**WEIJIA LI,** Ph.D.

Director, Global Higher Education Master’s Program

Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis

Assistant Professor, Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**

253F Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall, Madison, WI 53706

Email: wli255@wisc.edu

**Education**

**The Ohio State University**

Ph.D. in Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2009

**The Ohio State University**

M.A. in Germanic Languages and Literatures

**Beijing International Studies University, Beijing, China**

B.A. in German Language and Literature

**Professional Experience**

**University of Wisconsin–Madison**

Assistant Professor of German (tenure track), 50% appointment, 2013-present

Director of Global Higher Education Master’s Program, 50% appointment, 2013-present

**Western Illinois University**

Assistant Professor of German, Head of German Program, 2009-2013

**Beijing International Studies University, China**

Senior Lecturer of German, 1999-2003

Lecturer of German, 1994-1999

**Publications**

**Book in Progress**

Jews, Chinese, and the “Oriental Other”—Writings on China by European Jewish Refugees in Shanghai 1939-1949.

**Book**

*China und China-Erfahrung in Leben und Werk von Anna Seghers*. Oxford: Peter Lang, 2010.

**Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters**

“‘Consuming’ China: Images of China in German and American Television Advertisements of the 21st Century.” *German Studies Review* 43.1 (2020),107-126.

“Synthesis and Transtextuality —The Jewish Re-invention of Chinese Mythical Stories in ‘Shanghai Ghetto’.” *Dimensions of Storytelling in German Literature and Beyond,* Eds. Kristy Boney and Jennifer Marston William. Rochester: Camden House, 2018, 140-151.

„Zwischen Romantik und Orientalismus: Ostasiatische Kunstgeschichte in der Weimarer Republik.“ *German Studies Review* 38.3 (2015): 531-554.

“Otherness in Solidarity: The Collaboration between Chinese and German Left-wing Activists in the Weimar Republic.” *Beyond Alterity: German Encounters with Modern East Asia*. Ed. Qinna Shen and Martin Rosenstock. Spektrum: Publications of the German Studies Association. New York: Berghahn, 2014, 73-93.

„Von unmittelbarer Aktualität zu sinnbildlicher Gestaltung – Über die Seghers’sche China-Rezeption.“ *Argonautenschiff: Jahrbuch der Anna-Seghers-Gesellschaft*. 21 (2012): 67-79.

“Braveness in Non-Action: The Taoist Strategy of Survival in Bertolt Brecht’s *Schweyk* and Anna Seghers’ *Transit*.” *Brecht Yearbook* 36 (2011): 106-122.

„Anna Seghers´ Sinologiestudium und ihr Interesse an chinesischer Kunst.“ *Argonautenschiff: Jahrbuch der Anna-Seghers-Gesellschaft*. 18 (2009): 155-65.

„Zukunftsorientierte Landeskunde. Der Erwerb landeskundlicher Kenntnisse und moderner Arbeitstechnik als Lernziele.“ *Didaktische Reflexionen: “Berliner Didaktik” und Deutsch als Fremdsprache heute*. Ed. Hans Werner Hess. Tübingen: Stauffenburg Verlag, 2004. 109-20.

„Projektorientierte Maßnahmen zur Binnendifferenzierung am Beispiel des Seminars ‚Deutsche Landeskunde‘ im Germanistikstudium.“ *Neues Jahrhundert, neue Herausforderungen. Germanistik im Zeitalter der Globalisierung*. Conference Proceedings of the Annual Conference for German Studies in East Asia. Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2004. 772-81.

**selected Awards and Honors**

* Mentor of the Year Award, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2019.
* Honored Instructor, University Housing, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2019.
* Departmental Nominee, University of Wisconsin–Madison Faculty Distinguished Teaching Awards, Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic, 2019.
* Mentor of the Year Award, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2018.
* Mentor of the Year Award, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, U University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2017.
* Honored Instructor, University Housing, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2017.
* Honored Instructor, University Housing, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2014.

**Selected Research Funding and support**

Faculty Conference Travel Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2020, $1,000

Faculty Conference Travel Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2018, $1,000

Research Competition Award (amount: $16,069), Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2016-2017

Faculty Conference Travel Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2016, $1,000

Research Competition Award (amount: $15,604), Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2015-2016

Research Competition Award (amount: $15,566), Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2014-2015

Provost Award for Faculty Travel, Western Illinois University, 2011, $1,000

Provost Award for Faculty Travel, Western Illinois University, 2010, $1,000

**Invited Keynotes, Lectures, and Workshops**

**Invited Keynotes, Lectures, and Workshops on German Studies**

“A German-Jewish ‘University’ in China during World War II — An Unique Case of Transnational Refugee Education.” Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2019.

“History of Jewish Immigrants and Refugees in China: From Kaifeng to Shanghai.” Invited Public Lecture. Organization of Chinese Americans Wisconsin Chapter and Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church, Wauwatosa, WI, November 2018.

“The Search for Otherness and the Politics of Alterity.” Workshop for Graduate Student. The German and Dutch Graduate Students Association 2018 Annual Conference, Madison, WI, November 2018.

“The History of Jewish Diaspora in China and What We Can Learn from Rabbi Swarsensky Today.” Invited Public Lecture. Temple Beth El, Madison, WI, November 2018.

“Diaspora in China: German and Polish Jewish Refugees in Shanghai 1938-1950.” Invited Public Lecture. Jewish Museum Milwaukee, WI, August 2018.

“Jewish Diaspora in China: European Jewish refugees in Shanghai during World War II.” Invited Public Lecture. Levy Summer Series. Jewish Social Services of Madison, WI, August 2018.

“The Portrayal of China and Chinese People in German and American Television Commercials — A Comparative Case Study.” Invited Lecture. Department of German, Dalian University of Foreign Languages, Dalian, China, May 2017.

“Mahjong, Rickshaw, and Confucius: Central-European Jewish Refugees’ Encounter with Chinese Culture in Wartime Shanghai 1938-1950.” Invited Public Lecture. Jewish Museum Milwaukee, June 2016.

“Jewish Diaspora in China: European Jewish Refugees' Cultural and Educational Engagement in Shanghai during World War II.” Invited Lecture. Arizona State University, October 2015.

“Between Torah and Tao Te Ching – European-Jewish-Chinese Cultural Encounters in Shanghai Jewish Exile Writings.” Invited Lecture. Arizona State University, October 2015.

“Central-European Jewish Refugees and their Chinese Neighbors in Wartime Shanghai, 1938–1950.” Invited presentation at the 15th Annual Greenfield Summer Institute at George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, 2014.

“The Eternal ‘Yellow Peril’ — China in 21st Century German Mass Media.” Invited Lecture at School of Foreign Languages and Cultures, Chongqing University, China, 2014.

“East Asian Art History in the Weimar Republic.” Invited Plenary Speech. The 5th Annual Graduate Student Conference of the GGSA at The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, February 2013.

“Anna Seghers und China – sonderbare Begegnungen.”Invited Keynote Address. The 2011 Annual Conference of the International Anna Seghers Society. Berlin, Germany, November 2011.

“War-Time China and Chinese Taoism in Brecht's and Seghers's Works.” Invited Lecture to be delivered at the German Research Seminar at the University of Nottingham. Nottingham, UK, November 2011. (Canceled due to visa issue)

“German Studies in the USA: A Cross-cultural Perspective.” Invited Lecture. Research Institute of Comparative Literature and Cross-cultural Studies, Beijing International Studies University. Beijing, June 2011.

“A Mirror from the ‘Other World’ – German Programs at U.S. Colleges and Universities.” Invited Lecture. Department of German, Beijing International Studies University. Beijing, June 2011.

**Invited Lectures on Global Higher Education**

“Strategies and Assessment of Globalization of Higher Education.” Invited lecture. Heilongjiang University, Harbin, China, May 2017.

“Foreign Language Pedagogy in American Higher Education: Past and Present from a Cross-Cultural Perspective.” Invited Lecture. Nankai University, Tianjin, China, May 2017.

“German Undergraduate Programs at American Universities and Colleges: From a Cross-cultural Perspective.” Invited Lecture. Department of German, Beijing International Studies University, Beijing, June 2016.

“Adult Education in Shanghai Jewish Refugee Community 1938-1951.” Invited Lecture at George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, 2015.

“Comprehensive Internationalization of American Higher Education—What Does It Mean for Chinese Higher Education?” Invited lecture. Chongqing University, Chongqing, China, 2014.

“Internationalization of Higher Education in the U.S.—Research and Practice.” Invited lecture. Research Institute of Higher Education, Chongqing University, Chongqing, China, 2014.

“A Mirror from the ‘Other World’ – German Programs at U.S. Colleges and Universities.” Invited Lecture. Department of German, Beijing International Studies University. Beijing, June 2011.

**Selected Conference Presentations**

“Chinese Dimensions of German-Jewish Discourse—Images of China and Chinese Jews in German Zionist Press 1890s — 1920s.” The 43rd Annual Conference of German Studies Association, Portland, Oregon, October 2019.

“Jewish Response to Orientalism in the Context of Holocaust —Willy Tonn and his Re-invention of Chinese Mythical Stories during his Exile in Shanghai 1939-1949.” The 42nd Annual Conference of German Studies Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 2018.

“‘Selling’ China — Image of China in German and American Television Advertisements.” Asian-German Studies Seminar at The 41st Annual Conference of German Studies Association, Atlanta, Georgia, October 2017.

“The Image of China in German and American Television Commercials — A Comparative Case Study.” “Coalescence or Collapse? Challenges for German and European Studies in the 21st Century” — Interdisciplinary Conference Celebrating 25 years of DAAD Funded Centers for German and European Studies. Washington DC, December 2016.

“The Immediacy of the Unapproachable: Writings on China by German POWs in East Asia during World War I.” The 48th Wisconsin Workshop: Outside the Kaiserreich: The German Diaspora in the World War I Era International Symposium, Madison, WI, October 2015.

“Tao and ‘The Secret of Real Victory’ — China in German Writings of World War I in East Asia.” The 39th Annual Conference of German Studies Association, Washington, DC, October 2015.

“Negotiating Cultures in Diaspora — Willy Tonn and His ‘Asia Seminar’ for Central-European Jewish Refugees in Shanghai.” The 38th Annual Conference of German Studies Association, Kansas City, MO, September 2014.

“Re-interpreting the ‘Otherness’ — German-Jewish Refugees’ Encounter with Chinese Culture in Wartime Shanghai.” The 37th Annual Conference of German Studies Association, Denver, CO, October 2013.

"German Reception of Chinese Fine Arts in the Weimar Republic. A Case Study of the Museum of East Asian Art in Cologne." The 36th Annual Conference of German Studies Association, Milwaukee, WI, October 2012.

“The Collaboration between Chinese and German Left-wing Activists in the Weimar Republic.” The 36th Annual Conference of German Studies Association. Louisville, KY, September 2011.

“Strategy of Survival: The Taoist Wu-Wei in Brecht and Anna Seghers.” The 13th Symposium of the International Brecht Society. Honolulu, Hawaii, May 2010.

**Teaching**

**University of Wisconsin–Madison (2013-present)**

German graduate courses

* *German 947: New Approaches of Transnational Cultural Studies* (Spring 2020)
* *German 676/947: China in the German World: Literature and Interculturality* (Spring 2018)

German undergraduate courses

* *German 285: Intermediate Intensive (Honors) German: Language, Culture, Texts* (6-credit intensive course, Fall 2018)
* *German 372: China from the German Point of View* (Spring 2014, Spring 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2017, Spring 2019)
* *German 305: Deutsche Literatur des 20. und 21. Jahrhunderts* (Fall 2016)
* *German 249: Intermediate German: Speaking and Listening* (Fall 2013, Spring 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015)

Graduate courses on global higher education

* *ELPA 885: Leadership for Study Abroad Programs and International Student Services* (Spring 2017, 2018, 2019)
* *ELPA 886: Internationalization of Higher Education* (Fall 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)
* *ELPA 940: Higher Education in a Global Context* (Fall 2013)

**Western Illinois University (2009-2013)**

German undergraduate courses (all taught in German)

* *War, Terrorism and Pop-culture in German Cinema* (Spring 2011, Spring 2012)
* *Introduction to German Contemporary Culture and Literature* (Fall 2010)
* *Brecht and Epic Theater* (Spring 2010)
* *German Contemporary Political and Social Issues* (Fall 2009, 2011, 2012)

**Beijing International Studies University (1994-2003)**

German undergraduate courses

* *History of Christianity* (2001, 2002)
* *Chinese Culture from Foreigner’s Perspective* (2001, 2002, 2003)
* *Intercultural Communication in Tourism* (1997, 1999)
* *German Culture and Society* (2000, 2001, 2002)
* *Germany’s Social Market Economy* (2000, 2001, 2002)
* *German History* (2000, 2001, 2002)

**Graduate Student Advising**

**University of Wisconsin–Madison (2013-present)**

Major graduate advisor

* Having served as major advisor for a total of 98 M.S. students in the Global Higher Education Program, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (2013-2019)

Doctoral dissertation committee member

* Mélanie Yœurp, Ph.D. 2019. Dissertation: *Generational Legacies in Family Narratives: Re-examining the (Grand)Mother as Nazi Sympathizer at the Millennial Turn*. Department of German, Nordic and Slavic, December 10, 2019.
* Christopher George Stohs, Ph.D. Dissertation: *The Reception of the Bennett Law in Wisconsin’s German-Language Press*. Department of German, Nordic and Slavic, December 5, 2019.
* So Hee Hyun, Ph.D. 2019. Dissertation: *Challenges Facing Immigrant Transfer Students in American Higher Education and Personal Initiatives and Institutional Practices for Overcoming These Challenges*. Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, November 18, 2019.
* Joel Kaipainen, Ph.D. 2019. Dissertation: *Creative Destruction: The Financial Crisis and Cultural Production*. Department of German, Nordic and Slavic, October 30, 2019.
* Chelsea Blackburn Cohen, Ph.D. 2018. Dissertation: *Globalization and the Mobility of Ideas: Acritical Account of Academics in Exile at Colleges and Universities in the United States*. Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, May 4, 2018.
* Karolina May-Chu, Ph.D. 2017. Dissertation: *Border Poetics: German-Polish Literary Exchanges after 1989*. Department of German, Nordic and Slavic, May 3, 2017.
* Joel Stark, Ph.D. 2017. Dissertation: *Sociolinguistic and Structural Aspects of Pennsylvania Dutch in the Nineteenth Century*. Department of German, Nordic and Slavic, May 5, 2016.
* Sarah Korpi, Ph.D. 2015. Dissertation: *“We were always brothers.”–Natives of the Americas in (East) German children's literature*. Department of German, May 11, 2015.
* Robert Manzke, Ph.D. 2015. Dissertation: *Attributes of Innovative Global Citizenship Programs at Mid-Sized Public Universities*. Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, April 27, 2015.

**Professional Service**

**Service to the Field**

Webmaster, social media editor (2010-present), International Brecht Society

**Service to the University**

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ad Hoc Committee on First Nations Land Acknowledgement for the Academic Staff Assembly (2020-present)

International and Immigration Issues University Committee (2019-present)

Center for East Asian Studies Steering Committee (2018-present)

International Recruitment and Marketing Ad-Hoc Committee (2017-present)

School of Education Global Education Committee (2017-present)

School of Education Global Engagement Office Faculty Co-Director Search Committee (2019)

Faculty Fellow at Chadbourne Residential College (2018-2019)

Wisconsin Idea Seminar Director Search Committee (2016)

Western Illinois University

International Education Council (2012-2013)

**Professional Memberships**

* Association of International Educators (NAFSA)
* American College Personnel Association (ACPA)
* Modern Language Association (MLA)
* German Studies Association
* Association for Jewish Studies
* International Brecht Society