

Adrienne N. Merritt

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

- 2018 Ph.D. in German, University of California, Berkeley
Dissertation Title: “Recalling the Word: The Germanic Beguine “Sisters,” Memory, and the Question of Genre”
- 2008 M.A. in German, University of Minnesota–Twin Cities
- 2006 B.A. in German and History (honors), University of Minnesota–Twin Cities

Professional Appointments

- 2021–present University of Colorado, Boulder, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, Assistant Professor
2023–2024: Interim Associate Chair of Graduate Studies, German
- 2020–2021 St. Olaf College, Department of German, Visiting Assistant Professor
- 2019–2020 Washington and Lee University, Department of German, Visiting Assistant Professor

Publications

Peer Reviewed Articles

- Merritt, Adrienne. “Imagining Otherwise: Wake Work in/as German studies.” *MLN*, Special Issue “German Studies Dossier on Decolonization,” vol. 138, no. 3, Apr. 2023, pp. 1189–1201, <https://doi.org/10.1353/mln.2023.a917917>
- Merritt, Adrienne. “Feeling Beyond Words: Ineffability and Haptic Translational Praxis of Black German Writings.” *Studies in 20th & 21st Century Literature*, Special Issue “Centering Black Cultural Production in Translation,” vol. 47, no. 1, Jan. 2023, <https://doi.org/10.4148/2334-4415.2244>.
- Merritt, Adrienne. “Black German Poetic Ecologies: Joy and Diasporic Homecoming in Megaloh’s ‘Oyoyo’ and Leila Akinyi’s ‘Oyoyo // Nyumbani.’” *The German Quarterly*, Special Issue “Black German Studies,” vol. 95, no. 4, 2022, pp. 372–95. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gequ.12298>.
- Merritt, Adrienne. “The Queer Temporalities of Sadomasochism in Robert Musil’s Törless.” *Monatshefte*, Special Issue “Rupture, Slowness, Untimeliness: Queer Time and History in German Studies,” vol. 114, no. 3, Sept. 2022, pp. 384–406. [mon.uwpress.org, https://doi.org/10.3368/m.114.3.384](https://doi.org/10.3368/m.114.3.384).

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- “A Question of Inclusion: Pedagogical Methods, Systematic Racism, and the US German Classroom” in *Diversity and Decolonization of the German Curriculum*, eds. Regine Criser and Erwin Malakaj. Palgrave Macmillan, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-34342-2>

Translations

- Sharon Dodua Otoo, “Love,” transl. by Adrienne Merritt, in *Transit: Your Homeland is My Nightmare* special issue, eds. Jon Cho-Polizzi and Michael Sandburg, Dec. 2021 ([link](#)) Reprinted as physical book with Literarische Diverse, 2022.

Blog Entries and Podcasts

- “Teaching German and Germanic Languages in the Age of White Supremacy,” DDGC Blog, co-authored with Adam Oberlin, David Gramling and Maureen Gallagher, March 2021 ([link](#))

Publications in Progress

- “The Haunting Poetics of May Ayim’s “die zeit danach” (1995) and Ada Diagne’s “Der Sturm” (2021).” *Poetics Today* 46:1, special issue “Time Loops, Temporal Uncertainty, and Problem-solving in Narrative” (January 2025). Proofs Stage.
- Editor, Special Issue on “Afropean Feminisms.” In *Feminist German Studies*. Projected publication January / February 2025.

“Spectral Legacies: Decentering Germanness as Whiteness in the German Curriculum.” Chapter for *Teaching German in the 21st Century*. MLA Options for Teaching Series. In Peer Review (delayed due to the pandemic).

“Soliloquy and Soundtrack: A *Desire / Love* Playlist.” *Thinking with Lauren Berlant* edited volume, eds. Carrie Smith, Hester Baer, Ervin Malakaj, and Simone Stirner. Second Draft submitted.

“The Quietly Quotidian Call of Cthulhu.” *Fascist Fantasies: Aesthetics and the Ambivalent Reception of Popular Fiction and Film in the 20th and 21st Centuries*. Under contract with Lever Press; projected completion 2025. Awaiting Peer Review.

“Flirting with the Text: Black Queer Reading Practice and the Coquetry of Meaning.” Queer and Trans German Studies volume as part of a new book series with De Gruyter. Abstract accepted, projected completion 2025. First Draft Submitted.

“Germania Embodied: von Grimmelshausen’s *Courasche*, the Female Body, and Concepts of Germanness.” Draft in progress. Projected submission Spring 2025.

“Identity and Performance in Black Germany.” Special Cluster “Race, Racialization, and Whiteness before and after the Invention of Race” in *PMLA*. Eds. Nahir Otaño Gracia and Tiffany N. Florvil. Projected publication October 2025.

“Translation and Belacane’s Haunting Blackness in Wilhelm von Eschenbach’s *Parzival*.” Special Issue “Concepts of Race in Premodern German Studies” in *Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies*. Projected publication December 2025.

“Lamenting Dido in *Castlevania Nocturne*.” Revision of PCA conference paper. Special Issue “Monsters and the Monstrous”, *Journal of Popular Culture*. Eds. U. Melissa Anyiwo, David Hansen, Amanda Jo Hobson, Colleen Karn, and Lisa Nevarez. Projected publication late 2025 / early 2026.

“*Nosferatu* (1922) and the Afterlives of Property.” Manuscript drafted, revising before submission. Special Issue “Provincializing Weimar Culture” for *German Life and Letters*. Eds. Nicholas Baer, Jochen Hung, and Britta Schilling. Projected publication January 2026.

“Dancing with Memories and Ghosts: The Song Cycles of May Ayim’s *blues in schwarz weiss*.” Special Issue “(Re-) Reading May Ayim today / May Ayim heute (wieder-)lesen,” *Monatshefte*. Eds. Jeanette Oholi and Tiffany N. Florvil. Project publication March 2026.

Book Length Projects

A Playlist for Black Germany: Hapticity, Imagined Worlds, and Joy. Prelude / Introduction, Chapters 1,2, 4,5, and Coda drafted. Complete draft planned for December 2024. Submission to University of Illinois Press planned for February 2025.

Translation of *Resonanzen. Schwarzes Literaturfestival: Eine Dokumentation* (2022). Complete draft planned for late Fall 2024.

Haunted Heimats: The Undead and the Spectral Colonial Landscape. Chapters 1–2 drafted; Chapter 3 and 4 planned.

Editorial Work

2020 - Book Series Co-editor, *New Directions in Medieval Studies*, Bloomsbury (with Andrew Elliott and Helen Young)

Invited Talks and Workshops

Jan–Feb 2025 DDGC Reading Group, Ibtisam Azem’s *The Book of Disappearance*, Co-Moderator and Organizer, (Online)

Aug–Oct 2024 [DDGC Reading Group](#), *The Subcontractors of Guilt*, Co-Moderator and Organizer, 4 sessions (Online)

Apr–June 2024 [DDGC Reading Group](#), *The Moral Triangle*, Co-Moderator and Organizer, 4 sessions (Online)

Dec. 23–Jan 24 [DDGC Reading Group](#). Adania Shibli’s *Minor Detail*. Co-Moderator and Organizer, 3 sessions (Online)

Oct. 2023 Post film discussant (*Ivie wie Ivie*), Germanophone Feminist and Queer Literature, Film, and Culture

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CV

- Conference (University of Montreal, October 25–27, 2023)
- Apr. 2023 “Black German Sonic Spacetimes: Imagining Future Geographies and the Hip Hop Soundscape” (Delta Phi Alpha Invited Lecture, University of Arkansas Fayetteville, in person)
- Mar. 2023 “Rethinking Critical Global studies: Breathing Room, Wake Work, and Imagining Curriculums Beyond Borders” (CSU Fort Collins, in person)
- Oct. 2022 “Translating Feirefiz and Belacane” (University of New Mexico, online)
- March 2022 “Weathering the Wake: Black German Ecologies, Cultural Production, and Community.” (Indiana University, online)
- Feb. 2022 “Confronting the Ghost: Wake Work in/as German studies.” (University of Washington, online)
- Feb. 2022 “Weathering the Wake: Black German Ecologies, Cultural Production, and Community.” (Stanford University, online)
- July-Aug 2021 [DDGC Reading Group](#). Co-Moderator and Organizer, 6 sessions/ weeks (Online)
- Apr. 2021 “Decolonizing Knowledge: German Studies and Beyond.” Roundtable (Johns Hopkins University, Online)
- Jan. 2021 “Images of Insurrection.” Roundtable (Max Kade Institute, Indiana University, Indianapolis, Online)
- Jan. 2021 “Coming Home: Blacktivism and the Hip Hop of Leila Akinyi and Megaloh.” (CU Boulder, online)
- Jan. 2021 “Feirefiz, White Legacies, and Interraciality: Teaching German Studies While Black in America,” Race Before Race Conference (Arizona State University, online/ recorded)
- Oct. 2020 “New Trends in German Studies,” with Regine Criser, Northwestern University, (online)

Workshops at Home Institutions

- Apr. 2023 “What it Means When Eurocentric Departments ‘Decolonize’: Recentring Indigenous and Black Studies in Conversations about Inclusion” (CU Boulder, GSLL, online)
- Nov. 2022 Critical Global Education Workshop (CU Boulder, online)
- Oct. 2022 Antiracist Pedagogy Workshop (CU Boulder, online)
- Feb-May 2021 Critical Global Education Community of Practice facilitator, 4 sessions (St Olaf College, online)
- Jan. 2021 Antiracist Pedagogy and Universal Design Workshops, 4 sessions (St. Olaf College)

Conferences

- 2025 “Devouring the Darkness: (Re)memory, Yoruba Orishas, and Annette in *Castlevania Nocturne*,” Pop Cultural Association Conference (New Orleans) (April 2025)
- 2025 “Care and Love: Visions of Solidarity,” DDGC Conference 2025 (Online) (April 2025)
- 2024 Roundtable, Critical German and European Studies: “International Interventions and the State of the Field,” Cambridge University (UK) (November 2024)
- 2024 “Olrox and Haunted Memory in *Castlevania Nocturne*,” Anime Expo (Los Angeles) (July 2024)
- 2024 “Lamenting Dido in *Castlevania Nocturne*,” Pop Culture Association Conference (Chicago) (March 2024)
- 2024 “The Haunting Queer Gaze and the Cherished Ghost in Mo Xiang Tong Xiu’s *Heaven Official’s Blessing*,” Supernatural Studies Conference (Marist College, NY) (March 2024)
- 2023 “A Refusal to Forget: Love Poetics, Cherished Ghosts, and Justice Yet to Come,” American Studies Association Conference (Montreal, Quebec) (November 2023)
- 2023 “Black German Sonic Spacetimes: Imagining Future Geographies and the Hip Hop Soundscape,” German Studies Association Conference (Montreal, Quebec) (October 2023)
- 2023 “The Role of the Translator” roundtable, Emory University, “Making the Canon, Breaking the Canon” (September 2023)
- 2023 “Ökonomien—sozial und narrativ. Grimmelshausens Courasche intersektional,” University of Zürich (June-July 2023)
- 2023 “Fantasizing Queer Futures: Blackness, Desire / Love, and German studies,” “Thinking with Berlant” Workshop,

- (Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Alberta, Canada) (May 2023)
- 2023 “Germanic Philology and Linguistics: Where Do We Go From Here?,” Roundtable, MLA (San Francisco) (January 2023)
- 2022 “The Future of Queer Studies,” Roundtable, Rocky Mountain MLA (Albuquerque, NM) (October 2022)
- 2022 “Nosferatu and the Afterlives of Property,” Nosferatu at 100 Symposium (Online) (Spring 2022)
- 2022 “Access in/ and Education,” Roundtable, MLA (Washington, DC) (January 2022)
- 2021 “The Limits of Satire,” German Studies Association Conference, Roundtable (Online) (October 2021)
- 2021 “Teaching German and Germanic in the Age of White Supremacy,” Roundtable, MLA Annual Convention (online)
- 2020 German Studies Association Seminar Moderator, “Anti-Racist Pedagogy,” 3 days (Online)

Teaching Experience

University of Colorado Boulder

- GRMN 5510, German Medieval Literature and Medievalisms (Fall 2024, in person)
- GRMN 5420, Black German Poetics (Fall 2022, in person)
- GRMN 3520, German Graphic Novels: History and Memory (Fall 2022, in person)
- GRMN 2503, Fairy Tales of Germany (Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, in person)
- GRMN 1602, Metropolis and Modernity (Fall 2021, in person)
- GRMN 3141, Topics in German: German Colonial Legacies (Spring 2022, in person)

St. Olaf College

- Beginning German I (Fall 2020), 1 section online
- Beginning German II (Spring 2021), 1 section online, 1 section in person
- Fairy Tales and Folklore (Fall 2020), 1 section online
- German Society and Media (Fall 2020), 1 section online
- Germany Today in Global Context (Spring 2021), 1 section in person

Washington and Lee University

- Intermediate German II (Winter 2020), impacted by the pandemic, in person then online
- Advanced German History and Culture II (Winter 2020), impacted by the pandemic, in person then online
- After Namibia: Afro- and Black German Poetics, Activism, and Hip Hop (Spring 2020), online due to pandemic

Awards

- Center for Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship, CU Boulder, Fall 2025
- President’s Fund for the Humanities, CU System, 2024, \$15,000
- Thrive Grant, CU Boulder, 2022–2023, \$10,000

Campus Service

- Interim Associate Chair of Graduate Studies, German / GSLL, 2023–2024
- Departmental Workshop Facilitator, Antiracist and Decolonial Pedagogies (2 workshops), Spring 2023
- CTL-ASSETT Faculty Fellow, 2023–2024

Service to Profession

- 2020– Diversity and Decolonization of the German Curriculum ([DDGC](#)) [Steering Committee Member](#)
- 2020– [German Studies Collaboratory Contributor/ Editorial Team](#)
- 2020–2021 The German Studies Association Program Committee (Individual Paper Submissions Reviewer)
- 2020–2021 [DDGC Third Bi-Annual Conference Co-Organizer](#) (online)
- 2017–2023 Modern Languages Association Executive Committee member, LSL Germanic Philology and Linguistics