Final Report

The Transatlantic Summer Workshop took place on July 8-12, 2019, at the CUNY Graduate Center in midtown Manhattan. Now in its fifth year, the program brought together twenty doctoral students and four senior professors in the social sciences and humanities from the CUNY Graduate Center, Rutgers University, the University of Duisberg-Essen (UDE) and the Ruhr University, Bochum (RUB), for a week-long intellectual exchange. The week was organized around student presentations of original, doctoral research and a professionalization series that encouraged students to think about their careers during and after the PhD.

Student presentations allowed for lively feedback and the exchange of ideas and featured a range of topics related to this year's theme, “Politics, Identities and Relationships in the Transatlantic World.” The student participants were drawn from the PhD programs in political science, sociology, comparative literature and art history, respectively. Some of the topics addressed included “The Desire for Children: Adoption in West Germany after 1945,” “Knowledge and Intelligence in
the Cold War,” “Coping and Resilience of Female Yazidi Survivors in the Post-Conflict Period of the Islamic State” and “Voice and Atmosphere in Post-War Germany,” among others.

The group also benefited from lively discussion of our reading of The Death of Democracy by Professor Benjamin Hett, one of the participating faculty members from CUNY. Taking advantage of our meeting location in the CUNY Graduate Center, we also had the opportunity to attend an unexpected foreign policy address by former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden that took place in the building.

The professionalization component included a lecture by Professor Paul Attewell on “Comparative Higher Education Systems”; a presentation on “Publishing for Publics” by Anne Glusker, Editor at Forbes.com; and a talk with Micah Kleit, director of Rutgers University Press, as well as lectures on cultural nuance, networking, grant-seeking and career planning.

Current outcomes include a stay at the Graduate Center of Pia Eiringhaus (PhD candidate in History, RUB) as a research fellow with Professor Dagmar Herzog of the PhD Program in History.

We wish to thank our sponsors for their continued generous support of the annual Transatlantic Summer Workshop: the Max Kade Foundation, the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, the Provost’s Office at the CUNY Graduate Center, and the Research School of the Ruhr University Bochum.

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