

Biographical Information

Susan Buck-Morss is Distinguished Professor of Political Science at CUNY Graduate Center, where she is a core member of the interdisciplinary research group ‘Committee on Globalization and Social Change.’ She is Jan Rock Zubrow ’77 Professor Emerita of Government at Cornell University, where she was a member of the graduate fields of Comparative Literature, German Studies, History of Art and Visual Studies, Romance Studies, and the School of Art, Architecture and Planning. Her most recent books are *Year 1: A Philosophical Recounting* (MIT Press, 2021) and *Revolution Today* (Haymarket Press, 2019).

Martha Crowe is currently pursuing her Master’s degree in philosophy at Humboldt University of Berlin after completing her undergraduate studies at the University of Aberdeen. With interests in political identity formation and the emotional components that underlie them, she is a research assistant for the Volkswagen Foundation funded project ‘The (trans)formation of a European sense of solidarity: Visceral politics and social belonging in a comparative European context’ at the Berlin School of Mind and Brain. Previously, Martha was editorial assistant at *Internet Policy Review*, published by the Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, and was recipient of the Deutschlandstipendium 2022–2023.

Helena W. Crusius is a PhD candidate in political theory at Cornell University. Her dissertation surveys cosmographies of 5th-century Athens in Plato’s *Timaeus* and *Critias*, phantasmagorias of 19th-century Paris in Walter Benjamin’s *Arcades Project*, and the multiverses of the 20th century toward a critical genealogy of the utterance ‘Another world is possible.’ She paints birds in oils and neglects her trumpet terribly.

Dorothea Douglas studied Art and Visual History in Berlin and Basel. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD in art history as part of the DFG Research Training Group ‘Organizing Architectures’ based between Goethe University Frankfurt, TU Darmstadt and the University of Kassel. Coming from critical image studies, Dorothea is particularly interested in the historic and cultural contingencies of sight and perception. In addition to her work at the Research Training Group, Dorothea

is a member of the 'Ästhetik und Medienkultur' working group at the Frankfurt Institute for Social Research and of the graduate research initiative 'Ästhetik demokratischer Lebensformen' at Goethe University Frankfurt. Most recently, she served as project coordinator at the 12th Berlin Biennial's curator's workshop.

Raha Golestani is a Tehran-born interdisciplinary artist, researcher, and art educator based in Frankfurt am Main. She holds a BA in Fine Arts (University of Tehran) and an MA in Aesthetics (Goethe University Frankfurt). She obtained her MA with a Goethe Goes Global scholarship and a thesis on "The Veil as a Critical Aesthetic Device in the Art of Persian Diaspora." She is currently a PhD candidate and scholarship holder at Goethe University, researching "The Entanglements of Exoticism and Self-Exoticism in the Contemporary Iranian Art Market." Raha Golestani was a fellow at the Günther Uecker Institute in 2023. Her cultural work includes stints at the Roobaroo Mansion Cultural Institute in collaboration with the Goethe Institute in Tehran, the Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, and the Frankfurt School of Painting. She occasionally works on literary portraits for German public radio, including features on Ingmar Bergman and Hafez.

Reinhold Görling studied social sciences, social psychology, literature, and philosophy. In 1995 he qualified as Professor in Comparative Literature at the University of Hannover. From 2002 to 2018 he was Professor of Media and Cultural Studies at the University of Düsseldorf. He held visiting professorships at the University of Innsbruck, the University of California Irvine (Comparative Literature), and the University of Vienna (Film Studies). He currently holds teaching positions at the Sigmund Freud University in Berlin and at the Department of Design at the University of Applied Sciences in Düsseldorf. His research focuses on the fields of film studies, psychoanalysis, aesthetics, ethics, and media ecology.

For his Bachelor's degree in 'Allgemeine Rhetorik und Germanistik,' **Noah Grossmann** moved from Hannover all the way to Tübingen in Southwest Germany before completing his MA in Philosophy at Goethe University Frankfurt in 2022. After a six-month scholarship at the Max Weber College in Erfurt and a research position at the Leibniz Center for

Literary and Cultural Research in Berlin, he joined the Research Training Group ‘Aesthetic Practices’ at Hildesheim University in April 2025—less than 30 km from Hannover and thereby almost closing the circles. At Hildesheim, he is currently writing his doctoral thesis on scenes of aesthetic sociality in the texts of Paul Gilroy, Saidiya Hartman, and Fred Moten.

Sophie Loidolt is Professor of Philosophy and holds the chair in Practical Philosophy at the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany. She is a Recurrent Visiting Professor at the Center for Subjectivity Research in Copenhagen and was the president of the German Society for Phenomenological Research from 2023 to 2025. Her work centers on issues in the fields of phenomenology, political and legal philosophy, ethics, and transcendental philosophy and philosophy of mind. Her book *Phenomenology of Plurality: Hannah Arendt on Political Intersubjectivity* (Routledge, 2017) won the Edward Goodwin Ballard Book Prize in 2018. Currently, she is preparing a book with the working title *Public Experiences: A Phenomenological Theory of the Public Realm*.

Martin Renz is a PhD candidate in American Studies at Goethe University Frankfurt, where he is finalizing his dissertation, entitled *The Prejudice Against Politics: Arendtian Explorations of the Populist Situation*. He has published on the (ir-)reality of free speech in Hannah Arendt’s oeuvre (*Philosophy & Rhetoric*, 2025) and works as a freelance journalist for the German news publication *Research.Table*, where he covers science advice, research policy, and university reforms in Germany and beyond. Together with friends and colleagues, he organizes the research initiative ‘Ästhetik demokratischer Lebensformen’ in Frankfurt. Before embarking on his PhD, Martin studied Philosophy, Political Science, and the Humanities in Berlin, Paris, Frankfurt, and Chicago.

Julius Schwarzwälder studied philosophy and aesthetics in London, Frankfurt, Paris, and Darmstadt. He is a PhD candidate at TU Darmstadt, where he considers some aesthetic effects of the surging use of algorithms. He has published in *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie* (on the advent of ‘artistic research’), *kritische berichte* (on TikTok and ‘micro-genres’), and *form* (on the calculability of ‘beauty’). In and beyond Frankfurt, he co-organized the graduate research initiative ‘Ästhetik demokratischer Lebensformen.’

Merve Yıldırım grew up in a small town near Frankfurt before moving to Istanbul—a city she has returned to ever since. After studying architecture at the Technical University of Munich and La Sapienza in Rome (2014–2018), she worked at the Renzo Piano Building Workshop in Paris, Genoa, and Istanbul, most recently contributing to the Istanbul Modern Museum. She is currently completing her Master’s degree in Aesthetics at Goethe University Frankfurt. Now based once again in Istanbul, her research and practice engage with the intersection of architecture and aesthetics, Germany and Türkiye.