

# FABIAN T. PFEFFER

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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

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426 Thompson Street  
3240 Institute for Social Research  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- current UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology (since 2016)  
Research Assistant Professor, Institute for Social Research (since 2013)  
Co-Investigator, Panel Study of Income Dynamics (since 2013)  
Faculty Affiliate, Population Studies Center (since 2010)  
Faculty Affiliate, Center on the Demography of Aging (since 2013)
- 2010–13 UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Faculty Research Fellow, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research

## EDUCATION

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- 2004–10 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
Ph.D. in Sociology, 2010  
M.S. in Sociology, 2006
- 2001–04 UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
'Hauptstudium' in Social Sciences, 2002-2004  
'Vordiplom' in Economics/Sociology, 2001-2002

## FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Social Inequality & Mobility, Education, Wealth, Crossnational Comparisons, Methods

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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- 2017-19 Project selected for the IRS Statistics of Income (SOI) Joint Statistical Research Program: "The Accumulation and Intergenerational Transmission of Personal Wealth" (PI)
- 2016–21 National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging, R01 Research Grant "Health, Wealth, and Time Use Over the Life Course and Across Generations" (\$10,100,000; Co-Investigator; PI: Vicki Freedman)

- 2016–20 National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging, R01 Research Grant “Linking 1940 U.S. Census Data to Five Modern Surveys of Health and Aging” (\$2,800,000; Co-Investigator; PI: Robert Warren)
- 2016–17 Russell Sage Foundation, Research Grant “How Accessible is the Top? The Changing Rigidity of High Incomes and Earnings.” (\$144,000; PI; Co-PI: Lloyd Grieger)
- 2015–17 Russell Sage Foundation, Research Grant “How Rigid is the Wealth Structure and Why?” (\$72,000; PI; Co-PI: Alexandra Killewald)
- 2015–17 Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Insight Development Grant “Asset poverty in Canada over time and in comparison to the United States” (\$60,000; Co-PI; PI: David Rothwell)
- 2015–16 German National Science Foundation, Seed Grant “Wealth and Disparity: Comparative Analysis of Trends in Inequality in Germany and the United States” (\$32,000; Co-PI with Markus Grabka)
- 2015–16 Panel Study of Income Dynamics, Small Grant “Intergenerational Transfers and the Concentration of Wealth within Family Lineages” (\$10,000; PI; Co-PI: Alexandra Killewald)
- 2013–14 Spencer Foundation, Research Grant “Growing Socio-Economic Inequalities in Educational Attainment and the Role of Parental Wealth” (\$40,000; PI)
- 2013–14 Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging, Pilot Grant “Do Grandma And Grandpa Matter? Uncovering the importance of the elderly for the socio-economic wellbeing of descendants” (\$32,000; PI)
- 2012–14 Russell Sage Foundation, Research Grant “Wealth After the Great Recession: Who lost, who recovered, and why?” (\$170,000; PI; Co-PI Robert Schoeni)
- 2012–13 Institute for Evaluation of Labour Market and Education Policy (IFAU, Sweden) “Parental Wealth and Children’s Outcomes in Sweden” (\$130,000; Co-PI with Martin Hällsten)
- 2012–13 Stanford Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality, New Scholars Grant “A multi-generational approach to trends in social mobility” (\$15,000; PI)
- 2011–12 National Academy of Education / Spencer Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow (\$55,000)
- 2011–12 American Educational Research Association, Research Grant (\$30,000; PI)
- 2009–10 Spencer Dissertation Fellowship (\$25,000)
- 2008–09 Dissertation Research Award, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$20,000)
- 2008 David Lee Stevenson Graduate Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association, Section on Sociology of Education
- 2008 “Nachwuchspreis Bildungssoziologie” (best master’s thesis written in the field of sociology of education in the years 2006-2007), German Sociological Association

- 2007–09 European Recovery Program Scholarship awarded by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology and the German National Merit Foundation (\$36,000)
- 2004–05 Fulbright Scholarship
- 2004–05 Scholarship of the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD, (declined)
- 2002–06 Scholarship of the German National Merit Foundation (“Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes”)

#### COMPETITIVE TRAVEL & CONFERENCE AWARDS

- 2012 Joachim Frick Memorial Award for best paper presented at the Intern. SOEP Conf. University of Stockholm, Visiting Researcher Program
- 2011 Population Studies Center, Freedman Fund for International Population Activities
- 2009 Harvard University, Summer Workshop on Inequality and Social Change  
National Longitudinal Surveys, Data Workshop  
Sociology of Education Association (SEA), Conference Award
- 2007 German Institute for Economic Research, Cornell University Workshop Award
- 2006 Center for German and European Studies, UW Madison, Travel Grant  
Research Committee 28, Aage B. Sørensen Student Travel Award

#### PUBLICATIONS

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- Killewald, Alexandra, **Fabian T. Pfeffer**, and Jared Schachner. 2017 “Wealth Inequality and Accumulation” *Annual Review of Sociology* 43: 379-404.
- Hällsten, Martin and **Fabian T. Pfeffer**. 2017. “Grand Advantage. Family Wealth and Grandchildren’s Educational Achievement in Sweden” *American Sociological Review* 82(2): 328-360
- Prix, Irene and **Fabian T. Pfeffer**. 2017. “Does Donald need Uncle Scrooge? Extended family’s wealth and children’s educational attainment in the United States”. In: Erola, Jani and Elina Kilpi-Jakonen (eds.). *Social Inequality Across Generations. The Role of Compensation and Multiplication in Resource Accumulation*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar: 112-135.
- Pfeffer, Fabian T.** and Jamie Griffin. 2017. “Determinants of Wealth Fluctuations” *Methods, Data, Analyses* 11(1): 87-108
- Pfeffer, Fabian T.** and Alexandra Killewald. 2016. “Intergenerational Correlations in Wealth”. pp. 175-201 in: *Economic Mobility. Research & Ideas on Strengthening Families, Communities & the Economy*. St. Louis: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.
- Pfeffer, Fabian T.** and Robert Schoeni. 2016. “How Wealth Inequality Shapes our Future”. *Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 2(6): 2-22
- Pfeffer, Fabian T.** and Robert Schoeni (eds). 2016. “Wealth Inequality. Economic and Social Dimensions” *Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 2(6)
- Pfeffer, Fabian T.**, Robert F. Schoeni, Arthur Kennickell, and Patricia Andreski. 2016. “Measuring Wealth and Wealth Inequality” *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement* 41(2): 103-120

- Pfeffer, Fabian T.** and Florian R. Hertel. 2015. "How Has Educational Expansion Shaped Social Mobility Trends in the United States?" *Social Forces* 94(1): 143-180
- Pfeffer, Fabian T.** 2015. "Equality and Quality in Education" *Social Science Research* 51: 350-368
- Brand, Jennie E., **Fabian T. Pfeffer**, and Sara Goldrick-Rab. 2014. "The Community College Effect Revisited: The Importance of Attending to Heterogeneity and Complex Counterfactuals" *Sociological Science* 1: 448-465.
- Pfeffer, Fabian T.** (editor). 2014. "Inequality Across Multiple Generations". *Special Issue of Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 35.
- Pfeffer, Fabian T.** 2014. "Multigenerational Approaches to Social Mobility. A Multifaceted Research Agenda". *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 35: 1-12.
- Falk, Emily B., Luke W. Hyde, Colter Mitchell, Jessica Faul, Richard Gonzalez, Mary M. Heitzeg, Daniel P. Keating, Kenneth Langa, Meghan E. Martz, Julie Maslowsky, Frederick J. Morrison, Douglas C. Noll, Megan Patrick, **Fabian T. Pfeffer**, Patricia A. Reuter-Lorenz, Moriah E. Thomason, Pamela Davis-Kean, Christopher S. Monk, and John Schulenberg. 2013. Neuroscience meets Population Science. What is a representative brain? *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)*.
- Pfeffer, Fabian T.**, Sheldon H. Danziger, and Robert F. Schoeni. 2013. "Wealth Disparities Before and After the Great Recession". *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 650(1): 98-123
- Pfeffer, Fabian T.** 2011. "Status Attainment and Wealth in the United States and Germany". Pp. 109-137 in Smeeding, Timothy, Robert Erikson, and Markus Jantti (eds.). *Persistence, Privilege, and Parenting. The Comparative Study of Intergenerational Mobility*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation
- Goldrick-Rab, Sara and **Fabian T. Pfeffer**. 2009. "Beyond Access. Explaining Socioeconomic Differences in College Transfer" *Sociology of Education* 82(2): 101-125
- Pfeffer, Fabian T.** 2008. "Persistent Inequality in Educational Attainment and Its Institutional Context" *European Sociological Review* 24(5): 543-565

## OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

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- Pfeffer, Fabian T.** 2015. "Higher Education and Social Mobility". *Testimony for a Congressional Briefing of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights*
- Pfeffer, Fabian T.** and Robert F. Schoeni. 2014. "Intergenerational transmission of well-being". *Focus* 31(1).
- Pfeffer, Fabian T.**, Sheldon H. Danziger, and Robert F. Schoeni. 2014. "Wealth Levels, Wealth Inequality and the Great Recession". *Russell Sage Foundation & Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality Policy Brief*
- Brown, Charles, Dan Brown, Dalton Conley, Vicki Freedman, Kate McGonagle, **Fabian Pfeffer**, Narayan Sastry, Robert Schoeni, and Frank Stafford. 2010. "Future Research in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences with the Panel Study of Income Dynamics". White Paper as part of the National Science Foundation's SBE 2020 planning activity.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS (resubmission, under review, invited)

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**Pfeffer, Fabian T.** "Growing Wealth Gaps in Education" (*conditionally accepted at Demography*)

**Pfeffer, Fabian T.** and Alexandra Killewald "Generations of Advantage. Multigenerational Correlations in Wealth from a Life-Course Perspective" (*revised & resubmitted to Social Forces*)

**Pfeffer, Fabian T.** and Martin Hällsten. "Parental Wealth as Private Insurance" (*revising & resubmitting to American Journal of Sociology*)

Florian R. Hertel and **Fabian T. Pfeffer.** "The Land of Opportunity? Long-term trends in social mobility and education in the United States" (*revising & resubmitting for edited volume*)

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

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**Pfeffer, Fabian T.,** Alexandra Killewald, and Andreja Siliuanas. "Intergenerational Transfers and the Concentration of Wealth within Family Lineages"

**Pfeffer, Fabian T.,** Matthew Gross, and Robert Schoeni. "Trends in Wealth Inequality and Insecurity Among U.S. Children"

**Pfeffer, Fabian T.,** Davis Daumler, and Jingying He. "Multigenerational Cycles of Poverty?"

**Pfeffer, Fabian T.** and Markus M. Grabka "Wealth Distribution and Wealth Mobility in U.S.-German Comparison"

**Pfeffer, Fabian T.** "Three-Generational Associations in Socio-Economic Outcomes"

**Pfeffer, Fabian T.** and Martin Ehlert. "The Private Safety Net: Wealth and the Scarring Effects of Unemployment"

**Pfeffer, Fabian T.** and Sara Goldrick-Rab. "Inequality and Compensatory Advantage in Student Pathways"

Elwert, Felix and **Fabian T. Pfeffer.** "Back to the Future. Using Future Treatments to Assess Hidden Bias"

Grieger, Lloyd and **Fabian T. Pfeffer.** "Affluence Dynamics in the United States"

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS \* invited <sup>f</sup>forthcoming

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2017      Research Committee on Stratification (RC28), Cologne, Germany  
            Population Association of America, Chicago (2)  
            Research Committee on Stratification (RC28), Columbia University, New York  
            American Sociological Association, Montreal

\* Department of Demography, University of California-Berkeley

\* Center for the Study of Inequality, Cornell University, Ithaca

\* Ministry of Education (BMBF), Berlin, Germany

\* Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

\* University of Quebec, Montreal, Canada <sup>f</sup>

\* Nuffield College, Oxford University, UK <sup>f</sup>

2016      Population Association of America, Washington D.C. (2)  
            Panel Study of Income Dynamics Conference, Ann Arbor  
            American Sociological Association, Seattle (2)

- Research Committee on Stratification (RC28), Bern, Switzerland
  - \* Department of Sociology, Harvard University
  - \* Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion, University of Kansas
  - \* Department of Economics, Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia
  - \* Department of Human Sciences, Ohio State University
  - \* Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, CUNY Graduate Center, New York
- 2015
- Federal Reserve System Community Development Conference, Washington D.C.
  - Conference on Wealth Inequality, University of Michigan
  - Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, London (2)
  - International Conference on Persistent Inequality, Monte Verià, Ascona, Italy
  - American Sociological Association, Chicago
  - \* Office of Population Research, Princeton University
  - \* Department of Sociology, Ohio State University
  - \* Cologne Graduate School, Germany
  - \* U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Washington D.C.
  - \* Nuffield College, Oxford University, UK
- 2014
- Population Association of America, Boston
  - Institute of Education and Society, University of Luxembourg
  - International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, Rotterdam
  - \* Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia
  - \* Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
  - \* Society for the Study of Social Problems, San Francisco
  - \* Center for Research on Inequality and the Life Course, Yale University, New Haven
  - \* University of Turku, Finland
- 2013
- Population Association of America, New Orleans
  - \* American Sociological Association, New York
  - \* Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, Palo Alto
  - \* American Academy of Political and Social Science Authors Conference, Ann Arbor
  - \* Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality, Columbia University, NYC
  - \* Institute of Education, University of London, UK
- 2012
- Population Association of America, San Francisco (2)
  - American Educational Research Association, Vancouver, Canada
  - European Population Association, Stockholm, Sweden
  - International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference, Berlin
  - Research Committee on Stratification (RC28), Charlottesville
  - American Sociological Association, Denver
  - Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington D.C.
  - \* Institute for Social and Economic Research, Essex, UK
  - \* Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, University of Mannheim, Germany
  - \* Center for Demography and Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (anniv. conf.)
  - \* National Academy of Education, Washington, D.C. (grantee workshop)
  - \* Russell Sage Foundation, New York (grantee workshop)
- 2011
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington D.C.
  - American Sociological Association, Las Vegas (2)
  - Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung, Mannheim, Germany

- Atlantic Causal Inference Conference, Ann Arbor  
 Research Committee on Stratification (RC28), Essex, UK  
 \* Population Studies Center, University of Michigan (anniversary conference)
- 2010 \* RAND Corporation, Labor & Population, Santa Monica  
 \* University of California-Los Angeles, California Center for Population Research  
 \* Swedish Institute for Social Research, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2009 American Sociological Association, San Francisco  
 Research Committee on Stratification (RC28), New Haven  
 Population Association of America, Detroit  
 American Educational Research Association, San Diego (2)  
 Sociology of Education Association, Monterey  
 \* Youth Inequalities Project, University College Dublin, Ireland  
 \* Department of Sociology, University of California-Irvine  
 \* Russell Sage Foundation Authors Conference, Madison
- 2008 International Socio-Economic Panel User Conference, Berlin, Germany  
 Research Committee on Stratification (RC28), Florence, Italy  
 Sociology of Education Association, Monterey  
 \* Cologne Graduate School, Germany  
 \* German Institute for Economic Research DIW, Berlin, Germany
- 2007 Research Committee on Stratification (RC28), Montreal, Canada  
 American Sociological Association, New York  
 International GSOEP Young Scholars Symposium, Delmenhorst, Germany  
 \* German Institute for Economic Research DIW, Berlin  
 \* University of Bamberg, Germany
- 2006 European Consortium for Sociological Research, Prague, Czech Republic  
 American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada  
 ISA World Congress of Sociology, Durban, South Africa

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### Scientific Boards & Professional Organizations

Council Member, ASA Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section (2017-2020)  
 Council Member, ASA Sociology of Education Section (2017-2020)  
 Advisory Board Member, Gates Millennium Scholars Data Project (2017)  
 Award Committee (Chair), AERA Maureen T. Hallinan Student Paper Award (2014)  
 Committee on Nominations, ASA Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section (2014)  
 Committee on Web, ASA Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section (2014-2015)  
 Student member of the Council, ASA Sociology of Education Section (2009-2010)

### Editorial

Guest Editor, Special Issue of the RSF Journal of the Social Sciences (2016)  
 Editorial Board, Demography (2013-2016)  
 Guest Editor, Special Issue of Research in Social Stratification and Mobility (2013)  
 Editor, Newsletter of the ASA Sociology of Education Section (2009)

## Conferences

Session Organizer, Meeting of the Population Association of America (2018)  
Session Organizer, RC28 Conference Toronto (2018)  
Critic (Author Meets Critics), Meeting of the American Sociological Association (2017)  
Session Chair, Meeting of the American Sociological Association (2017)  
Session Chair, RC28 Conference Columbia University (2017)  
Discussant, Meeting of the Population Association of America (2017)  
Academic Committee Member, RC28 Conference Cologne (2017)  
Session Organizer, Meeting of the American Sociological Association (2016)  
Discussant, Meeting of the Population Association of America (2016)  
Discussant, National Poverty Center (2016)  
Session Chair, Meeting of the American Sociological Association (2015)  
Discussant, Meeting of the American Sociological Association (2015)  
Conference Organizer, "Rising Wealth Inequality" Conference (2015)  
Session Organizer & Chair, Meeting of the Population Association of America (2014)  
Session Organizer & Chair, Meeting of the American Sociological Association (2014)  
Invited Panelist, Meeting of the American Sociological Association (2013)  
Session Chair, Meeting of the American Sociological Association (2013)  
Workshop Organizer, Meeting of the American Sociological Association (2013)  
Conference Organizer, "Inequality Across Multiple Generations" Conference (2012)  
Session Chair, Meeting of the American Sociological Association (2012)  
Poster Judge, Meeting of the Population Association of America (2012)  
Discussant, Meeting of the Population Association of America (2012)  
Session Chair, Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (2011)  
Invited Panelist, Assets Learning Conference, Washington D.C. (2010)  
Discussant, Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (2010)  
Discussant, University College Dublin, Marie Curie Excellence Conference (2009)

## Journal Reviewer Sociology

General *American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Social Forces, European Sociological Review, Sociological Science, Social Science Research, Sociological Theory, Rationality & Society, British Journal of Sociology, Acta Sociologica, Sociological Forum*

Methods *Sociological Methods and Research, Journal of Mathematical Sociology*

Subfields *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Sociology of Education, Research in the Sociology of Education, International Journal of Comparative Sociology, International Sociology, Socio-Economic Review, Journal of Marriage and Family*

## Journal Reviewer Other

*Review of Income and Wealth, Journal of Economic Inequality, American Journal of Education, American Educational Research Journal, Comparative Education Review, AERA Open, Education Finance and Policy, Comparative Political Studies, Developmental Psychology, Social Service Review, Politische Vierteljahresschrift, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, PLOS One*

## Book Reviewer



*Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Stanford University Press, Russell Sage Foundation*

#### Grant Reviewer

*National Science Foundation, Russell Sage Foundation, William T. Grant Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, National Poverty Center Michigan, Israel Science Foundation*

#### Professional Membership

American Sociological Association, International Sociological Association (RC 28), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie, Population Association of America, European Association for Population Studies, International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, Society for Advancement of Socio-Economics

#### Public Service

Panelist, Briefing of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Washington D.C. (2015)  
Guest Lectures, University of Michigan, Special Course by the Financial Aid Office (since 2013)

#### Media Coverage

Associated Press, New York Times, Washington Post, U.S. News & World Report, Los Angeles Times, Time Magazine, The Atlantic Magazine, The Economist, The Nation, Newsweek, New York Magazine, Huffington Post, Slate, Inside Higher Ed, Population Reference Bureau, NPR/Michigan Public Radio, Detroit Public Radio, Bild der Wissenschaft (Germany), Deutschlandradio (Germany), EFE America (Latin America/Spain)

### RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

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- 2015– DIW Research Fellow, German Institute for Economic Research
- 2009–10 Visiting Student, California Center for Population Research, UCLA  
Visiting Student, Sociology Department, University of California-San Diego
- 2007–09 Graduate Research Fellow, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2005–10 International Affiliate, Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

### RESEARCH VISITS

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- 2014,16 Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia
- 2012 Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, University of Mannheim, Germany
- 2010,11,12 Swedish Institute for Social Research, Stockholm

2008        German Institute for Economic Research DIW, Berlin, Germany  
2006, 07    European University Institute, Florence, Italy

## **LANGUAGES**

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English (fluent), German (native), Spanish (fluent), French (dormant), Latin (comatose)

## **TEACHING**

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### Graduate Students

Richard Rodems, dissertation co-chair, current  
Nora Waitkus, dissertation co-chair, current  
Christina Cross, dissertation committee member, current  
Elizabeth Burland, advisor, current  
Davis Daumler, advisor, current  
Giovanni Roman, advisor, current  
Brittany Vasquez, advisor, current  
Florian Hertel, dissertation co-chair, 2015