disseminated to the broader community of scholars, for example, future GSA panel or roundtable, in an edited volume, or in the creation of a research group.

To apply to convene a seminar, GSA members should submit a proposal through the online portal by 11:59 pm EST on January 24, 2022. The portal will open in early January, and you will be able to find the link on the conference website (<https://www.thegsa.org/conference>). Please note that because this is a new system, it will require a current 2022 GSA membership

to access. The proposal should include the following items:

1. Title of Proposed Seminar;
2. Convener Information: names, ranks, institutional affiliations, email addresses;
3. Seminar Description: a 150-word description of the seminar's subject, which will eventually be used in the call for participants and the final program;
4. Format Description: a 50-word description of the seminar's format, which will appear in the call for participants, etc.;
5. Goals & Procedures: a 200-word statement of seminar goals and procedures;
6. DEI Statement (if appropriate): a 50-word statement where seminar proposals may add information about any DEI components to the seminar that are not covered in the above descriptions;
7. Audio/Visual: indicate whether your seminar will require a projector and/or sound (note that we might not be able to accommodate all requests, especially for sound, so please request it only if absolutely necessary); and
8. Auditors: indicate whether you will open the seminar to auditors (6 maximum) should space allow.

The Committee will review seminar proposals and post a list of approved seminars and their topics on the GSA website by February 25, 2022. Conveners may then enlist participants to join the seminar. A call for auditors (who may observe but who are not considered formal participants) will be issued later in the year, once the final conference program has been published.

Please note the following guidelines and additional information regarding seminars:

- You must be a current member of the GSA to submit a proposal.

- Seminar conveners must come from different institutions; where there are more than two conveners, no more than two may come from the same institution.
- In order to facilitate extended discussion, seminar conveners and participants are required to participate in all three seminar meetings.
- Seminar participants, including conveners, will not be allowed to submit a paper in a regular panel session. However, they may take on one additional role in the conference independent of their role in a seminar – as moderator or commentator on another session or as a participant in a roundtable.
- Although the GSA does accept proposals from conveners who have directed a seminar during the past two consecutive years, the GSA’s Seminar Committee gives preference to newcomers and thus encourages the rotation of seminar conveners in similarly-themed seminars. We further recommend that conveners contact the coordinators of the Interdisciplinary Network Committee, Professors Heather Mathews (hmathews@plu.edu) and Jonathan Skolnik (jskolnik@german.umass.edu), to connect with GSA Networks close to their topic.
- Seminar conveners will have the opportunity to propose a cluster of pieces representing the work of the seminar for publication in *Konturen*, a peer-reviewed, online, open-access journal of international and interdisciplinary German Studies. Please note: although the portal for applications for publication in *Konturen* will only open after the conference is over, conveners may address their interest in this project in their seminar description.

To access the OpenWater system to submit your proposal, use the same username and password as you use to log into your GSA profile at <https://thegsa.org/members/profile>. If your password needs to be reset, please contact Ms. Ursula Sykes (jmlcirc@press.jhu.edu) at Johns Hopkins University Press. If technical questions or problems arise with the submission interface itself, please contact the GSA Operations Director, Dr. Benita Blessing (operations@thegsa.org).

Please get in touch with any of the Seminar Committee members if you have any questions about the seminars or proposal process. Thank you for your support of the GSA’s seminar program!

Contact Info:

The GSA Seminar Committee consists of:

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<https://www.thegsa.org/blog/call-seminar-proposals-gsa-2022>