

KATHARINA VESTER

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, History, American University. 2010-present.

Director, American Studies Program, American University. Fall 2009-Fall 2014.

Scholar-in-Residence and Glendenen Postdoctoral Fellow, American Studies Program, American University. 2007-2010.

Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin. American Studies Program, Ruhr-Universität Bochum. 2002-2007.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. American Studies, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 2007. Awarded *summa cum laude*. Dissertation: *A Taste of Power: Collaboration and Resistance in Culinary Discourses*.

M.A. Magistra Artium with highest honors, Universität Potsdam, Freie-Universität Berlin, 2002. Major: American Culture and Literature; Minors: Latin American Studies and Philosophy.

Research Associate, Center for Humanities and the Arts, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2001-02.

Summer Session, American Studies Program, University of California at Berkeley, 1998.

Summer Session, English Literature, University of California at Los Angeles, 1997.

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

A Taste of Power: Food and American Identities

This book-length manuscript explores the construction of national, gendered and sexually determined subjects through food practices and discourses and argues that culinary practices, as a site of everyday cultural expression, provide an opportunity to challenge and resist hegemonic relations of power. (Under contract with University of California Press. Estimated publication date: November 2015)

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“A Date with a Dish: Revisiting Freda De Knight’s African American Cuisine.” *High and Low on the Hog: African American Foodways from Slavery to Obama*. Ed. Jennifer Wallach. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press. (forthcoming Fall 2015.)

“Bodies to Die for: Negotiating Hegemonic Beauty Ideals in Detective Novels.” *The Journal of Popular Culture* (forthcoming February 2015).

“See Dad Cook! Fatherhood and Cooking Advice in the 21st Century.” *The Contested and the Poetic: Gender and the Body*. Ed. Amanda Stone. Witney, UK: Interdisciplinary Press, 2014.

“‘The American Table’: Tourism, Empire and Anti-Immigration Sentiment in American Cookbooks in the 19th Century.” *Transnational American*

- Studies*. Ed. Udo Hebel. American Studies: A Monograph Series. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, June 2012. 445-465.
- "Regime Change: Gender, Class, and the Invention of Dieting in Post-Bellum America." *Journal of Social History* (Fall 2010), 39-70.
- "Queer Appetites, Butch Cooking – Recipes for Lesbian Subjectivities." *Queers in American Popular Culture*. Ed. Jim Elledge. Santa Barbara: Praeger, October 2010. 11-21.
- "Tender Mutton: Recipes, Sexual Identity and Spinster Resistance in Gertrude Stein." *Another Language: Poetic Experiments in Britain and North America*. Eds. Kornelia Freitag and Katharina Vester. Transnational and Transatlantic American Studies. Berlin: LIT Verlag, 2008. 289-300.
- "I Yam What I Am': Identitätsstiftende Texte aus der afro-amerikanischen Küche" [Identity Construction in Texts from African American Foodways]. *Negotiating Diversity: Aspects of Identity in Anglophone Culture*. Ed. Peter Drexler. Berlin: Trafo Verlag, 2003. 191-208.

Edited Volume

Kornelia Freitag and Katharina Vester, eds., *Another Language: Poetic Experiments in Britain and North America*. Transnational and Transatlantic American Studies. Berlin: LIT Verlag, 2008. 306 pp.

Other Academic Publications

- Editor, *Food, Media, and Culture*, student online journal, 2008, 2012, 2014.
- "Modern Food, Moral Food: Self-Control, Science, and the Rise of Modern American Eating in the Early Twentieth Century by Helen Zoe Veit" Review. *Food, Society, Culture*. (Forthcoming Winter 2014/15.)
- "Dieting." *The Encyclopedia of American Women's History*. Ed. Hasia Diner. New York: Facts on File, forthcoming.
- "The Flying Classroom: The Hopes and Perils of Online Teaching." *Festschrift TU Dortmund*. Ed. Walter Grünzweig. Münster: LIT Verlag, (forthcoming).
- "International Students - Transnational Research." *The United States in Global Contexts: American Studies after 9/11 and Iraq*. Ed. Walter Grünzweig. Münster: LIT Verlag, 2004. 156.
- "Das dritte Geschlecht. Male Warbrides, musizierende Transvestiten, und Metrosexualität: Die Herstellung von Heterosexualität als hegemonialer Diskurs." [The Third Gender: Male Warbrides, Musical Transvestites, and Metrosexualität: The Creation of Heterosexualität as a Hegemonic Discourse.] *Schwubile* (January 2004): 1-2.
- Co-editor of *Ruberta*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum women's bulletin, 2004.

Other Publications

- "Occupy Wall Street." *CAS Website*, December 8, 2011, <http://www.american.edu/cas/news/katharina-vester-occupy-wall-street.cfm>.
- "Turning the Holocaust into 200,000 Square Feet of Cement." *Jewish Bulletin of Northern California*, October 21, 2005.

Scholarly Translations: Books

- Herta Nagl-Docekal, *Feminist Philosophy*, trs. Katharina Vester. Boulder: Westview Press, 2004. ("Excellent" translation - Linda López McAlister in *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*.)
- Ottmar Ette, *Literature on the Move*, trs. Katharina Vester. Amsterdam, New York: Rodopi, 2003.

Scholarly Translations: Articles

- Ottmar Ette and Peter Wagner, "Sex Literally Revisited: Being-a-Body and Having-a-Body in Ramón Gómez de la Serna, Luisa Futoransky and Juan Manuel de Prada." *Framing Women: Changing Frames of Representation from the Enlightenment to Postmodernism*. Eds. Sandra Caroll, Brigit Pretzsch, Peter Wagner. Tübingen: Niemeyer, 2003. 251-82.
- Ottmar Ette, "The Scientist as World Citizen: Alexander von Humboldt and the Beginning of Cosmopolitics." *International Review for Humboldtian Studies/Revista Internacional de Estudios Humboldtianos/Internationale Zeitschrift für Humboldt-Studien* 2 (2001).
- Jean Franco, "La Malinche: Vom Geschenk zum Geschlechtervertrag" [La Malinche: From the Gift to the Sexual Contract] in "La Malinche: Interkulturalität und Geschlecht." Eds. Barbara Dröscher, Carlos Rincón. Berlin: Verlag Walter Frey, 2001. 41-60.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Faculty Research Support Grant, AU (course release), Fall 2014.
- American Association of University Women (AAUW), American Fellowship, 2012-13.
- AU International Travel Award, 2011, 2012.
- CAS Mellon Grant for Faculty Research, 2011, 2012.
- Belasco Prize for Scholarly Excellence, Association for the Study of Food and Society, 2011.
- Dean's Research Assistant Award (with Linda Monahan), 2011.
- Schlesinger Library Research Grant, 2010.
- DAAD Doctoral Fellowship (German Academic Exchange Service), 2004-05.
- American Studies Prize, best M.A. thesis, Universität Potsdam, 2002.
- American Studies Prize, best seminar paper, Universität Potsdam, 2000.

CONFERENCES AND GUEST LECTURES

Presentations and Panel Discussions

- "See Dad Cook! Fatherhood and Culinary Advice in the 21st Century," *Femininities and Masculinities 4*, Lisbon, 2014.
- "'I Hold the Reins of Comfort and Health in My Own Hands'--Disciplining the Bourgeois Subject in 19th Century Dieting Instructions," *Obesity, Health and the Liberal Subject*, Washington, D.C. 2013.
- "'The Diet of Brain-Workers': Empire-Building in Victorian Nutritional Advice," *American Studies Association*, San Juan, 2012.
- "'I Yam What I Yam': Soul Food, Diasporic Cuisines and Contested African American Identities," *Crossroads in Cultural Studies*, Paris, 2012.
- "'The Diet of Brain Workers': Food, Citizenship and American Empire in the Late 19th Century," *European Association of American Studies*, Izmir, 2012.
- "Disciplining Cultural Studies: Kulturwissenschaften and Cultural Studies in Germany," *Cultural Studies Association*, San Diego, 2012.
- "'Wolves in Chef's Clothing': The Male Gourmet After World War II," *Food Networks: Gender and Foodways*, South Bend, 2012.
- "'The American Table': Culinary Tourism and Anti-Immigration Sentiment in American Cookbooks between the Civil War and World War I," *German Association of American Studies*, Regensburg, 2011.
- Panelist, "Cultural Studies and the Undergraduate," *Cultural Studies Association*, Chicago, 2011.

- "'Wolves in Chefs' Clothing': Recipes for Masculinity in Hemingway, Hammett and Early Men's Cookbooks," *Food Representation in Literature, Film and the Other Arts*, San Antonio, 2010.
- "Reducing Women: Gender, Race, and Class in Post-Bellum Dieting Advice," *Reading the Everyday: Literary and Cultural Perspectives*, Paderborn, 2009.
- "Queer Appetites, Butch Cooking," *Lavender Languages & Linguistics*, Washington, D.C., 2009.
- "Reducing Women: Politics and Power in Early Diet Discourses," inaugural *Patrick Clendenen Conference*, Washington, D.C., 2008.
- "Beauty and the Feast: Diet and the Female Body in American Popular Culture," *Postgraduate Forum of the German Association for American Studies*, Dortmund, 2005.
- "Tender Mutton: Recipes, Sexual Identity and Spinster Resistance in Gertrude Stein," *Another Language – Contemporary U.S. Poetic Experiments in a Changing World*, Bochum, 2005.
- "'Date with a Dish' - Kochen und Konstruktion von Männlichkeit in den USA der 30er und 40er Jahre" [Cooking and the Construction of Masculinity in the USA of the 1930s and 40s], *BOND: Junior American Studies Scholars Conference*, Dortmund, 2004.
- "Sexuality und Gender als Analysekatogorien in den Kulturwissenschaften" [Sexuality and Gender as Categories of Analysis in Cultural Studies], Keynote, *Annual Meeting of the National Gay Men's Student Union*, Göttingen, 2003.
- "Viral Discourse and Cultural Infection: Alejandro Morales' *Rag Doll Plagues*," *Representations of Chicana/o Culture(s): Images, Texts, Products*, Potsdam, 2002.
- "Körper auf Rezept: Widerstand und Selbstbehauptung in Texten amerikanischer Autorinnen" [Recipes for Bodies: Resistance and Self-Presentation in American Women's Texts], *Gender and Women's Studies Colloquium*, Potsdam, 2001.

Chairing, Commenting and Organizing Panels

- Organizer, "Vampire Narratives and American Society," *Chesapeake American Studies Association*, 2012.
- Chair, "Performing and Placing Sexualities," *Lavender Languages & Linguistics*, Washington, D.C., 2012.
- Commentator, "Travel and Transformation: Global Perspectives on American Religious Cultures," *American Studies Association*, Baltimore, 2011.
- Moderator, "In and Out of the Coffin: Queerness in Contemporary Vampire Fiction," *Lavender Languages & Linguistics*, Washington, D.C., 2011.
- Chair, "Language, Politics, Embodiment," *Lavender Languages & Linguistics*, Washington, D.C., 2010.
- Discussant, "Remapping Communities & Rethinking Politics," *Reinstating Transgression: Emerging Political Economies of Queer Space*, Washington, D.C., 2010.
- Chair, "Migration, Science, Technology," *American Studies Association*, Washington, D.C., 2009.
- Discussant, "New Directions in Queer Excavations," *Lavender Languages & Linguistics*, Washington, D.C., 2008.

Invited Lectures

- "Essen, Kochen, Erinnern – Kochbuecher als historische

- Dokumente" [Eating, Cooking, Remembering—Cookbooks as Historical Documents], Museum fuer Kunst und Kulturgeschichte Dortmund, 2014.
- "Stirring the Melting Pot: Jüdische Identität in amerikanischen Kochbüchern," [Jewish Identity in American Cookbooks], Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich, 2011.
- "Men in Aprons: Abenteurer, Verführer und Großwildjäger in der amerikanischen Küche" [Adventurers, Womanizers and Big Game Hunters in the American Kitchen], *American Food Cultures Lecture Series*, Carl-Schurz-Haus Freiburg, 2010.
- "I Yam What I Am': Food, Power and Identity in African American Cookbooks," Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 2009.
- "The History of Homosexuality," *Queer Studies Lecture Series*, Universität Essen, 2006.
- "The Invention of Homosexuality," *Gay Studies Lecture Series*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 2006.
- "The NCNW Cookbooks: Food, Resistance and New Models of African American Identity," *Graduate Colloquium*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 2006.
- "Male Warbrides, musizierende Transvestiten und Metrosexualität: Die Herstellung von Heterosexualität als hegemonialer Diskurs" [Musical Transvestites and Metrosexualität: The Production of Heterosexuality as Hegemonic Discourse], *Queer Studies Lecture Series*, Universität Duisburg, 2004.
- "American Masculinities," *Cultural Studies Lecture Cycle*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 2004.
- "Jewish Immigrant Culture and Literature," *American Studies Lecture Cycle*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 2004.
- "That's Amore' - Die Pizza in der amerikanischen Kultur" [Pizza in American Culture], Universität Dortmund, 2003.
- "Postmodernism," *Cultural Studies Lecture Cycle*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 2002.

TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

Classes designed and taught

American University, Washington, D.C.

- "Interpreting American Culture," senior seminar, 2012, 2014.
- "Food, Media and Culture," undergraduate course, 2011, 2013, 2014.
- "Blood and Desire: Vampire Narratives and American Society," undergraduate seminar, 2011, 2013.
- "The Corset of Democracy: The Political Economy of Beauty Norms in U.S. Cultural History," graduate and undergraduate lecture course, 2011.
- "Disciplined Subjects: Cultural Constructions of the Modern Body," senior seminar, 2010, 2011.
- "Beauty Myths: Identity, Politics, and Body Ideals," undergraduate course, 2009.
- "Food, Identity and Politics: A Taste of Power," undergraduate course, 2008, 2010.
- "American Dreams, American Lives," undergraduate course, 2007, 2008, 2009.

Universität Dortmund (language of instruction: English)

"The Corset of Democracy: The Politics of Fashion and Body Ideals in the 19th-Century United States," graduate seminar, summer session, 2009.

"Food, Identity and Politics," graduate seminar, summer session, 2008.

Ruhr-Universität Bochum (language of instruction: English)

"Food, Identity and Politics: A Taste of Power," undergraduate seminar, summer session, 2008.

"Miss America, Cosmetic Surgery and Weight Watchers: American Beauty in the 20th Century," seminar, 2007.

"The Ethnic Sleuth: Race and Ethnicity in American Detective Stories," seminar, 2008.

"The Politics of 'Passing': Subverting Race, Class and Gender in American Literature and Culture," seminar, 2006.

"Queer Theory," graduate seminar, 2006.

"Beyond the Melting Pot: Food and the Invention of American Identities," seminar, 2006.

"The Grand Tour: American Travelers Writing Europe," seminar, 2006.

"Skin Deep – Beauty, Bodies, and Business in 19th Century American Culture," seminar, 2005.

"Yellow Peril, Red Scare, War on Terror – Discourses of Fear in American Politics and Culture," seminar, 2005.

"Demanding the Impossible'- Utopian Thought in American Literature," seminar, 2005.

"Constructing the Norm: 'Masculinity' and 'Whiteness,'" graduate seminar, 2004.

"American Expatriates in Paris," seminar, 2004.

"Jewish Immigrant Culture and Literature in the USA," seminar, 2003.

"Introduction to Cultural Studies," seminar, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006.

"The Female Sleuth in the Contemporary American Detective Novel," seminar, 2003.

"The Making of Chicana Poetics," seminar, 2003.

"Academic Essay Writing," seminar, 2002.

Universität Potsdam

"Introduction to Literary Studies," discussion section, 2000.

"Gender and Aesthetics," undergraduate seminar, 1999.

"Introduction to Literary Theory," discussion section, 1998.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

Bavarian America Academy Summer School. International cooperation with prestigious, state-funded German institution devoted to creating scholarly transatlantic networks between young scholars of the U.S. and Germany, sponsored by CAS, 2012.

CHASA. Organized annual meeting of the Chesapeake American Studies Association, sponsored by CAS, 2012.

American Studies Day. Inaugural meeting of young American Studies scholars at American University, 2010, 2011.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien (DGFA). Organized annual meeting of national German American Studies Association for 2007.

Another Language – Contemporary U.S. Poetic Experiments in a Changing World. Organized international conference of senior scholars and poets, 2005.

BOND. Founded and organized annual colloquium of junior American Studies scholars in the Ruhr valley, 2003-06.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

AU Media

"Food Education Nation," by Gregg Sangillio, *American University website*, October 2013 (article on food studies at AU).

"Fat Cats, Body Builders, and Corsets," by Sarah Stankorb, *American Magazine*, August 2011 (article on my research).

"America's Yo-Yo Diet: How Culture Rules Waistline," by Sarah Stankorb, *American Magazine website*, August 2011 (interview).

"The Undead Come Alive in New Vampire History Class," by Paige Jones, *The Eagle*, April 7, 2011 (short article on my teaching).

Other Media

BackStory: "Beach Bodies: A History of the American Physique," NPR 8/5/2012 (interview).

MEMBERSHIPS

IASA (International American Studies Association)

EAAS (European Association for American Studies—Women's Caucus Member)

DGfA (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien—Women's Caucus Member)

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Radio journalist, 1990-1996. RIAS Berlin, RS 2, Journalistenbüro Berlin, and BB-Radio Potsdam. Reporter, news editor, anchor, program manager, and editor-in-chief.

Print journalist, 1990-1991. *Prinz Berlin* (city magazine), arts editor.

LANGUAGE

German native speaker.

English professional fluency with published translations (German-English and English-German).

Spanish passed language exam for Latin American Studies in 2000.

Latin earned "Großes Latinum" state certificate.

Greek earned "Graecum" state certificate for ancient Greek.