

The University of Memphis
PDA Report for 2016-2017
Robert Kelz, Associate Professor of German

I am very thankful to have received a Professional Development Assignment for the 2016-2017 academic year. During this time, I completed several projects and initiated research and collaborative efforts with colleagues abroad for two new endeavors.

Most importantly, I submitted a complete manuscript for a monograph entitled, *Competing Germanies: The Free German Stage and the German Theater in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1933-1965*. Through their theaters, this study examines conflicting German-speaking nationalist, antifascist, Zionist, and neo-Nazi emigrant groups in Argentina. It spans Hitler's rise to power, World War II, the Cold War, and concluded just before the overthrow of President Arturo Umberto Lillia by the Argentine revolutionary junta in 1966. I had already made significant progress on this project beforehand, but the PDA enabled me to complete the manuscript, submit it to the publisher, and make full revisions according to Cornell's editorial board and external reviewers. The book is under contract and, pending a final review, will appear next autumn with Cornell University Press (Signale Series in modern German letters, culture, and thought).

Beyond *Competing Germanies*, I also completed two journal articles and a book review during the past year. One article on German artists-cum-pedagogues, "Teatro pedagógico en las colonias alemanas de Buenos Aires, 1945-65," appeared this February in *Cuadernos DIHA*, the journal of the archive for German memory in Argentina, or DIHA, housed at St. Martin University. A second essay on German-language theatrical performances, translations, and literary criticism of William Shakespeare in Argentina has been accepted for publication in spring 2018 by the journal of the Institute of Performing Arts at The University of Buenos Aires. Finally, I wrote a review of Stephan Manz's *Constructing a German Diaspora: The Greater German Empire, 1871-1918* (Routledge, 2015), which was published on H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences in March 2017.

I held two presentations during the past year. In May 2016, I gave a talk entitled "Model Immigrants? Nationalist German Theater in Argentina, 1945-65," at the 50th Annual Latin American Studies Association Conference in New York City on May 27-30. Then on November 17, I gave an invited presentation, "William Shakespeare, un poeta alemán en la Argentina," as part of a lecture series at the National Library of Argentina in Buenos Aires commemorating the 400th anniversary of the deaths of Shakespeare and Miguel Cervantes.

My scholarly activities during the Professional Development Assignment include:

Publications:

1. "Teatro pedagógico en las colonias alemanas de Buenos Aires, 1945-65," *Cuadernos DIHA* (2017): 49-65.
2. Book Review of *Constructing a German Diaspora: The Greater German Empire, 1871-1918* (H-Net, 2017).

3. *Competing Germanies: The Free German Stage and the German Theater in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1933-1965* (Cornell University Press, accepted).
4. "William Shakespeare: un poeta alemán en la Argentina," *Revista IAE* (accepted), 18 pages.

Presentations:

1. 'Model Immigrants?' Nationalist German Theater in Argentina, 1945-65, 50th Annual Latin American Studies Association Conference, New York City, NY, May 27-30, 2016.
2. William Shakespeare: un poeta alemán en la Argentina, National Library of Argentina, Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 17, 2016.

In addition to the above, I also have laid the groundwork for two future book-length projects. Together with Prof. Regula Rohland of The University of Buenos Aires, I will edit the correspondence between the German exilic author, Paul Zech, and the Chilean newspaper, *Deutsche Blätter*. Featuring an extensive introduction and analysis, the annotated volume includes over one hundred unpublished letters authored by Zech. The letters are of particular interest because they introduce works by some of the most important Latin American writers of the twentieth century, including Jorge Luis Borges, Ernesto Sabato, and Julio Cortázar, to a German-speaking readership for the first time. During November and December 2016, I conducted archival research for the annotations and introduction at the National Library of Argentina and the Argentine Library of Congress. Via email, I also procured materials from the Ibero-American Institute in Berlin and the Berlin State Library. Essential to the preparation and publication of this volume, it would have been very difficult to perform this research without the extra time for scholarship that the Professional Development Assignment affords. The Berlin-based press, De Gruyter, has expressed an interest in the edition, which will be published in the German language.

Secondly, the musicologist Dr. Silvia Glocer of the National Library of Argentina and I have collaborated on a proposal to co-edit a volume about German-speaking female emigrants to Argentina. Interdisciplinary in our approach, we already have received commitments from established scholars in Germany, Austria, Argentina, and the United States to contribute chapters about emigrant scientists, musicians, authors, entrepreneurs, and pedagogues. Furthermore, the study will discuss individuals with a wide range of political and religious convictions, including Zionists, nationalists, as well as supporters and victims of Nazism. The long twentieth century is its temporal frame, so the study also will traverse multiple social and political upheavals on both sides of the Atlantic.