

Co-Conveners: UNC-Chapel Hill Department of History and Department of Germanic & Slavic Languages; UNC Center for European Studies; Duke University, Department of History

Friday, 17 February 2023

2:00 – 4:00 pm (EST) **Zoom Seminar**

NCGS “Challenging Conversations”
Series Roundtable

#IchbinHanna: Gender,

Diversity, and the German Academic System



Under the hashtag #IchBinHanna academics in Germany started a campaign against the German Law on Fixed-Term Contracts in Higher Education and Research (*Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz*) in the summer 2021. This campaign responded to a [video titled “Ich bin Hanna”](#) by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, which attempts to explain why fixed term contracts are necessary. With the argument that competition is needed in academia the video justifies a university system that does not know a tenure track, works untenured scholars to the point of burn-out, exploits them for unpaid teaching and only grants full professors tenure. What the ministry, politicians and many university leaders fail to see is that the lack of a tenure track causes not only to the miserable working conditions of many young academics, but also contributes to the continuing discrimination of women and a lack of diversity in academia. This roundtable will discuss with a focus on history and cultural studies the questions how the current structures and culture of the German academic system evolved and contribute to a discrimination of women, young scholars and academics with a diverse background and which reforms are necessary.

Moderation:

- **KAREN HAGEMANN** | James G. Kenan Distinguished Professor at the Department of History, UNC-Chapel Hill

Roundtable Participants:

- **SEBASTIAN KUBON** | Research Associate in the Field of Science Policy of the Green Party of the, Bavarian Parliament
- **MURIEL GONZÁLEZ ATHENAS** | Postdoc (*Universitätsassistentin*) at the Department of History and European Ethnology and the Center for Interdisziplinäre Gender Studies at the University of Innsbruck
- **SYLVIA PALETSCHEK** | Professor at the Department of History and Vice Rector for University Culture at the Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg
- **MARY LINDEMANN** | Professor Emerita at the Department of History at the University of Miami and former AHA President

More information on the NCGS website: <https://ncgsws.web.unc.edu/>

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CONVENERS: Duke University: Dept. of German Studies | Dept. of History | The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Carolina Seminars
Carolina Center for Jewish Studies | Center for European Studies | Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Languages & Literatures | Dept. of History