ZOË E.E. BURGARD

curriculum vitae

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Citizen of the United States and of Germany

Lecturer at Smith College, Department of German and Italian, 2026–

EDUCATION

Yale University, 2019–2026

Ph.D. Comparative Literature, May 2026

Dissertation: *Witness to Collapse: Early Modern and Modernist Fictions*
Advisors: Professors Katie Trumpener (Chair), Jane Tylus, and Rüdiger Campe
Abstract: This project compares the works of Grimmelshausen and Musil, Ariosto and Svevo, and argues that their writing responds to structural collapses in their respective socio-historical contexts in a way that reveals how long narrative form in the Early Modern and Modern periods can be interpreted as an act of bearing witness. This work allows for a deeper understanding of how literature contributes to the process of rebuilding morale and communal identity. In the face of lost identifiers — whether as members of a dominant religion, powerful empire, or influential social group — authors, as potential embodied signifiers for the citizens of their homes, turn to writing to reclaim a sense of control over their disrupted lives. In brief: literature becomes a homeland when the homeland is lost.
Readers: Professors Pericles Lewis, Alessandro Giammei, and Kirk Wetters

Ph.D. General Examination Fields:
Reading Shakespeare: Gender, Race, Disability (Professor Catherine Nicholson)
Early Modern English Verse and Verse Epic (Professor Feisal Mohamed)
Late Medieval and Early Modern Italian Literature (Professor Jane Tylus)
Self-Writing Across Genres: Reference, Essayism, Fashioning (Professor Katie Trumpener)
French Literature as Self- and Social Critique (Professor Maurice Samuels)
German and Viennese Literature, 1890–1930 (Professor Rüdiger Campe)

M.Phil. in Comparative Literature, May 2023
M.A. in Comparative Literature, May 2023

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2016–2018

M.A. *sehr gut*, European Literatures, September 2018

Masters Thesis, in German (optional), *sehr gut*: *Essayismus als Lebensphilosophie: Montaigne, Svevo, Musil*
Advisors/readers: Professors Helmut Pfeiffer (Romance Languages and Literatures) and Roland Berbig (German)

Harvard University, 2012–2016

A.B. *cum laude*, English and Romance Languages and Literatures (high honors in field), May 2016
Secondary Field: Classical Civilizations

Senior Thesis *summa cum laude*: *'Une Espineuse Entreprise': Diagnostic Self-Fashioning in Montaigne and Milton*
Advisors: Professors Gordon Teskey (English) and Tom Conley (French)
Readers: Professors James Simpson (English), Leah Whittington (English), and Christie McDonald (French)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Smith College

World Literatures xxx: Fictions of Home: Early Modern and Modern Germany and Italy, Spring 2027
German xxx: Capstone Tutorial (professional development course for graduating German majors), Spring 2027
German 250: Environmental Culture (Advanced Intermediate German), Spring 2027
German 110Y: Elementary German, Fall 2026
German 300: Deutsche Geschichte(n): History and Literature in 20th Century Germany, Fall 2026

Yale University

German S999: German for Reading Knowledge (Grader/Assistant), Summer 2026
German 1610: Wien 1900 – Vienna 1900 (co-designed and co-taught with Professor Sophie Schweiger), Spring 2026
Italian 1300: Intermediate Italian I (Instructor of Record), Fall 2025
German S999: German for Reading Knowledge (Grader/Assistant), Summer 2025
Italian 317: Women in the Middle Ages (Teaching Fellow for Italian-language section), Spring 2025
English 114: On Disability: First-Year Writing Seminar (Instructor of Record), Fall 2024
German 110: Elementary German (Instructor of Record), Spring 2023
English 114: Troubling Translation: First-Year Writing Seminar (Instructor of Record), Fall 2022
Literature 140: How to Compare (Teaching Fellow for Jane Tylus and Abigail Fields), Spring 2022
English 154: The Multicultural Middle Ages (Teaching Fellow for Ardis Butterfield and Marcel Elias), Fall 2021

Study in Italy — independent language and cultural institute in Genoa, Italy
Beginning Italian and English as a Second Language, September 2018–August 2019

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Humanities Fellowship Leader, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program, Yale University. Designing and directing programming for the humanities fellows in program designed to prepare promising undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds for applying to top-level PhD programs. May 2026–.

Research Assistant to Professor Jill Campbell, Yale University. Transcribing and translating manuscripts of *The Swiss Family Robinson* from German and French into English, including paleographical work at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, as well as assisting with research queries using German and French sources. May 2025.

FGLI-Access workshop leader. Working with the Yale Office of Educational Opportunity to provide dedicated writing support to first year, first-generation, low-income students enrolled in the Directed Studies program. Fall 2024.

Research Assistant to Dean of the College Pericles Lewis, Yale University. Working on revisions of the *Norton Anthology of World Literature* Volume F (Twentieth Century). Part-time, 2022–2023.

Language teacher, study abroad coordinator, manuscript editor, marketing and PR assistant, Study in Italy, Genoa. Full-time, October 2018–July 2019. Languages of work: Italian, English.

May-Crane Fellow for the Illustrated Dante Project, Houghton Library, Harvard University. Part-time, June–August 2016. Languages of work: English, Italian.

Assistant for the Charlie Hebdo Archive, Widener Library, Harvard University, Collections Department. Part-time, December 2015–August 2016. Languages of work: English, French.

Editorial Intern (remunerated), Random House Publishing Group LLC – Heyne Fiction, Munich, Germany. Full-time, June–August 2015. Languages of work: German, English, French, Italian.

President and Editor-in-Chief (elected), Her Campus Harvard, Harvard University, 2015.

Research Assistant to Professor Martin Puchner, Harvard University. Working on Wittgenstein and his reception in the arts. Part-time, March–May 2012. Languages of work: German, English.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Association for Italian Studies
American Comparative Literature Association
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
German Studies Association
Modern Language Association of America
Renaissance Society of America

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Collapse and Catastrophe: Narrative Form as Trauma Response," Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, San Francisco, February 2026

"Sins of the Father, Sons of the Empire: Joseph Roth's *Die Kapuzinergruft*," German Studies Association Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA, September 2025

"Diagnostic Self-Fashioning: Writing the Self Through Disability," American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, May 2025

"Raising Monsters: William Godwin, Mary Shelley, and the Creation of Chaos," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting, April 2025

"Writing the Self: Teresa of Avila, Michel de Montaigne, and Renaissance Autobiography," Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, Boston, March 2025

"In Search of a Hometown: Ludovico Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso*, and the Myth of Stability in Early Modern Italy," Modern Language Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, January 2025

"In the Shadow of War: Self-Representation and Trauma Processing in Grimmelshausen's *Simplicissimus*," German Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, September 2024

"Viennese *Gartenkultur* and its Biblical Descendants: Echoes of Eden in Robert Musil's Vienna," American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Montréal, March 2024

"'Was She Thy God?': Desire as Idolatry in *Paradise Lost* and *Samson Agonistes*," 13th Annual International Milton Symposium, Toronto, July 2023

"Lacking 'Necessary Competence': Disability and Diagnostic Self-Fashioning in Montaigne and Milton," Equinoxes: Corporeal Conversations Conference, Brown University, March 2023

"Variations on Translation: Reading, Performing, and Empathizing with Shakespeare," Yale British Studies Colloquium, November 2021

"Modes of Vulnerability: William Godwin's Emotional Register," Yale British Studies Colloquium, October 2020

PUBLICATIONS

Book Review: *Das Leben: Deutsch als Fremdsprache A1*, in *Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German*, 57, 1 (October 2023): 135–137. https://doi.org/10.1111/tger.12261

"Echoes of Eden in Musil's Vienna: Literature and the Culture of the Garden" (accepted pending completed peer review for a special issue of *Religion and Literature* on Modernism, Religion, and Empire)

"Diagnostic Self-Fashioning: Writing the Self Through Disability" (invited submission, under review for a special issue of *Atlantis: Critical Studies in Gender, Culture, and Social Justice* on Disability, Divergence, and Creative Expression)

"Sins of the Father, Sons of the Empire: Paternal Abandonment and Traumatic Loss in Modernist Vienna" (under review)

"Distress Signals: Examining Undulation in the Diaries of William Godwin and the Art of Agnes Martin" (under review)

"'Was She Thy God?': Marital and Sexual Desire as Idolatry in Milton's Epic Poems" (under review)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Humanities Graduate Students Representative (elected), Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Executive Committee, Yale University, 2022–2025

Graduate Student Assembly Representative, Elected Representative of Comparative Literature Graduate Students, (special service on Academic and Professional Development Board), Yale University, 2022–2023

Graduate Student/Faculty Liaison, Comparative Literature Department, Yale University, 2022–2023

Co-Organizer, British Studies Colloquium, Yale University, 2020–2022

In addition to monthly colloquia, co-organized inaugural "The Future of British Studies" conference in May 2021: Tim Barringer (Yale University), Sadiah Qureshi (University of Birmingham), Fiona Kearney (Glucksman Gallery, University College Cork), Sandeep Banerjee (McGill University). Co-organized the second annual "The Future of British Studies" conference in May 2022: Priyasha Mukhopadhyay (Yale University), Lenora Hanson (New York University), Natalie Prizel (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York), Kathleen Wilson (Stony Brook University).

LANGUAGES

English	Native language
French	Full professional proficiency (ILR ≈ 4+, CEFR ≈ C1) 3 years high school; 2 months Institut Français; Harvard Summer School in Paris; 14 university courses
German	Near-native fluency; heritage speaker (ILR ≈ 5, CEFR ≈ C2) 2 courses B2–C1; 2 years M.A. study in Berlin; M.A. Thesis in German
Italian	Full professional proficiency (ILR ≈ 4+, CEFR ≈ C2) Study in Italy, Genoa A1–C2; 1 university course B2; 3 university courses C1; 10 months teaching Italian and English at Study in Italy, Genoa
Latin	Professional working proficiency 7 years school; 5 weeks Paideia Institute Rome; 2 university literature courses; 10 weeks Yale Summer School intensive Latin grammar

HONORS AND AWARDS

Student Marshal, Yale University Commencement, May 2026

European Union Studies Grant, awarded research grant to research for and write a paper entitled "Europe Before the Union," June 2022 (unable to accept due to Covid-19)

First Prize, Vinitaly Young to Young, on the basis of social media coverage of Vinitaly 2019 (largest wine exhibition in the world), Verona, April 2019

DAAD Fellowship (German Academic Exchange Service), Two-Year Fellowship (October 2016 – September 2018) to pursue a Master of Arts in European Literatures at the Humboldt-Universität

Inaugural May-Crane Fellowship in the Houghton Library, Harvard University, 2016

Weissman International Internship Grant, Harvard University, 2015

David Rockefeller International Experience Grant, Harvard University, 2013

REFERENCES

Professor Dr. Roland Berbig a. D., Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Professor of German

***Professor Rüdiger Campe**, Yale University, Alfred C. and Martha F. Mohr Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Professor of Comparative Literature; to contact: rudiger.campe@yale.edu

Francesca Giuliano, Director, Study in Italy, Genoa

***Dr. Anna Iacovella**, Yale University, Senior Lector II, Italian Language Program Director; to contact: anna.iacovella@yale.edu

***Dean Pericles Lewis**, Yale University, Dean of Yale College, Douglas Tracy Smith Professor of Comparative Literature and Professor of English; to contact: pericles.lewis@yale.edu

Dean Michelle Nearon, Yale University, Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Student Engagement and Development

***Dr. Deborah Pellegrino**, Yale University, Senior Lector I, Italian Department; to contact: deborah.pellegrino@yale.edu

Professor Dr. Helmut Pfeiffer a. D., Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures

Professor Peter Sacks, Harvard University, John P. Marquand Professor of English Emeritus

Professor Maurice Samuels, Yale University, Betty Jane Anlyan Professor of French

***Dr. Theresa Schenker**, Yale University, Senior Lector II, German Language Program Director; to contact: theresa.schenker@yale.edu

***Professor Sophie Schweiger**, Yale University, Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures; to contact: sophie.schweiger@yale.edu

***Professor Gordon Teskey**, Harvard University, Francis Lee Higginson Professor of English Literature; to contact: gordon.teskey@gmail.com

***Professor Katie Trumpener**, Yale University, Emily Sanford Professor of Comparative Literature and Professor of English; to contact: katie.trumpener@yale.edu

***Professor Jane Tylus**, Yale University, Andrew Downey Orrick Professor of Italian and Professor of Comparative Literature; to contact: jane.tylus@yale.edu

*Current recommendation letters available upon request as of October 2026.

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Yale University (17)

Comparative Literature: *The Renaissance Beyond Italy* (Eire), *Gender and Voice in the Early Modern Period* (Ramachandran), *Early Modern Ecologies* (Tylus), *Comparative Literature Proseminar* (Campe), *The Rise of the European Novel* (Trumpener)

English: *Material Texts* (Stallybrass), *Milton* (Quint), *Fiction, Didacticism, and Political Critique: 1789–1818* (Campbell; auditor), *The Teaching of English* (Glaser/Tazudeen)

French: *Rabelais and Montaigne* (Compagnon, Columbia University/Collège de France), *Fin-de-siècle France* (Samuels)

German: *Vienna 1900–1938* (Naqvi), *Robert Musil's* Man Without Qualities*: The End of the Novel* (Campe), *Methods of Teaching German as a World Language* (Schenker)

Italian: *The Italian Renaissance* (Quint), *Dante* (Mazzotta), *Italy's Borderlands* (Tylus/Bassi)

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (21)

English: *Drama and Economy: Shakespeare and His Contemporaries* (Lobsien), *The Uses of Allegory* (Lobsien), *The Garden in English Literature* (Lieske), *Shakespeare's Histories* (Lobsien), *The Sonnet/Das Sonett* (Lobsien/Matala de Mazza)

French and Italian: *Form, Figur, Gattung* (Heymann), *Figuren des Exzentrischen* (Pfeiffer), *Diskursanalysen Michel Foucaults* (Vogl), *Boccaccio—Navarre—Cervantes* (Mattusch), *Rabelais* (Pfeiffer), *Storia d'Italia attraverso il cinema* (Carrara), *Espressione scritta* (Carrara), *Il 1968 in Italia* (Castelli)

German: *Zornige Helden* (Vogl), *Verlagsgeschichte—Literaturgeschichte* (Berbig), *Literatur und Ökonomie* (Vogl), *Der Brief als literarisches Medium* (Schöttker), *Huchel* (Berbig), *Auerbach: Mimesis und Figura* (Matala de Mazza)

Classics: *Antike Mythologie* (Poiss), *Die Odyssee für Joyce-Leser* (Chesi)

Harvard University, in fields of concentration (30)

English: *The Art of Noticing* (Teskey), *The Classic Phase of the Novel* (Fisher), *Literary Arrivals, 700–1700* (Watson), *Humanities Colloquium* (Greenblatt and Menand), *Metaphysical Poetry* (Teskey), *John Milton* (Teskey), *Junior Tutorial on Spenser, Milton, Blake* (Weckhurst), *American Literature to 1865* (Osadetz), *Shakespeare: The Early Plays* (Garber), *The Bible in the Humanities and the Arts* (Teskey), *Individual Senior Thesis Tutorial, full-year course* (Teskey, T. Conley), *Postwar American and British Fiction* (Wood), *T. S. Eliot* (Sacks)

French: *French Literature I* (T. Conley), *French Literature II* (Beizer), *Paris and Its Revolutions, double-credit course* (Jardine), *The Politics of Poetics: Literary and Cultural Analysis* (Jardine), *Individual Junior Tutorial on Montaigne's Essais* (T. Conley), *Vision and Violence in Seventeenth-Century France* (Guyot)

Classical Civilizations: *The World of the Roman Empire* (Dench), O*vid's Metamorphoses and Its Reception* (Tarrant), *Greek Culture and Civilization* (Kosmin), *Ovid* (Tarrant; auditor), *Catullus* (Thomas), *The Construction of Gender and Sexuality in Ancient Greece* (Weiss)

Related: *Italian through Art* (DiFabio), *The Philosopher and the Tyrant* (Damrosch), *Dostoevsky* (Todd)