

# Esther Gardei

\*August 24, 1993 in Berlin

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## Areas of Research

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- Sociology of Knowledge / Interdisciplinary Research (Reconciliation)/ Relationships between Individuals and Societies/ Qualitative Research Methodology (Grounded Theory) / Neutrality / Goethe's Naturalism / German-Jewish History in Israel

## Work Experience

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| <b>Research Assistant – Interdisciplinary Reconciliation Project (TRA4 “Individuals, Institutions, Societies”/TRA 5” “Present Pasts”)</b>  | 2020-<br>Present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working as a research assistant with Prof. Dr. Clemens Albrecht, Prof. Dr. Hans-Georg Soeffner, Prof. Dr. Christoph Horn, Prof. Dr. Rainer Schäfer, Prof. Dr. Benno Zabel, Prof. Dr. Grit Straßenberger, and others.</li><li>• Assisting with the DFG application for a research group (with Prof. Albrecht and others) and graduate school (with Prof. Dr. Hans-Georg Soeffner, Prof. Dr. Michael Schulz, Prof. Dr. Michael Rohrschneider, Prof. Dr. Ulrike Saß, Prof. Dr. Birgit Münch, Prof. Dr. Christine Krüger, and others).</li><li>• Coordinating professors and researchers in the interdisciplinary field.</li><li>• Organising workshops and book projects.</li><li>• Conducting the joint lecture series “Reconciliation” in summer 2020 (with Prof. Soeffner and Prof. Schulz).</li><li>• Planning an intercultural dialogue-format “Reconciliation Lecture” as a continuation of the lecture series for winter 2021 (with Prof. Schulz and Prof. Soeffner).</li><li>• Planning a podcast and public outreach of the Reconciliation Project.</li><li>• Managing the network—Japan, Israel (with Prof. Soeffner), South America (with Prof. Schulz).</li></ul> |                  |
| <b>Research Assitant – Prof. Straßenberger, University of Bonn</b>   | 2017-<br>2018    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literature research</li><li>• Assisting in the preparation of a workshop called “Stability” in 2018</li></ul>  |                  |
| <b>Lecturer at the Department of Political Science and Sociology</b>   | 2019-<br>Present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Introduction to Political Theory and the History of Ideas</i> (Winter 2019/2020)</li><li>• <i>Die Gedächtnismacher des Dritten Reichs und die deutsche Erinnerungskultur / The “Memory Makers” of the Third Reich and the German Culture Of Remembrance</i> – with Prof. Soeffner (Winter 2020/2021)</li></ul>  |                  |
| <b>Student Assistant – Heinrich-Heine-University, Düsseldorf</b>   | 2016-<br>2017    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Department of Party Politics (PRUF)</li><li>• Tutor</li></ul>  |                  |

## Education

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<b>PhD student at the University of Bonn, Germany</b> <b>Supervisor: Prof. Soeffner</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In my PhD thesis, I am focusing on the German-Jewish History of 1940s Palestine /Israel.</li><li>• Working with Prof. Soeffner and in close cooperation with Prof. Dr. Moshe Zimmermann, Hebrew University, Israel.</li></ul>	2020- Present
<b>Master of Arts, University of Bonn / Research Fellow at Brown University working with Prof. Dr. Bonnie Honig (Department of Culture and Media) and Prof. Dr. Michael P. Steinberg (Department of History, Music and German Studies)</b>	2019- 2020
MA thesis "The Pariah and the Political in Hannah Arendt's Theory" (grade: 1,0) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MA-Student of Political Science.</li><li>• My MA thesis was supervised by Prof. Dr. Michael P. Steinberg at Brown University and Prof. Straßenberger in Bonn. I wrote my MA thesis about the pariah in Hannah Arendt's theory. The idea developed during my time as a research fellow working with Prof. Dr. Bonnie Honig at the department of Modern Culture and Media at Brown University. Prof. Dr. Steinberg, professor of history, music, and German studies at Brown University supervised my MA Thesis. During my time at Brown, I discovered a different approach to research and developed a strong interest in interdisciplinary work. I had the chance to deepen my knowledge on antisemitism in Richard Wagner's operas and the relationship of music, utopia and history, took classes with Prof. Dr. Ariella Azoulay on human rights and cultural heritage and Prof. Dr. David Kertzer on the history of the Pope and Mussolini.</li><li>• I focused my studies in Bonn on the history of political ideas, the history, and politics of Israel, and memory politics. For one work on David Ben-Gurion, I interviewed his grandson in New York City and for another project on the Palace of the Republic I interviewed one former architect. While doing so, I developed a strong interest in qualitative methodology for social research. Currently I am working with my PhD advisor on an article on "Grounded Theory" as a methodology that combines different sociological methods.</li></ul>	
<b>Bachelor of Arts, Heinrich-Heine-University, Düsseldorf</b>	2012- 2015
BA Thesis: Not so Liberal After All? An Assessment Of The Consensus Historians And Their Critics (grade: 1,7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BA-Student of Political Science, Media, and Sociology.</li><li>• The consensus school appeared in reaction to the progressive school, which had stressed class or sectional conflicts as the driving forces of American history. In contrast, the consensus historians emphasized continuity and agreement in history. From today's perspective on the highly polarized American society this was a fairy tale of reconciliation. The "Cult of the American Consensus", as Higham called it, made the nation's past look harmonious and stable. In my BA, I analyzed certain shared themes of historians of a school of thinking that is still quite unknown in Germany: the consensus school of history.</li></ul>	
<b>Jewish High-School Moses-Mendelssohn, Berlin</b>	2012

## Memberships, Societies, and Volunteer Work

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German-Israeli-Society	2019-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board Member</li><li>• Organizing events, for instance the lecture "Future of Culture of Remembrance" in cooperation with the German-Jewish Society and Haus der Geschichte, Bonn</li><li>• Part of "Bonn's Initiative For Remembering The Victims of National Socialism"</li></ul>	
Christian-Jewish Society	2018-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Member</li></ul>	
Letter-Club	2020-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Writing letters in times of Covid-19 to elderly people in assisted living facilities who could not leave their homes</li></ul>	
Refugee-Tandem-Partnership	2017-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assisting young refugees and their families with the German bureaucracy</li></ul>	

## Scholarships

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<b>Scholarship for young journalists (Journalistische Nachwuchsförderung, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung)</b>	2013-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education in multimedia journalism, print, radio, TV, and digital journalism</li><li>• Nine sponsored internships (American Jewish Committee in Washington D.C. (2014), Info-Radio-Berlin (2014), Information Office of the Federal Republic [Highlight: Interviewing Angela Merkel for her Podcast] (2017)/ Working as a freelance journalist for the Westdeutsche Zeitung, Düsseldorf (2013-2018), and other internships, e.g. at the American Jewish Committee in Washington D.C. (2014)</li></ul>	
<b>German-American Conference, Harvard</b>	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Part of the social media team</li><li>• Developing a website for the public outreach of the conference</li></ul>	

## Publications / Journal Articles

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Rahel Varnhagen against Adolf Eichmann: Pre-Political Pariah-Powers in the Context of Hannah Arendt's Thinking. [Forthcoming, Göttingen 2021]

John Peet y la instrumentalización del mal. [Forthcoming, Peru 2021]

Hannah Arendt und die feministische Kritik. [Politik und Gesellschaft, 2018]

Der Abriss des Palasts der Republik – Eine politische Entscheidung? [Politik und Gesellschaft, 2018]

*Currently planned projects:*

With Prof. Soeffner and Prof. Schulz (Ed.): Scientific Anthology Reconciliation [Working title]. [Forthcoming, 2021/2022]

With Prof. Soeffner and Prof. Zabel (Ed.): Scientific Anthology on Memory Politics [Working title]. [Forthcoming, 2021/2022]