

MICHAEL GUBSER

Department of History, MSC 2001

James Madison University

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Current Positions

Professor, Department of History, James Madison University

College of Arts and Letters, Faculty Fellow with responsibility for promoting faculty research

Degrees

Ph.D. History, University of California, Berkeley, December 2001

M.A. International Relations, University of South Carolina, 1994

B.A. History / Government, College of William & Mary, 1991

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship – 2021-2022

Franklin Grant, American Philosophical Society – 2021

JMU College of Arts and Letters Summer Grant, 2018, 2019, 2020 (deferred)

Finalist for the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV) Outstanding Faculty Award (OFA), 2016-17

American Council of Learned Societies Ryskamp Fellowship – 2011-12

Faculty International Development Grant from JMU's Office of International programs – 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017.

Department Assessment Chair when department won Provost's Award for Assessment - 2010

JMU Provost Award for Excellence in International Beliefs and Values - 2009

Received funds from OIP, the College of Arts and Letters, Africana Studies, the International Beliefs and Values Institute, and the History Department to support research – 2009, 2011

APTA Summer Study Grant, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School - 1999

Mellon Dissertation Fellowship - 1997-8

Distinction awarded for PhD oral examination – History Department, University of California, Berkeley - 1997

Publications

Books

The Practice of International Development. Co-edited with Jerrold Keilson. New York: Routledge, 2018.

The Far Reaches: Phenomenology, Ethics, and Social Renewal in Central Europe. Palo Alto: Stanford, 2014.

Time's Visible Surface: Alois Riegl and the Discourse on History and Temporality in fin-de-siècle Vienna. In the series: *Kritik: German Literary Theory and Cultural Studies.* Wayne State Press: Detroit, January 2006.

Current Project

"Their Future: A History of Ahistoricism in International Development." Researching and writing book on the history of ahistoricism in international development theory and practice.

Articles

“Zambia’s Missing Narrative of Structural Adjustment.” Forthcoming in the *Zambia Social Science Journal* (Brill Publishers). Special Issue Commemorating Kenneth Kaunda. 2022.

“Political Phenomenology in the Interwar Period.” Book Chapter in Key Thinkers of Political Phenomenology, eds. Sophie Loidolt, Gerhard Thonhauser, Nils Baratella, Steffen Herrmann and Tobias Matzner. Forthcoming with Routledge. 2022.

“Phenomenological Perspectives on Solidarity in East-Central Europe” in European Solidarity: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, ed. Francesca Tava. Forthcoming with European Consortium for Political Research Press. 2022.

“Eastward: On Phenomenology and European Thought.” *Studia Phaenomenologica* XXI (2021), 369-81.

“Phenomenology contra Nazism: Dietrich von Hildebrand and Aurel Kolnai.” *Miscellanea Anthropologica et Sociologica* [Polish journal] 20: 1 (2019): 115-132.

“Riegl, Phenomenology, and the Ethic of Attention.” *Umění [Art]* LXVI (2018), 146-157. [Czech Republic]

“The Walls of Kano: USAID Education Programming in North Nigeria and the Problem of Sustainability.” In Gubser and Keilson, eds. The Practice of International Development. New York: Routledge, 95-128.

“Foreword” to Tomáš Murár’s *Art as the Principle and Pattern: Vojtěch Birnbaum’s Concept and Method of Art History*. Archiv výtvarného umění: Kostelec nad Černými, 2017.

“The Presentist Bias: Ahistoricism, Equity, and International Development in the 1970s.” *The Journal of Development Studies* 48 (2012): 1-14.

“The Terror and the Hope: Jan Patočka’s Transcendence to the World.” *Schutzian Research* 3 (2011): 185-202.

-Revised reprint in *Investigaciones fenomenológicas* 4 (2013), 155-75.

-Revised reprint in Lubica Učník, ed., Judgment, Responsibility, and the Life-world. (Springer: 2015).

“A True and Better ‘I’: Husserl’s Call for Worldly Renewal.” *Analecta Husserliana* 110: Part II (2011): 579-98.

“The View from Le Château: USAID’s Recent Decentralization Programming in Uganda.” *Development Policy Review* 29:1 (January 2011): 23-46.

“Rhythm in the Thought of Alois Riegl and his Contemporaries.” In Alois Riegl Revisited: Beiträge zu Werk und Rezeption. Vienna: Verlag der österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (2010): 89-99.

“An Image of a Higher World: Franz Brentano and Edmund Husserl on Ethics and Renewal. [Aukštesniojo Pasaulio Vaizdunys: Etinis Atsinajinimas Pagal Frančą Brentano ir Edmundą Husserlį].” *Santalka* 17: 3 (2009): 39-49.

“Franz Brentano’s Ethics of Social Renewal.” *Philosophical Forum* 40: 3 (Fall 2009): 339-366.

“A Cozy Little World: Reflections on Context in Austrian Intellectual History.” *Austrian History Yearbook* XL (2009): 202-214.

“Time and History in Alois Riegl’s Theory of Art.” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 66: 3 (Fall 2005): 451-74.

“Science Advising and Science Policy in Postwar West Germany: The Example of the Deutscher Forschungsrat.” Co-written with Cathryn Carson. *Minerva* 40 (2002): 147-179.

Related Journalism and Public Commentary

“Phenomenology and Social Renewal” Interview, *Hermitix Podcast* on Philosophy. March 2022.

“Catholicism and the Making of Continental Philosophy,” *Church Life Journal*, University of Notre Dame, June 4, 2020. <https://churchlifejournal.nd.edu/articles/catholicism-and-the-making-of-continental-philosophy/>

“Ahistoricism in International Development,” Interview on the NPR program “With Good Reason,” September 29, 2012.

“What Do We Mean When we Talk about Impact?” *Monday Developments* 30:9 (September 2012): 5-6.

“US must seek conservative Muslims as Allies in fight against Boko Haram Terror” *The Christian Science Monitor*, April 4, 2012 (<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2012/0404/US-must-seek-conservative-Muslims-as-allies-in-fight-against-Boko-Haram-terror>).

“A Reflection on USAID’s New Evaluation Policy,” *Monday Developments* 30: 1/2 (January/February 2012): 5-6.

“Retrieving the Past: The Study of History and the Practice of International Development.” Cowritten with Jerrold Keilson. *Monday Developments* 28:10 (October 2010): 27-28, 32.

“The Role of Grandmothers in Developing Countries,” *AARP Newsletter*, June 2006 (http://www.aarp.org/research/international/perspectives/may_06_gubser_grandmother.html#bio)

Book Reviews

Humberto Beck, *The Moment of Rupture: Historical Consciousness in Interwar German Thought* (University of Pennsylvania, 2020). *The Journal of Modern History* 93:3 (2021), 736-37.

Martin Heidegger, *Being and Truth* (English translation) *The Review of Metaphysics* 70: 3 (2017).

Katherine Withy, *Heidegger on Being Uncanny*, *The Review of Metaphysics* 69: 2 (2015), 419-21.

Joseph A. Amato, Surfaces: A History. *American Historical Review* 119 (2014), 844-845.

J. N. Mohanty, Edmund Husserl's Freiburg Years: 1916-1938, H-Net Habsburg Network. March 2013.

Ivar Oxaal, On the Trail of Wittgenstein's Hut: The Historical Background of the Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus, *Austrian History Yearbook* 44 (2013), 333-35.

Malcolm Spencer, In the Shadow of Empire: Austrian Experiences of Modernity in the Writings of Musil, Roth, and Bachmann, *Austrian History Yearbook* 41 (2010), 262-63.

Conferences & Invited Talks

“USAID Community Development Projects in Guatemala.” *Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies Conference*. Antigua, Guatemala. March 2023.

“Why History Matters for Development Practice.” Invited Panelist for panel on “The History of Development in Bangladesh.”

- Keynote Address - Global Center for Innovation and Learning/ World Literature Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh. May 2022.
- Invited Talk - Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development, Comilla, Bangladesh. May 2022.
- Invited Talk – Jagannath University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. May 2022.

“East European Solidarity in the Global History of Solidarity.” Paper presented virtually at the *Nordic Society for Phenomenology Conference*. Stockholm, Sweden. April 2022.

Discussant on Panel “Czech Philosophy: From Patočka to the Anthropocene and Beyond.” *Southern Conference on Slavic Studies*. Richmond, Virginia. February 2022.

“Zambia's "Missing Narrative" of Economic Reform.” *Conference in Memory of Kenneth Kaunda*. Lusaka, Zambia. November 2021.

“Liberalization and Structural Adjustment in Zambia.” *African, African-American, and Diaspora Studies Conference*. James Madison University. Harrisonburg, Virginia. February 2021.

Keynote Speaker. Husserl in Prostějov Conference. Prostějov, Czech Republic. April 2020 – Postponed due to Covid-19 to April 2021.

“Zambia's Missing Narrative of Structural Adjustment.” *African, African-American, and Diaspora Studies Conference*. James Madison University. Harrisonburg, Virginia. February 2020.

Invited Talk. “The Four Phases of Solidarity.” Drew University. Madison, New Jersey. November 2019.

Chair. Roundtable Panel: Development History and Development Practice. *Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Conference*. Arlington, Virginia. June 22, 2019.

Invited Talk. “USAID Decentralisation Programming in Uganda, 2001-2007.” Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Zambia. Lusaka, Zambia. June 6, 2019.

Keynote Speaker. "The Concept of Solidarity." *Nordic Society for Phenomenology Conference*. Gdansk, Poland. April 2018.

Invited Panelist. "Understanding Totalitarianism in a Postmodern Age: Lessons from Central Europe." Public Workshop. Yale University. April 2018.

Co-chair, Book panel on my new book The Practice of International Development, *Comparative and International Education Society Conference*. Mexico City, Mexico. March 2018.

Invited book presentation on my book The Far Reaches at the Charles University Institute of Philosophy, Prague, Czech Republic. Fall 2017.

Invited book presentation on my book Times Visible Surface at the Charles University Institute of Art History, Prague, Czech Republic. Fall 2017.

"The First Third World." *Beyond the Dialectical Imagination: A Conference in Honor of Martin Jay*. University of California, Berkeley. October 2016.

Invited book presentation on my book The Far Reaches at the Polish Academy of Sciences. Warsaw, Poland. Sep., 2016.

Keynote Speaker. "Phenomenology and Anti-communist Dissidence." *Phenomenology and Practice: The 2nd Conference on Traditions and Perspectives of the Phenomenological Movement in Central and Eastern Europe*. Gdansk, Poland. Sep. 2016.

Keynote Speaker. "Phenomenology contra Nazism: Dietrich von Hildebrand and Aurel Kolnai." *Horizons Beyond Borders: Phenomenology in Central and Eastern Europe*. Budapest, Hungary. June 2015.

-also delivered as part of a JMU conference on tolerance organized by the Department of Philosophy. April 2015.

"The Phenomenology of Jozef Tischner." *Nordic Society for Phenomenology Conference*. Helsinki, Finland. April 2014.

"The Radiation of Humanity: Karol Wojtyła's Phenomenological Personalism." *Nordic Society for Phenomenology*. Copenhagen, Denmark. April 2013.

"Jan Patočka's Philosophy as a History of Freedom." Paper presented at the conference *Judgment, Responsibility and the Life-world*. Sponsored by the Australasian Phenomenology and Hermeneutics Association (APHA), the Philosophy Department of Murdoch University, and the Jan Patočka Archive at the Center for Theoretical Study and the Institute for Philosophy of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Prague, Czech Republic. May 2012.

"The Terror and the Hope: Jan Patočka's Transcendence to the World." Fourth meeting of the *Organization of Phenomenological Organizations*. Segovia, Spain. September 2011.

"Jan Patočka's Phenomenology of Historical Renewal." Third meeting of the *International Coalition of North American Phenomenologists (ICNAP)*. Washington, D.C. May 2011.

"Edmund Husserl and Jan Patočka on Ethics and Social Renewal." Paper presented at 60th International Congress of Phenomenology, Bergen, Norway. August 2010.

Invited Talk. "Edmund Husserl's Call for Renewal in Central Europe." Bucknell University. April 19, 2010.

“The Concept of Objectivity in Edmund Husserl and Alois Riegl.” *American Historical Association Conference*. Atlanta, Georgia. January 2007. Part of a panel on Austrian intellectual history.

“The Study of History and the Practice of Development.” *James Madison University Honors Program lecture series*. Harrisonburg, Virginia. March 28, 2007

Invited Talk. “Time and History in Alois Riegl’s Theory of Perception.” *The Alois Riegl Symposium*. Museum für angewandte Kunst, Vienna, Austria. Organized by the Department of Art History, University of Vienna. October 20-22, 2005.

“Ethics and Inner Perception in the Work of Franz Brentano.” *German Studies Association Conference*. October 2004. Also served as Moderator for a panel on Hegel and Goethe.

“Ethics and Phenomenology in Franz Brentano’s Thought.” *Ohio Valley History Conference*. Kentucky. October 2003.

“Time and History in Alois Riegl’s Theory of Art.” *Great Lakes History Conference*. Grand Rapids, Michigan. October 2002.

“A Case Study in the Link between Politics and Culture in fin-de-siècle Austria-Hungary” *International Studies Association South Conference*. October 1994.

Artistic Activities

Into the Sun. An original new musical about World War I. Co-wrote Book, Music, Lyrics with Paolo Prandoni.

- Performed in the New York Musical Theatre Festival (NYMF) Reading Series (2015);
- Performed at James Madison University Musical Theatre Program (2015);
- Performed at Montclair State University’s Musical Theatre Program, New Jersey (2017)
- Performed at the Kennedy Center, Page-to-Stage Festival, by James Madison University Theatre Program; sponsored by The Essential Theatre (2017)
- Performed at the International College of Musical Theatre (2019)

Comfort Zone. (Playwright) Performed at Newburyport New Plays Festival, Newburyport, MA, 2003.

Teaching and Research Experience (College Level)

James Madison University. (2005-Present) Full Professor, Department of History. Received tenure in 2011. Promoted to Full Professor in 2016. Teach upper-level and graduate courses in intellectual history, modern European history, historiography, international development; introductory courses in modern World History. Supervise graduate student theses and oral exams.

University of California, Berkeley. (1997-98) Research Assistant. Researched and translated letters relating to German science policy after World War II. 1997-8

University of California, Berkeley, History Department. (1996) Graduate Student Instructor, History 5. European Survey from 1500 to Present. Taught and graded discussion sections.

University of California, Berkeley. (1995-96) History, Political Science Departments. Teaching Assistant for courses on Modern European Intellectual History, Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe, Women in Politics, American Political Cultures. Graded, gave occasional lectures.

San Quentin, Two Year College Program. Designed and taught courses for a two-year college program for penitentiary inmates. Students received course credit at Patten College, Oakland, CA. European History Survey (French Revolution to Present), Introduction to Philosophy. Fall 1996, Spring 1998.

University of South Carolina, Department of Government and International Relations. (1992-94) Teaching Assistant for courses on International Relations. Research and Editing Assistant for the journal *International Interactions*.

Courses Taught

James Madison University

A History of International Development
Art and Politics
Foucault
History of Contemporary Inequality
Modern German History
Marxism
Postwar European History
Historical Methods
A History of Modern Political Thought
Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Ethical Thought
The Concept of Modernity
Modern East European History
The Holocaust in Global Context
Nineteenth-Century European History
Local History as Musical Theatre
Modern World History 1500-Present
Twentieth-Century World History

Faculty Supervisor of Washington, DC-based international affairs semester; taught a course on international development and human rights –200

Other College-Level Courses

Modern European History (1450-Present) – 1998-2001
Modern European History (1789-Present) – 1996
Introduction to Philosophy – 1998

Honors Thesis Supervision

Reader, Senior Honors Theses
Supervised undergraduate historical methods paper that won the department's Sidney Bland Award in 2009

Graduate Student Supervision

Direct graduate theses on European intellectual history, European history, international development, including two that won departmental award for best thesis of the year
Direct and participate on Orals Examination committees
Lead graduate student seminars

Guest Lectures

Graduate Historical Methods Seminar (Topics: Post-structuralism and Historiography, Textualism in Intellectual History, New Cultural History)
Graduate Historiography Seminar (Topic: Intellectual History of fin-de-siècle Vienna)
Eastern Mennonite University's Conflict Resolution Master's Program (Topic: The Relevance of History for International Development)
Twentieth-century World History class (Topic: Modern Uganda)

Guest Lecturer at JMU's Honors Brown Bag (The Study of History and the Practice of Development)
Presentations to History department Research Brown Bag (Two topics: Phenomenology and Ethics; History and Development)

Professional Research and Writing Experience (non-academic)

Consultant Evaluator and Proposal Writer for aid projects in developing countries. (2005-Present) Have conducted academic research in Nigeria, Uganda, and Guatemala. Worked for Plan International; World Vision; International Youth Foundation; Academy for Educational Development; Creative Associates International. Lead Evaluator for integrated development projects in Vardenis, Armenia (2014); Beirut, Lebanon (2013); and Alaverdi, Armenia (2012). Wrote three-year strategy for a new Albanian agency that is preparing communist-era secret police files for inspection by citizens (2017). Undertook historical documentation and project evaluation trip to Uganda and Ghana for Plan International in Summer 2008. Designed teacher training, PTA strengthening, girls education, and performance management programs for World Bank and USAID proposals in Kyrgyzstan, Niger, and Nigeria. Conducted USAID, World Bank, and Global Fund trend analysis. Bid as teacher training consultant for an education project in Afghanistan and as evaluation specialist for global monitoring and evaluation contract.

JMU Trainer in Proposal Writing. Through JMU's Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR), trained Landmine managers from post-conflict and developing countries in proposal writing as part of UNDP/State Department Senior Managers Course in USA and in Amman, Jordan. 2007-2020. Member of the CISR Advisory Board, 2020-present.

Creative Associates International, Washington, D.C. Writer/Editor. Researched, designed, and coordinated proposals for a USAID, World Bank, and Department of State contractor that manages education and civil society projects in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Conducted needs assessments and program evaluations in Morocco, Jamaica, Kenya, Azerbaijan. Contributed to design and coordination of education, civil society, program evaluation proposals in Nigeria, Angola, Morocco, Sudan, Colombia, Azerbaijan, Central Asia, Middle East, Guatemala, and a global education contract. 2003 - 05.

American Anti-Slavery Group, Boston, MA. Collaborated on curriculum about modern slavery. Wrote book proposal for Mauritanian abolitionist. Researched slavery in Sudan and Mauritania. 2002.

Teaching Experience (Secondary Level)

The Waring School, Beverly, MA. Teacher. Designed and taught Modern European History and Literature, American History and Literature, Writing. Grades 9-12. Program Evaluation for Strategic Review: Writing Program and Teacher recruitment policies. 2001-03.

St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Alexandria, VA. Teacher. Designed and taught AP Modern European History, Ancient and Modern World History, Philosophy. 9 and 12 grade. Senior class dean. 1998-2001.

Základní Škola Horáčkova. Prague, Czechoslovakia. Teacher. English Conversation. 1991-2.

Public Forums Founded

Faculty Research Workshop. James Madison University. 2022-

Founder and Chair of "Democracy in Peril?" speaker series related history and scholarship to current events – co-coordinated invitations and events – Main presenter in opening session – James Madison University – 2017-Present

Co-founder of *The Center for Development History* at the NGO *Interaction*. Washington DC.
2019-Present. Designed to promote development history and foster collaboration between scholars and practitioners

Committee Memberships

Faculty Fellow charged with promoting Faculty Research and Scholarship. James Madison University, College of Arts & Letters
Member, Zambia and Kenya Subcommittee of the Provost's Committee on Partnerships Between JMU and African Countries (2019-Present)
Member Civic Engagement Advisory Group (Madison Center)(2013-Present)
Advisory Board member, Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) (2020-Present)
Chair, Africa History Search Committee
Chair, Personnel Advisory Committee (2017-2021) (Member: 2012-2017; including 1 semester as Acting Chair)
Chair, Modern Africa Search Committee (Current)
Member, College of Arts and Letters Faculty Awards Committee
Faculty representative to University Research Council
Conducted Assessment of the IDEA Grant Program for the Office of Diversity
Member, Gandhi Center Reconstitution Committee
Department Assessment Coordinator (Department won Provost's Award for Assessment in 2010)
Faculty Senator, History Department
Co-sponsor, Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society
Chair, European Subcommittee of World History Committee
Member, History Department Graduate Committee
Member, World History Committee, JMU History Department
Member, International Humanities Minor Subcommittee
Member, Faculty Fulbright Evaluation Committee
Member, Faculty Search Committees (Early Modern France, Modern Central Europe, Russia)
Member, Faculty Evaluation Committee
Member, History Department Scholarship Subcommittee

Academic Review Experience

Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) fellowships - 2021
Project Reviewer and Program Evaluator for the Czech Academy of Science (most recently, 2020)
Reviewer for article Manuscripts (most recently, the *Journal for the History of Ideas*)
Reviewer for book manuscripts (most recently, Harvard and Northwestern University Presses)
External Reviewer for Tenure Applications for various universities (most recently, Virginia Commonwealth University – 2020)

Other Service Activities

Invited and introduced Michael Signer as part of the Madison Vision series - 2015
Contributor to IBAVI (JMU's Institute of Beliefs and Values) activities – 2008-2010
Participated in seminar designed to incorporate Asian art in World History courses - 2008
Presented research at JMU History Department's Brown Bag series – March 2009, October 2009
Facilitated contact and participated in meetings to establish an internship component for JMU's Ghana Summer Program – 2008-09
Faculty Leader, Student Service Trip to the Dominican Republic – Spring 2007
Taught proposal for JMU's Mine Action Awareness Center's Senior Manager's Course, sponsored by the UNDP, State Department – 2007-10 (Harrisonburg), 2010, 2011 (Amman, Jordan)
Invited and hosted Martin Jay as part of Visiting Scholars Committee lecture series - 2006
Regular participant in roundtables at Nelson Institute for International Affairs – 2005-07

Professional Organizations

Fellow for Development History, *Interaction* NGO, Washington DC (appointed 2021)
American Historical Association
Mid-Atlantic German History Seminar
International Husserl and Phenomenological Research Society
Dramatists Guild

Dissertation

"Time's Visible Surface: Alois Riegl and the Discourse on Time and History in fin-de-siècle
Vienna" – Committee: Martin Jay (Chair), Margaret Anderson, Kathleen James

Research Languages

English, German, French, Spanish, Czech