

JON BERNDT OLSEN, PH.D.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: Department of History, Herter Hall 609
University of Massachusetts
161 Presidents Drive
Amherst, MA 01003-9312
Tel. 413-545-6767 Fax. 413-545-6137
Email: jon@history.umass.edu

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Doctor of Philosophy, Department of History **2004**
Dissertation: "Tailoring Truth: Memory Culture and State Legitimacy in East Germany, 1945-1989"
Advisor: Dr. Konrad H. Jarausch
Committee: Dr. Christopher Browning, Dr. Lloyd Kramer, Dr. Donald Raleigh, and Dr. Jay Smith
Major Field: Modern Europe (Germany)
Minor Fields: Russia, Early Modern Europe, Cultural History

Georgetown University, Washington, District of Columbia **1997**
Masters of Arts, German and European Studies
BMW Center for German and European Studies
Advisor: Dr. Roger Chickering

St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota **1993**
Bachelor of Arts
Russian Studies (Departmental Distinction), German (Departmental Distinction), History of the Cold War (Paracollege)
Advisor: Dr. Eric Weitz

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Massachusetts at Amherst **September 2008-Present**
Amherst, MA

Assistant Professor in the Department of History. Teaching responsibilities include a variety of graduate and undergraduate courses in German and European history as well as courses in the area of Public History and New Media. Courses: "Western Thought since 1600" (Fall 2008) and "Digital History" (Fall 2008)

George Mason University **September 2006-May 2008**
Fairfax, VA

Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of History and Art History. Teaching responsibilities included teaching the survey course "Western Civilization." Fellows also receive a course reduction to pursue research and writing. September 2006 to present.

Editor of "Making the History of 1989" – an online web project at the Center for History and New Media funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the 1989 revolutions in Eastern Europe. The site has over 350 primary sources, teaching modules, case studies, and interviews with leading historians. See: <http://chnm.gmu.edu/1989>

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE CONT.

The College of William & Mary
Williamsburg, VA

September 2005-May 2006

Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of History. Teaching responsibilities included course design, lectures, discussions, grading, and working with graduate teaching assistants. Courses: "German History Since 1914" (Fall 2005), "European History to 1715" (Fall 2005), "European History 1914-1945" (Spring 2006), and "European History 1715-Present" (Spring 2006).

Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas

September 2004 – May 2005

Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of History. Full responsibilities for course, including course design, lectures, discussions and all grading. Courses: "German History, 1648-1918" (Fall 2004), "Western Civilization Since 1648" (Fall 2004 & Spring 2005), "Nazi Germany, 1918-1945" (Spring 2005), and "Divided Germany, 1945-1990" (Spring 2005).

**University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill**
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

**September 1998 – May
2004**

Visiting Instructor in the Department of History. Courses: "World History Since 1945" (Fall 2003), "Diversity and the World Since 1945" (Spring 2003) and "Western Civilization to 1650" (Spring 2004 – taught online). Full responsibilities for course, including course design, lectures, discussion sections and all grading.

Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Department of History. Courses: "The World Since 1945" (Fall 1998, Spring 2001, and Spring 2002); "Western Civilization" (Spring 1999); "Europe in the 20th Century" (Fall 2001 and 2002). Duties included leading weekly discussion sections, grading weekly papers, two mid-term exams, and the final exam as well as holding weekly office hours to held individual students.

Research Assistant for the Southern Oral History Project. My duties included assessing, categorizing, and analyzing oral history interviews for the project "Listening for Change." I also conducted a series of interviews for the "Notable North Carolinians" project. (Spring 2004)

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Concordia College
Moorhead, Minnesota

1988 – Present (Summers)

Dean of Waldsee, the German language and cultural immersion program of the Concordia Language Villages. Responsibilities include the leadership of the daily program, hiring, training, and advising of 60 staff members, as well as leading the development of new areas of language and cultural content. Since 1998 I have taught a college-level course for advanced high school students on "Germany after the Wall", an inter-disciplinary look at life before and after unification (this course is taught in German).

RELATED WORK

Haus der Geschichte

January-June 1998

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EXPERIENCE CONT.

Bonn & Leipzig, Germany

Researcher (as a Robert Bosch Fellow) for Dr. Jürgen Reiche (Bonn) and Dr. Rainer Eckert (Leipzig). Projects: Analyzing the permanent exhibit of Germany's national history museum in Bonn with emphasis on suggestions for improvement of the history of German-American relations. In Leipzig I worked on the team charged with creating the overall concept for the new museum for East German history, which opened to the public in October 1999.

Markus Meckel, MdB (MP)
Bundestag (Parliament), Bonn, Germany

**October – December
1997**

Researcher and Speechwriter (as a Robert Bosch Fellow) for Markus Meckel, MdB, *Deutscher Bundestag* (Former Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic) within the framework of his role as the SPD speaker in the Enquete Commission investigating the consequences of the SED Dictatorship.

Georgetown University
Washington, District of Columbia

January – May 1997

Research Assistant for Dean Alan Goodman, School of Foreign Service. Project: Research Assistant for a study on "area studies" programs in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University by Dr. Stanley Katz, President of the American Council of Learned Societies, and Dr. Sara Castro-Klaren, Director of the Latin American Studies Program at The Johns Hopkins University. Responsibilities included organizing and gathering information, polling student opinion, and helping write the study's final report.

PUBLICATIONS

Editor: "Making the History of 1989" – an online resource for researching and teaching the history of the 1989 revolutions in Eastern Europe. Produced by the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Expected launch, Fall 2008. See: <http://chnm.gmu.edu/1989>

Author: "Recasting Luther's Image: The 1983 Commemoration of Martin Luther in the GDR" in: Andrew Plowman, ed. *Divided, But Not Disconnected: The German Cold War Experience* (Berghahn Books, forthcoming 2008). (accepted for publication)

Author: Book Review of Silke Arnold-de Simine, ed. *Memory Traces: 1989 and the Question of German Cultural Identity*. H-German, H-Net Reviews, November 2006. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=308011170796004>

Author: *Tailoring Truth: Memory Culture and State Legitimacy in East Germany, 1945-1989*, Dissertation, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, May 2004.

Author: "Review of Good Bye, Lenin!" H-German, H-Net Reviews, April, 2004. URL: <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=692>.

Author: "Crisis in Iraq: A United Nations Simulation", a political simulations used at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota in 2003.

Translator: Christopher Klessmann, "Workers in the Worker's State: German Traditions, the Soviet Model and the Magnetic Attraction of West Germany" in: Christopher Klessmann (ed.), *The Divided Past: Rewriting Post-War German History* (Oxford: Berg, 2001), pp. 11-41.

PUBLICATIONS CONT.

Co-Author with Daniel S. Hamilton, "The Case of Yugoslavia", a political simulation used at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota in 1993.

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Editor: "Global Perspectives" and "Simulations", handbooks used for staff training at the Concordia Language Villages that provide guidance for active language learning in a cross-cultural environment.

PAPERS AND CONFERENCES

- 2008:** Presentation of "Socialist Memories: Shaping Memory Culture and Historical Consciousness in the GDR" at the meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Seminar in German History hosted by the German Historical Institute, Washington DC, April 12, 2008.
- 2007:** Presentation of "Re-Tailoring Truth: Memories Debates and Conflicts in post 1989 East Germany" at the 2007 National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.
- 2007:** Presentation of "Making the History of 1989" at the Southern Historical Association annual meeting, Richmond, Virginia.
- 2007:** Invited Lecture on "Tailoring the Truth: East German Memory Culture and the Role of Historical Consciousness in a State-Socialist Society" in the History, Memory, and the Politics of the Past Series at the Elliott School of International Affairs, Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, March 27, 2007.
- 2006:** Participation in a round table discussion on "Representing Dictatorship: The Third Reich and the GDR" organized and sponsored by the Social Science Research Council Berlin Program (at the Freie Universität in Berlin).
- 2006:** Presentation of "Rooting the State in the Local: The Transformation of an East German Heimat Museum" at the 2006 German Studies Association Conference.
- 2006:** Presentation of "Martin Luther and the Cold War" at the conference "Two Nations, One People? The German Cold War Experience" at the University of Liverpool (England).
- 2004:** Presentation of "Monumental Art or Monumental Propaganda? How East German Artists Negotiated for Autonomy in Public Memory Projects" at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the German Studies Association in Washington, DC.
- 2002:** Presentation of "Early Attempts at Constructing an East German Memory Culture" at the Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Seminar in Potsdam, Germany sponsored by the German Historical Institute (Washington, DC) and Georgetown University.
- 2000:** Presentation of "Mobilizing Memory" at the Annual Conference of the German Studies Association.
- 2000:** Participant at the "New Traditions" conference in Berlin, Germany (formerly known as the "Bi-Annual Talks) hosted by the American Embassy and the City of Berlin. This was a conference aimed at bringing together 150 top German and American politicians, scholars, and journalists to set a new agenda for transatlantic cooperation.
- 1999:** Participant at the oral history conference: "Understanding the End of the Cold War: German Unification. 1989-90" in Wildbad Kreuth, Germany hosted by the Geschwister Scholl Institute (University of Munich), the Mershon Center (Ohio State University), and the Thomas Watson Institute (Brown University).
- 1998:** Participant at the "Young Leaders" Conference of the Atlantik Brücke in Florence, Italy on the topic: "The European Economy and Economic Union: The Consequences for Trans-Atlantic Relations."
- 1997:** Participant at a conference organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the German-Polish Society in Warsaw, Poland on the topic "Cultural and Societal Implications of a Polish Accession to the European Union."

PAPERS AND CONFERENCES CONT.

- 1996:** Presentation of "German Conservatives and the Construction of a Post-Unification National Identity" at the Graduate Student Conference of the Center for

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Perspectives" at the Graduate Student Conference of the Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University.

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2006-2008:** Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of History and Art History at George Mason University
- 1999-2000:** Visiting Fellow, Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies at the Free University in Berlin.
- 1997-1998:** Fellow of the Robert Bosch Foundation's Program for the "Advancement of Future American Leaders."
- 1993-1994:** Fulbright Research Fellow at the University of Mannheim, Germany. Topic: The Soviet and domestic influences on the construction of the East German state 1945-1949.
- 1992:** National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Younger Scholars Research Grant. Topic: The construction of the East German Communist State. Dr. Eric Weitz, Faculty Advisor.
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HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2005:** Nominated as an "Outstanding Faculty Member" by the graduating seniors at Texas Tech University (one of 92 in the university).
- 2002:** Mini-Grant recipient (with Dr. Konrad Jarausch) from the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to produce multimedia content for the course "Europe in the 20th Century."
- 1999:** Finalist for the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award of the Department of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 1993:** Phi Beta Kappa
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MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- AHA:** American Historical Association
- CGCEH:** Conference Group for Central European History
- GSA:** German Studies Association
- PBK:** Phi Beta Kappa
- RBFAA:** Robert Bosch Fellowship Alumni Association
- FAeV:** Fulbright Alumni e. V.
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ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2007-Present:** Editor of H-German, a member of H-Net Humanities & Social Sciences On-Line (2600 subscribers at present). Aside from the duties as Editor on Duty two months each year, I coordinate our film reviews, relations with the German Historical Institute, and manage the graduate readings lists in the areas of post-1945 German history, memory, and cultural history.
- 2007-Present:** Peer Reviewer of potential articles for *German Politics and Society*
- 2005-2006:** Member, the European Studies Concentration Faculty Advisory Committee (ES-CFAC) at The College of William & Mary
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FOREIGN LANGUAGES

- German:** Near native fluency in reading, writing and speaking
- Norwegian:** Intermediate reading, writing and speaking skills
- Russian:** Basic reading, writing and speaking skills