

Peter Staudenmaier
Associate Professor
Department of History
Marquette University

Education

PhD in Modern European History, Cornell University, 2010
MA in Modern European History, Cornell University, 2006
BA in German Studies, University of Wisconsin, 1998

Employment

2016 – Associate Professor, Department of History, Marquette University
2011 – 2016 Assistant Professor, Department of History, Marquette University
2010 – 2011 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Montana

Publications

The Politics of Nature in Nazi Germany: Environmental Ideals and the Myth of Blood and Soil
(Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2026)

“Evola’s Afterlives: Esotericism and Politics in the Posthumous Reception of Julius Evola”
Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism forthcoming 2025

“Waldorf Education in International Context: Critical Perspectives” in Ann-Kathrin Hoffmann
and Marc Fabian Buck, eds., *Critically Assessing the Reputation of Waldorf Education in
Academia and the Public* (London: Routledge, 2024), xi-xv

“Anglophone Welt” in Helmut Zander, ed., *Anthroposophieforschung: Forschungsliteratur,
Forschungsstand, Perspektiven* (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2023), 261-62

“Julius Evola and the ‘Jewish Problem’ in Axis Europe: Race, Religion, and Antisemitism” in
Rebecca Carter-Chand and Kevin Spicer, eds., *Religion, Ethnonationalism, and Antisemitism
in the Era of the Two World Wars* (Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2022), 72-92

“Rudolf Steiner and the Great War: Karma, Clairvoyance, and the German Spiritual Mission” in
Christian Hoffarth, ed., *Prophecy, Prognosis, and Politics from Antiquity to the Modern Age*
(Frankfurt: Klostermann, 2022), 239-54

Ecology Contested: Environmental Politics between Left and Right (New Compass Press, 2021)

- “Racial Ideology between Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany: Julius Evola and the Aryan Myth, 1933 – 1943” *Journal of Contemporary History* 55 (2020), 473-91
- “Advocates for the Landscape: Alwin Seifert and Nazi Environmentalism” *German Studies Review* 43 (2020), 271-90
- “Antisemitic Intellectuals in Fascist Italy: Promoting ‘Spiritual Racism,’ 1938-1945” in Sarah Danielsson and Frank Jacob, eds., *Intellectual Antisemitism* (Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 2018), 95-116
- “Preparation for Genocide: The ‘Center for the Study of the Jewish Problem’ in Trieste, Italy, 1942–1944” *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 31 (2017), 1-23
- “The Higher Worlds meet the Lower Criticism: New Scholarship on Rudolf Steiner” *Correspondences* 3 (2016), 93-110
- “Esoteric Alternatives in Imperial Germany: Science, Spirit, and the Modern Occult Revival” in Eric Kurlander and Monica Black, eds., *Revisiting the “Nazi Occult”: Histories, Realities, Legacies* (Rochester: Camden House, 2015), 23-41
- Between Occultism and Nazism: Anthroposophy and the Politics of Race in the Fascist Era* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2014)
- “Organic Farming in Nazi Germany: The Politics of Biodynamic Agriculture, 1933-1945” *Environmental History* 18 (2013), 383-411
- “Nazi Perceptions of Esotericism: The Occult as Fascination and Menace” in Ashwin Manthripragada, ed., *The Threat and Allure of the Magical* (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013), 25-58
- “Hannah Arendt’s Analysis of Antisemitism in The Origins of Totalitarianism: A Critical Appraisal” *Patterns of Prejudice* 46 (2012), 154-79
- “Anthroposophy in Fascist Italy” in Arthur Versluis, ed., *Esotericism, Religion, and Politics* (Minneapolis: North American Academic Press, 2012), 83-106
- “Der deutsche Geist am Scheideweg: Anthroposophen in Auseinandersetzung mit völkischer Bewegung und Nationalsozialismus” in Uwe Puschner and Clemens Vollnhals, eds., *Die völkisch-religiöse Bewegung im Nationalsozialismus* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2012), 473-90
- “Right-wing Ecology in Germany: Assessing the Historical Legacy” in Janet Biehl and Peter Staudenmaier, *Ecofascism Revisited* (Porsgrunn: New Compass Press, 2011), 89-132
- “Occultism, Race, and Politics in German-speaking Europe, 1880-1940: A Survey of the Historical Literature” *European History Quarterly* 39 (2009), 47-70

“Race and Redemption: Racial and Ethnic Evolution in Rudolf Steiner’s Anthroposophy”
Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions 11 (2008), 4-36

“Rudolf Steiner and the Jewish Question” *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook* 50 (2005), 127-47

“Fascism” in *Encyclopedia of World Environmental History*, Shepard Krech III, John McNeill, and Carolyn Merchant, editors (New York: Routledge, 2004), 517-21

“Fascist Ecology: The ‘Green Wing’ of the Nazi Party and its Historical Antecedents” in Janet Biehl and Peter Staudenmaier, *Ecofascism: Lessons from the German Experience* (Edinburgh and San Francisco: AK Press, 1995), 4-30

Conference Presentations

“Julius Evola and Spiritual Racism in Historical Context: Esotericism, Race, and Politics from Fascist Italy to the New Age” “Spirit of Races” international symposium, Le Mans Université, June 2024

“The Politics of Esotericism and the Resistance to History” Symposium on “Politics and the Study of Esotericism” ETH Zurich, May 2023

“Environmental Politics and the Radical Right” Against Healing symposium, Gropius Bau Berlin, July 2022

“Far Right Ecology Past and Present” online seminar sponsored by Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right, May 2022

“The Rise of the Right: Making Sense of Populism, Authoritarianism, and Fascism” Rethinking Social Transformation Conference, University of British Columbia, June 2019

“The Politics of Organic Agriculture in Interwar Germany: From Nature to Nation” American Society for Environmental History conference, Ohio State University, April 2019

“From Fascist Italy to the Alt-Right: Julius Evola and the Revival of Radical Antisemitism” Conference on “Contending with Antisemitism in a Changing Political Climate” Indiana University, March 2019

“Antisemitism and the Rome-Berlin Axis: The Failed ‘Blood and Spirit’ Project in Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany” International Symposium on Religion and Nationalism in the Era of the World Wars, University of Toronto, May 2017

“The Politics of Nature, Left and Right: Radicals, Reactionaries, and Ecological Responses to Capitalism” keynote presentation for “Ecological Challenges” conference, University of Oslo, February 2017

- “The Transnational Occult: Esoteric Migrations between Germany and Italy from 1900 to the Second World War” Conference on “Esoteric Interferences: Towards a Transnational History of the Occult in Germany and Italy” Villa Vigoni, Italy, November 2016
- “Ancient Religion in Modern Garb? Völkisch Spirituality as a Response to Fin de Siècle Modernity” German Studies Association conference, San Diego, September 2016
- “Distorted Modernity: The Frankfurt School on Antisemitism and Capitalism” International Critical Theory Conference, Rome, May 2015
- “The Pen and the Sword: Public Discourse on Terrorism in the 1977 Mescalero Affair” German Studies Association conference, Kansas City, September 2014
- “Preparation for Genocide: The Center for the Study of the Jewish Problem in Trieste, Italy, 1941–1944” New Scholars / New Research on the Holocaust Conference, University of Toronto, October 2013
- “Esoteric Alternatives in Imperial Germany: Spiritual Seekers, Fluid Worldviews, and the Modern Occult Revival” German Studies Association conference, Milwaukee, October 2012
- “Historiography and its Discontents: The David Abraham Affair and the Boundaries of Historical Scholarship” American-Canadian Conference in German History, University of Rochester, April 2012
- “Hannah Arendt’s Analysis of Antisemitism: A Critical Appraisal” Conference on Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity, Yale University, August 2010
- “Education for the *Volksgemeinschaft*? The Controversy over Waldorf Schools in Nazi Germany” American-Canadian Conference in German and European History, Buffalo, April 2010
- “Aryans, Atlantis, and Alternative Cultures: Race in *Lebensreform* Thought, 1900-1933” German Studies Association annual conference, Washington DC, October 2009
- “The Nazi Campaign against Occultism” Interdisciplinary German Studies Conference, University of California – Berkeley, March 2009
- “Right-wing Critiques of Technology in the Twentieth Century: From Weimar to the Unabomber Manifesto” Conference on Comparative Approaches to Rightist Movements, City University of New York, March 2008
- “Rethinking Race and Antisemitism in Wilhelmine and Weimar Germany” American-Canadian Conference in German and Modern European History, Buffalo, September 2007
- “Two Forms of Skepticism toward Technology” St. Mary’s College Visiting Philosophy Lecture, St. Mary’s College, Maryland, March 2006

“The Race of the Spirit: Rudolf Steiner’s Theory of Racial Evolution” International Cultic Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, October 2004

“The Anarchism of Fools: Conspiracy Theory as a Substitute for Social Critique” Rethinking the Anarchist Tradition conference, Burlington, September 2004

Academic Awards and Fellowships

Way Klingler Sabbatical Fellowship Award 2024

Gettel Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence 2019

College of Arts and Sciences Teacher of the Year Award, Marquette University, 2019

Sharon Abramson Research Grant, Holocaust Educational Foundation, 2015

DAAD Summer Seminar, Nature in German Thought, University of Chicago 2015

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum summer fellowship 2014

Way-Klingler Young Scholar Award 2014

Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society, 2013

Silberman Faculty Seminar, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, 2013

Messenger-Chalmers Dissertation Prize 2010

Holocaust Education Foundation Summer Institute Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2010

Bowmar Research Fellowship 2009

Thomas Robbins Award for Excellence in the Study of New Religious Movements 2008

Humboldt Exchange Fellowship, Humboldt University Berlin, 2007

Luigi Einaudi Graduate Fellowship for Research in Europe, 2006 – 2007

German Historical Institute Summer Research Seminar in Germany, 2006

Professional memberships

American Historical Association
German Studies Association
American Society for Environmental History

Public speaking engagements

“Antisemitism in the Third Reich: Was Germany different?” Jewish Federation of Madison, May 2024

“Weimar Germany and the Rise of Nazism: What made the Holocaust possible?” Holocaust Education Resource Center, Milwaukee, January 2024

“Political Trends in Contemporary Germany” Goethe House, Milwaukee, December 2023

“Environmentalism and the Far Right: Confronting the Challenge” Amherst College, March 2023

“Weimar Culture: Promise and Precariousness” Jewish Museum Milwaukee, February 2023

“Capitalism and Climate Crisis: Facing the Challenge” Cooperation Milwaukee Climate Justice Assembly, Turner Hall, June 2022

“Antisemitism in Historical Perspective: Myths about Jews and Capitalism” Institute for Social Ecology online symposium, October 2021

“Overpopulation and right-wing environmentalism” international presentation for “Klima gegen Rechts” series sponsored by Ende Gelände and Fridays for Future, June 2021

“Ecofascism Past and Present” First Unitarian Society, Milwaukee, January 2021

“The Conscience of the German Countryside: Environmentalism in Nazi Germany” Ripon College, February 2019

“Germany’s Past and Wisconsin’s Present: From 1848 to 2018” Goethe House, Milwaukee, December 2018

“German Democracy at the Crossroads” University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, December 2017

“Understanding Fascism and the Radical Right” California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, June 2017

“The Politics of Immigration in Germany” University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, January 2016

“Ecological Politics in the Twentieth Century” School of the Art Institute of Chicago, April 2015

“The Threat of the Printed Word: Book Burning in Nazi Germany” University of Montana, October 2014

“Coming to Terms with the Past in Contemporary Germany” Milwaukee Jewish Community Center, March 2014

“Democracy and the Left” University of Chicago, November 2013

“Antisemitism in Weimar Germany and the Rise of the Nazi Party” Holocaust Study Institute, February 2013

“Democracy in Radical Movements from 1789 to Occupy Wall Street” New York City, January 2012

“Antisemitism and the Left” Washington DC, October 2009

Courses taught

Nazi Germany and the Holocaust

Environmental History: Ecology and Society in the Modern World

History in Theory and Practice

Modern Germany 1870 to the Present

Histories of Race and Racism

Europe in the Twentieth Century

Fascism and the Radical Right, 1918 to Today

Western Civilization since 1700

History of Evolution in Science and Society

Inventing Race: Racial Ideas in European and American Culture, 1750-2000

Dimensions of Democracy: Democratic Traditions in European History

Germany in European Context: Controversies in German History from 1848 to 1989

Antisemitism: Historical Roots, Contemporary Relevance

The Nature of Nature: Philosophies of Nature from the Greeks to the Greens