

Adrienne N. Merritt
Curriculum Vitae
adme5021@colorado.edu

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”

Dissertation Advisor: Niklaus Largier

2008 M.A. in German, University of Minnesota–Twin Cities Emphasis: Germanic Medieval Studies, Minor: Medieval Studies

2006 B.A. in German and History (honors), University of Minnesota–Twin Cities Minor: Medieval Studies

Professional Appointments

Current University of Colorado, Boulder, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, Assistant Professor

2020–2021 St. Olaf College, Department of German, Visiting Assistant Professor

2019–2020 Washington and Lee University, Department of German, Visiting Assistant Professor

2018–2019 Oberlin College, Department of German, Faculty-in-Residence/ Lecturer

2016–2018 Occidental College, Department of Comparative Studies of Literatures and Cultures, NTT Assistant Professor of German

Publications

“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 Macmillian, 2020.

“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](#))

Sharon Dodua Otoo, “Love,” transl. by Adrienne Merritt, in *Transit: Your Homeland is My Nightmare* special issue, Dec. 2021 ([link](#))

Editorial Work

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

Publications in Progress

“The Queer Temporalities of Sadomasochism in Musil’s *Törless*” for “Rupture, Slowness, Untimeliness: Queer Time and History in German Studies,” *Monatshefte*, 114.3 (Fall 2022), eds. Kyle Frackman and Ervin Malakaj. Manuscript under review.

“Decentering Germanness as Whiteness in the German Curriculum.” Chapter for *Teaching German in the 21st Century*. MLA Options for Teaching Series. Volume approved by review committee; manuscript submitted; volume planned for 2023.

“Feeling Beyond Words: Ineffability and Translating Black German Writings. for “Centering Black Cultural Production in Translation,” *Studies in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature* 47.1 (Fall 2022), eds. Priscilla Layne and Corine Tachtiris. Abstract accepted; manuscript due November 2021.

“Coming Home: Blacktivism and the Hip Hop of Leila Akinyi and Megaloh.” Manuscript in progress.

“Bodies in Motion” This article brings Sara Ahmed’s discussion of queer phenomenology into conversation with Derrida’s discussion of invagination to examine the work of Afro-German hip-hop artists who thematize biraciality. These artists queer the genre while also implicitly commenting on the production apparatuses that structure the industry. The artists examined must queer their paths of entry into artistic expression, negotiating the ways they are positioned as “inside” and “outside” vis-à-vis German cultural production. Manuscript in progress.

“Feirefiz, White Legacies, and Interraciality.” This article examines the figure of Feirefiz, the French-speaking Black character in *Parzival*, as a figure of the white imagination who reveals the fantasies of a “successful” colonization. More broadly, this article engages the longer, premodern legacy of white and Christian imaginations of supremacy. Manuscript in progress.

Book Length Projects

The Silence at Home: Racial Textualities and Poetics in Afro-and Black Germany

This book-length project integrates Critical Race Theory, Genre Studies, and Queer Phenomenology as a lens through which to approach and reevaluate how Afro- and Black German writers are and have been “consumed” by the reader. The basis for this book project lies upon the application and revision of Sara Ahmed’s *Queer Phenomenology* to discuss the philosophical and societal turns toward (and away) from texts and music produced by Black and brown persons. I argue that their creative products reflect and comment upon the experience of racialized bodies and those creative products are subject to not only the white gaze but the racism inherent within institutions, publishing houses, and sound studios. I posit that, despite the popularity of Black and brown Hip Hop artists, writers, and scholars, German society consumes

the products without the message, buffering discussions of anti-Black racism and systemic discrimination with deafening silence.

Silva Memoriae: Allegory and Nature in Hadewijch of Brabant's Visioenen

Developed from the third chapter of my dissertation, this book-length project delves into the figure of nature in the allegories of Hadewijch's *Visioenen* and the role that nature plays in connecting the corporeality on earth with the divine. I argue that natural images are two-fold, paralleling the dual bodies of Hadewijch as writer-speaker: one body divine ("the inner body" connected to the divine), and one body physical ("the outer body" connected to humanity and earthly physicality). The natural images in turn create a literary landscape that the reader traverses as they journey through Hadewijch's depictions of spiritual edification. Nature is then both physically embodied in the text and allegorical, mirroring Hadewijch's two-bodied existence. The project is interdisciplinary, relying upon environmental history (McNeill, Braudel, etc.), anthropology, archaeology, History of the Book, paleography, and economic and political histories. I was rewarded a Powers Grant from Oberlin College to work on the first two chapters in January 2018 in Flanders, Belgium. I am also working with Amsterdam University Press to develop a book proposal for the Environmental Studies in the Premodern World series.

Invited Talks and Workshops

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, Baltimore, Online)

Feb-May 2021 Critical Global Education Community of Practice facilitator, 4 sessions (St Olaf College, 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 (ASU, online/ recorded)

Jan. 2021 Antiracist Pedagogy and Universal Design Workshops (St. Olaf College)

Oct. 2020 New Trends in German Studies, Northwestern University, with Regine Criser (online)

Feb. 2020 “Anti-racist Universal Design in Pedagogy: Why Inclusion Benefits All Students”, University of Virginia

Conference Participation

2021 “Teaching German and Germanic in the Age of White Supremacy”, Roundtable, MLA Annual Convention (online)

2020 GSA Seminar Moderator, “Antiracist Pedagogy” (Online)

2020 Oyoyo zu Hause in Deutschland?: Leila Akinyi, Black German rap, and the Question of Heimat”, Council for European Studies/ International Council of Europeanists, University of Iceland (Reykavik, Iceland) (cancelled/ COVID)

2020 “Partial Emissions: Reading Musil’s *Törleß* and the “Coming” of Age”, The Past and Future of Queer German Studies, University of British Columbia (Vancouver)

2020 “Sprach’ ich so: Intermediate German, Gastarbeiter Poetry, and Student Reflection on the Language-learning Process”, MLA Annual Convention (Seattle, WA)

2019 Genre as Form, Text as Body: a Queer Phenomenology of Textualized Experience in the Racialized Space”, Rocky Mountain MLA Annual Conference (El Paso, TX)

2018 “Sweet Child of Memoria: Mechthild of Magdeburg, Genre, and the Creation of her *buoch*”, PAMLA Annual Conference (Bellington, WA)

2018 “Beneath the Furs: Sacher-Masoch and the Language of Gender Roles”, Rocky Mountain MLA Annual Conference (Cheyenne, WY)

2018 “Reading the Forest of Memoria: Hadewijch of Brabant’s Allegorical Wilderness as Human-Divine Experience”, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Annual Conference (Scottsdale, AZ)

2017 “Bridging the Peace: Martin Auer’s *Der blaue Junge* and other short stories”, ACTFL National Convention (Nashville, TN)

2017 “Textual Sisters: The Paleographical Connection Between Mechthild of Magdeburg and Agnes Blannbekin in Codex A VIII 6”, Rocky Mountain MLA Annual Conference (Spokane, WA)

2017 “Lady Minne, Christ, and Soul: The intersection between theology, divine experience, and the court in Mechthild of Magdeburg’s work”, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Annual Conference (Scottsdale, AZ)

2016 “Deceptive Deciphering: Ludwig Tieck’s *Der Runenberg*”, Rocky Mountain MLA Annual Conference (Salt Lake City, UT)

2016 “Translatio imperfecta: Mechthild of Magdeburg’s book, its Latin translation, and hagiographic motivations”, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Annual Conference (Scottsdale, AZ)

2016 “The Many “I’s” of Hadewijch: The self-referential poetry of spiritual existence in the Strofische Gedichten”, MLA Annual Convention (Austin, TX)

2015 “Ghebruken in its Pan-Germanic Context: A word study involving Hadewijch and contemporaneous sources”, International Medieval Studies Conference at Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo, MI)

2015 “Wading the Murky Waters of Joy: Hadewijch of Brabant, lieve kint, and her letters”, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Annual Conference (Scottsdale, AZ)

2014 “Becoming God in Prose and Verse: Exploration of the Creative Genius within Hadewijch’s Corpus as Literary Worlds and Spiritual Realization”, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Annual Conference (Scottsdale, AZ)

2013 “Amor Amorum: The language of love, the body, and sensuality in beguine mystical texts”, International Medieval Studies Conference at Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo, MI)

2013 “The Seven Streams of the Breast: The significance of breastfeeding and female roles in Mechthild von Magdeburg’s Flowing Light of the Godhead”, Medieval Association of the Pacific Annual Meeting (San Diego, CA)

2013 “Supernatural Love, Divine Nature: Isolde and the Conclusion of Tristan/ Tristram”, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Annual Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

2012 “Enlivened Reflection: Memory, the Senses, and Mystical Experience in the Petitcreiu episode of Gottfried’s Tristan”, CSU-Long Beach Medieval and Renaissance Graduate Student Conference (Long Beach, CA)

2011 “Speaking in Tongues: Ineffability and language choice in Mechthild of Magdeburg’s The Flowing Light of the Godhead”, International Medieval Studies Conference at Kalamazoo

Teaching Experience

University of Colorado Boulder

GRMN 2503, Fairy Tales of Germany (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

GRMN 1602, Metropolis and Modernity (Fall 2021)

GRMN 3141, Topics in German: German Colonial Legacies (Spring 2022)

St. Olaf College

Beginning German I (Fall 2020)

Beginning German II (Spring 2021)

Fairy Tales and Folklore (Fall 2020)

German Society and Media (Fall 2020)
 Germany Today in Global Context (Spring 2021) – including section on teaching
 interview skills in collaboration with Professor Jamele Watkins, University of MN

Washington and Lee University

Beginning German I (Fall 2019)
 Intermediate German II (Winter 2020)
 Advanced German History and Culture II (Winter 2020)
 After Namibia: Afro- and Black German Poetics, Activism, and Hip Hop (Spring 2020)

Oberlin College

Beginning German I (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)
 After Namibia: German POC Poetics, Activism, and Hip Hop (Spring '19)

Occidental College

Beginning German I (Fall 2017, Fall 2016)
 Beginning German II (Spring 2018, Spring 2017)
 Intermediate German I (Fall 2017, Fall 2016)
 Intermediate German II (Spring 2018, Spring 2017)
 The Art of the Essay: Mea Culpa: Shame and Guilt in the (Post)Modern Age (Spring 2017)

Pasadena City College

Beginning German I (Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016)
 Independent Study in German: Math and Biology (Fall 2017)

El Camino College

Beginning German I (Fall 2017)
 Beginning German II (Spring 2018)

Fullerton College

Beginning German I Spring 2016, Fall 2015 (2 sections), Summer 2015, Spring 2015 (2 sections), Fall 2014

University of California, Riverside

Beginning German I (Fall 2013)

University of California, Berkeley

Beginning German II (Fall 2009)
 Reading and Composition II (Summer 2010)
 “Dirty Talk: Sex and Violence in 20th-century German Film, Theater and Prose”
 Intermediate German I (Fall 2010)
 Reading and Composition I (Spring 2011)
 “Sex, Love and the Death of Romance?: German Literature Across the Ages”
 Reading and Composition II (Summer 2011)
 “Hexenzauberei, Scapegoats and such: Evolution of the Witch Across Centuries”
 University of Minnesota–Twin Cities
 Beginning German I (Fall 2007)
 Beginning German II (Spring 2008)

Awards and Honors

2019 ACMRS Race before Race Conference Travel Grant
 2018-2019 Powers Research Grant, Oberlin College
 2017 Heidelberg University Tuition and Travel Stipend, Germanic Studies Association
 2017 Best Graduate Student Paper, Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association
 2017 DAAD-PhD Net Travel Grant, Humboldt University
 2016 MINT-Deutsch Summer Program Grant, AATG-German Bundestag
 2011-2012 Dean’s Normative Time Fellowship
 2009 Taalunie Dutch Summer Grant, Taalunie
 2008-2010 Chancellor’s Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley
 2008 Foreign Language and Area Study Grant, University of Minnesota–Twin Cities
 2007 FUBiS Summer Language Grant, Freie Universität Berlin
 2006-2007 Max Kade Graduate Study Fellowship, University of Minnesota–Twin Cities
 2006 Max Kade Summer Research Grant, University of Minnesota–Twin Cities
 2006 Voices of Vienna Research Grant, Center for Austrian Studies, UMN-TC
 2001-2006 Gates Millennium Scholarship, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
 2000-2001 Congress-Bundestag German Exchange Scholarship, Congress/Bundestag

Service to Profession

2020- [DDGC Steering Committee Member](#)
 2020- [German Studies Collaboratory Contributor/ Editorial Team](#)
 2020-2021 GSA Program Committee (Individual Paper Submissions)
 2020-2021 [DDGC Third Bi-Annual Conference Co-Organizer](#) (online)
 2019 AATG Task Force Meeting for Diversity and Inclusion, ACTFL Conference
 2019 Mudd Center Fellow, Faculty Ethics and Technology Lecture Discussion Group
 2019 GSA Panel Moderator, Queer German Studies
 2017-2022 MLA Executive Committee member, LSL Germanic Philology and Linguistics
 2017-2020 MLA Delegate Assembly
 2017-2019 ACTFL SIG Small Undergraduate German Programs Secretary

2016-2018 Rocky Mountain MLA Executive Committee Member
 2017 MLA Panel Moderator, Germanic Philology and Linguistics
 2017 Search Committee member, Occidental College
 2016 GETVICO online conference, Co-Moderator for “Deutsch Aktuell” panel (Goethe Institut New York)

Professional Development

August 2017 International Ferienkurs, Fortbildungskurs, Heidelberg University
 Summer 2016 MINT-DaF Fortbildungskurs, Herder Institut–InterDaF (Leipzig)
 April 2016 Great Teachers Seminar (Fullerton College sponsored)
 January 2016 Teaching Men of Color in the Community College Setting (online course)
 December 2015 AATG NexGen Leadership Workshop (AATG Headquarters)
 October 2007 DAAD German Instructor Workshop (UC Berkeley)
 September 2007 DAAD German Instructor Workshop (Goethe Institut Boston)

Teaching Areas

Beginning German I-II (First Year German)
 Intermediate German I-II (Second Year German)
 Advanced German
 German History in German (all periods)
 Introduction to German Literature (to 1800)
 History of the German Language
 Fin-de-siècle Austrian Literature Germanic and Norse Mythology
 Age of Courtly Lyric, Romance, and Epic
 Introduction to Middle High German and/or Middle Dutch
 The Poetics of German Hip Hop
 Afro- and Black German Cultural History Fairy Tales and Folklore
 Antiracist Pedagogy and Critical Whiteness Studies

Languages

German (All skills: near native)
 Dutch (Reading: fluent; Speaking: conversational)
 French (All skills: intermediate)
 Latin (Reading: good-excellent)
 Italian (All skills: advanced beginner)
 Old French (proficient with dictionary)
 Middle French (proficient)
 Old High German (proficient)
 Middle High German (excellent)
 Early New High German (excellent)
 Middle Dutch (excellent)
 Old English (proficient)
 Old Norse (proficient)

Old Saxon (proficient)

Professional Memberships

German Studies Association (GSA)

Modern Language Association (MLA)