

Dr Roman Birke

Curriculum Vitae

Department of History
Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena
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07743 Jena, Germany

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REFEREES

Samuel Moyn (Yale University)
Carola Sachse (University of Vienna)
Norbert Frei (Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena)

MAIN FIELDS OF RESEARCH

Global History of the 19th and 20th Century, History of Human Rights, History of Population Control and Eugenics, History of Colonialism, Gender History

CURRENT POSITION

from 9/2021 **Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany**
Postdoctoral Researcher
Interdisciplinary Research Cluster *Structural Changes of Property*

FORMER POSITIONS

10/2018–8/2021 **Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany**
Research and Teaching Associate
Modern History (Chair: Norbert Frei)

9/2017–8/2018 **Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany**
Fritz Thyssen Foundation Research Fellow

9/2013–8/2017 **University of Vienna, Austria**
Pre-Doctoral Lecturer at the Department of Contemporary History
(Chair: Carola Sachse)

VISITING POSITIONS

5/2017–9/2017 **Trinity College Dublin, Ireland**
Erasmus+, Department of History (Host: Carole Holohan)

10/2015–3/2016 **Columbia University in the City of New York, USA**
Visiting Scholar, Department of History (Host: Volker Berghahn)

CAREER BREAKS

I was on paternity leave under the German government's parental leave scheme for a total of 18 months between September 2019 and July 2020 and between April and December 2022. These career breaks significantly delayed research and the submission of publications.

ACADEMIC EDUCATION

- 2013–2018 **University of Vienna, Austria**
PhD in History (with distinction)
PhD Thesis: Population Control and Human Rights. The Humanitarian Struggle against Overpopulation
- 2007–2013 **University of Vienna, Austria**
Mag. phil. in History
Thesis: „Voluntary Emasculation“ as an Instrument of Repression of Homosexual Men in National Socialism

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Population Control as a Human Right. Overpopulation Discourse and Global Reproductive Policies from the 1940s (under contract with Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2023)

Geburtenkontrolle als Menschenrecht. Die Diskussion um globale Überbevölkerung seit den 1940er Jahren, Göttingen: Wallstein 2020.

Reviews: [HSozKult](#), [Historische Zeitschrift](#), [Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung](#), [Sueddeutsche Zeitung](#), [Deutschlandfunk Kultur](#)

PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

“It is under the banner of the defence of human rights that we shall gather our crusade”. Human Rights and the Population Control Movement, 1950–1975, in: *Humanity Journal* 2/2019, 157–178.

Together with Barbara Kraml: Gleichzeitigkeit von Inklusion und Exklusion: Homosexualitäten zwischen Verfolgung und Normalisierung in Österreich 1971, in: *Zeitgeschichte* 2/2016, 85–100.
(*Simultaneity of Inclusion and Exclusion: Homosexualities between Prosecution and Normalization in Austria in 1971*).

Reviews: [Invertito. Jahrbuch für die Geschichte der Homosexualitäten](#)

„...eine die Sicherheit der Allgemeinheit bezweckende Maßregel...“. Zwangskastrationen und "Freiwillige Entmannungen" im Nationalsozialismus, in: *Juridikum. Zeitschrift für Kritik, Recht, Gesellschaft* 1/2014, 19–28.
(*„...a measure to guarantee public security...“. Coercive Castrations and 'Voluntary Emasculations' under National Socialism*)

EDITED VOLUMES

Together with Carola Sachse: Menschenrechte und Geschlecht im 20. Jahrhundert. Historische Studien, Göttingen: Wallstein, 2018.
(*Gender and Human Rights in the 20th century. Historical Studies.*)

Reviews: [HSozKult](#), [der Freitag](#), [literaturkritik.de](#)

Together with Birgit Kolboske, Axel C. Hüntelmann, Ina Huemann, Susanne Heim, Regina Fritz: Wissen Macht Geschlecht. Ein ABC der transnationalen Zeitgeschichte, Max Planck Research Library, Proceedings 9, Berlin 2016.
(Knowledge Power Gender. An ABC of transnational contemporary history).

BOOK CHAPTERS

Kastration homosexueller Männer im Nationalsozialismus, in: Brunner, Andreas/Sulzenbacher Hannes (eds.): Homosexualität im Nationalsozialismus, Wien: Mandelbaum 2023. (forthcoming)
(Castration of homosexual men during National Socialism)

Reproductive Technologies, Contraceptives and Human Rights in the 20th Century, in: Möckel, Benjamin/Homberg, Michael (eds.): Human Rights and Technological Change, Göttingen: Wallstein 2021, 129–150.

UN Resolution on Human Rights Aspects of Family Planning (1968), in: Stahl, Daniel (ed.): Quellen zur Geschichte der Menschenrechte, Göttingen: Wallstein 2021, 151–172.

Together with Carola Sachse: Einleitung, in: Roman Birke/Carola Sachse (eds.), Menschenrechte und Geschlecht im 20. Jahrhundert. Historische Studien, Göttingen: Wallstein 2018, 7–19.
(Introduction)

Zwischen Aktivismus und Diplomatie. Eleanor Roosevelts Bedeutung für internationale Menschenrechte, 1936–1962, in: Roman Birke/Carola Sachse (eds.), Menschenrechte und Geschlecht im 20. Jahrhundert. Historische Studien, Göttingen: Wallstein 2018, 72–97.
(Between activism and diplomacy. Eleanor Roosevelts contributions for an international human rights regime, 1936–1962)

Menschenrechte, in: Kolboske et al (ed.): Wissen Macht Geschlecht, Berlin 2016, 71–75.
(Human Rights (encyclopaedic entry)).

Medizinische Maßnahmen zur Bekämpfung der Homosexualität ‚Freiwillige Entmannungen‘ homosexueller Männer im Nationalsozialismus, in: Marco Brenneisen et al.: Stigmatisierung – Marginalisierung – Verfolgung. Beiträge des 19. Workshops zur Geschichte und Gedächtnisgeschichte der nationalsozialistischen Konzentrationslager, Berlin 2015, 37–56.
(Medical Measures in the fight against Homosexuality. ‚Voluntary Emasculations‘ of homosexual men under National Socialism)

BLOG POSTS

‘The Conservative Roots of Reproductive Rights’. HISTORY | SEXUALITY | LAW
 Verschränkung von Recht und Sexualität im Historischen Kontext (blog), 2021.
<https://hsl.hypotheses.org/1580>.

‚Geburtenkontrolle durch private Stiftungen. Realität oder Verschwörungstheorie?‘
 Geschichte Der Gegenwart (blog), 12 September 2020.
<https://geschichtedergewenwart.ch/geburtenkontrolle-durch-private-stiftungen-realitaet-oder-verschwörungstheorie/>.

‘Die Bevölkerung in der Moderne ist immer ein Problem’. L.I.S.A. Wissenschaftsportal der Gerda Henkel Stiftung (blog), 20 October 2020. https://lisa.gerda-henkel-stiftung.de/bevoelkerung_und_menschenrechte.

PRIZES AND GRANTS

2019	Grete-Mostny Prize Prize for excellent PhD-theses, University of Vienna
2017–2018	Fritz Thyssen Foundation Research fellowship
2017	Republic of Austria Theodor Körner Prize for Dissertations 2017
2017	Future Fund of the Republic of Austria Publication grant
2017	City of Vienna Publication grant
2017	Erasmus+ Fellowship
2015-2016	Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy Research Grant
2015	Austrian Student Union Research Grant

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena

2021 Summer term	Module 186977 Expropriations of Royal Property in the Weimar Republic
2020/21 Winter term	Module 180501 History of Conspiracy Theories since the French Revolution (Together with Maik Tändler)
2020/21 Winter term	Module 152924 History of Human Rights in the 20 th Century

Winter term 2019/2020 and summer term 2020: Parental leave

2019 Summer Term	Module 159850 Eugenics, Reproductive Policies, and Medical Crimes during National Socialism
2018 Winter Term	Module 152915 History of Human Rights in the 20 th Century
2018 Winter Term	Module 153809 History of the Cold War

University of Vienna

2016 Winter Term	Module 070005 Methods of Historical Research and Writing
2015 Summer Term	Lecture Series 070055 Human Rights – Women’s Rights? Human Rights and Gender from the Early Modern Period until Today (Together with Carola Sachse)
2014 Winter Term	Module 070049 Eugenics, international population control, reproductive rights: Regulating populations in the 20th century
2014 Summer Term	Module 070049 Contemporary History of the 20th century
2014 Summer Term	Module 210249 UE Bak17b.1 Using historical methods for research in political science (Together with Hanna Lichtenberger)

PANELS – WORKSHOPS – CONFERENCES – LECTURES

PANELS ORGANIZED

4/2021	University College Dublin, CHOMI Seminar Series Demographic Policies and Human Rights (Together with Alanna Armitage, UN Funds for Population Activities, Regional Director)
9/2018	52nd Biennial Meeting of German Historians 2018 Panel Title: Human Rights and Gender in the 20th Century
4/2018	Austrian Day of Contemporary History 2018 Panel Title: Human Rights and Gender in the 20th Century

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

6/2016	Conference (University of Vienna) 45 years after the reform of the Austrian Criminal Code: (Dis-)Continuities in the prosecution of homosexuals in Austria, http://homosexualitaeten.univie.ac.at/ (Together with Elisa Heinrich, Johann Kirchknopf, and Barbara Kraml)
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LECTURE SERIES ORGANIZED

2-6/2015	Lecture Series (University of Vienna) Gender and Human Rights from the Early Modern Period until the Present, http://gender-humanrights.univie.ac.at (Together with Carola Sachse)
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LECTURES/SEMINARS GIVEN (SELECTION)

9/2019	Human Rights and Technological Change: Conflicts and Convergences since the 1950s (Cologne) Individual freedom or responsibility to the community?
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- Human rights, contraceptive technologies, and fertility control in the 1960s and 1970s
- 9/2018 **1918-1938-2018: Dawn of an Authoritarian Century? International Conference (German Federal Agency for Civic Education and University of Vienna)**
Turbulent Transitions. Political and Ideological Reorientation in the United States after the End of the Cold War, 1989–1997
- 1/2018 **Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena**
The recent state of democracy
(Together with Ian Kershaw, Christiane Lemke, Piotr Buras, Dieter Grimm)
- 11/2017 **Economic and Social History of Ireland 2017 Conference, Dublin**
Globalizing the History of Irish Family Planning, 1968–1980
- 06/2017 **University of Münster**
Between Freedom and Responsibility. Discourse on Overpopulation and the Human Right to Family Planning in the United Nations, 1968–1974
- 10/2016 **Austrian Academy of Sciences**
Human Rights, Freedom, Well-Being: Framing the control of global overpopulation in humanitarian terms, 1950–1960
- 6/2016 **Austrian Day of Contemporary History 2016**
Development Economics, Women's Movement and the Cold War: Human Rights and Population Questions at the UN Symposium on Population and Human Rights, 1974
- 11/2014 **Austrian Day of Political Science 2014**
The Body in Post-Colonialism: International Population Policies and Birth Control in the 1960s and 1970s
- 10/2013 **19th Workshop on History and Memory of National Socialist Concentration Camps: „Stigmatisation – Marginalisation – Persecution“ (Kassel, Germany)**
Discourse on Homosexuality and Castration in National Socialism
- 03/2013 **5th Workshop of Women's and Gender Studies at the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies (University of Vienna)**
„Voluntary Emasculation“ of Homosexual Men in National Socialism

TEACHING CERTIFICATES

I obtained two-day training for academic teaching by the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Vienna in 2014.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES/IT

I have a professional background in IT and use this knowledge for IT based text analysis in my research. Particularly, I am turning large amounts of unstructured text into structured datasets that can be analysed using software algorithms. I am mostly working in R and Python.

LANGUAGES

German (First language), English (Toefl score 117/120), French (Working knowledge)