Dr. Silvan Niedermeier

Postal Address:
University of Erfurt
Dept. of History
Nordhäuser Str. 63
99089 Erfurt
Germany

Office: LG IV, Room 126
Email: silvan.niedermeier@uni-erfurt.de
Phone: 00 49 361 737 4416
Fax: 00 49 361 737 4419

Education

Ph.D. in History, University of Erfurt, 2011

M.A. in History (North American History, Historical Anthropology), University of Erfurt, 2006

B.A. in History and Social Sciences, University of Erfurt, 2005

Research Interests

History of U.S. imperialism, visual history, gender history, race and racism in U.S. history, African American history, history of the U.S. South, history of violence

Academic Career

Since 12/2022	Lecturer and postdoctoral researcher (Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter), Professorship of North American History, University of Erfurt
4/2020—11/2022	Research Project "Returning the Colonial Gaze. Photography and Counterhegemonic Subject Positions in the Philippine American War (1899-1902)," Eigene Stelle, funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation
3/2013—3/2020	Lecturer and postdoctoral researcher (Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter), Professorship of North American History, University of Erfurt
	Habilitation project: Expanding the Kodak Zone: Vernacular Photography and Imperial Encounter in the Philippine American War
10/2012-2/2013	Postdoctoral fellow, DFG-Graduate School "Cultural Contact and Discourses of Scholarship," University of Rostock
4/2012-9/2012	Postdoctoral fellow at the interdisciplinary research group "World Regions and Interactions – Area Studies Transnational," University of Erfurt
10/2011-3/2012	Postdoctoral research fellow, DFG Graduate School "Cultural Contact and Discourses of Scholarship", University of Rostock
7/2007-9/2011	PhD scholarship by the German National Academic Foundation and the Gerda Henkel Foundation PhD project: Forced Confessions. Torture, Race, and Civil Rights in the American South (1930–1955)

4/2007-6/2007	PhD-Scholarship, DFG Graduate School "Human Dignity and Human Rights," University of Erfurt and University of Jena
2005-2006	M.A. studies at University of Erfurt, History (North American History and Historical Anthropology)
2006-2007	Tutor and Research Assistant, North American History, University of Erfurt
2004-2006	Research Assistant, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, University of Erfurt
2003/2004	B.A. studies at Moravian College, PA, USA
2001-2005	B.A. studies at University of Erfurt, History and Social Sciences

Third Party Funding

Own research position (Eigene Stelle), project "Returning the Colonial Gaze. Photography and Counterhegemonic Subject Positions in the Philippine American War (1899-1902)," funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation

Member of the DFG-Network "Everyday History in Transnational Perspective," 2012-2015.

Conference grant, awarded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation (with Prof. Dr. Jürgen Martschukat und Prof. Dr. Michael Wildt), June 2010.

Awards, Research Grants, Fellowships

* Translation prize "Geisteswissenschaften International. Translation Funding for Work in the Humanities and Social Sciences", for *Rassismus und Bürgerrechte. Polizeifolter im Süden der USA 1930–1955 (Hamburg: Hamburger Edition, 2016)*. Funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, VG Wort, German Book Trade Association and the German Foreign Ministry.

* German Historical Institute Research Fellowship, Washington DC, Oct. to Nov. 2015 and March 2016.

* Recipient of the General and Mrs. Matthew B. Ridgway Research Grant for 2015, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle, PA.

* Research travel grant, awarded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, March to April 2014.

* Christoph-Martin-Wieland-Postdoc-Fellowship, University of Erfurt, 4/2012-9/2012.

* PhD fellowship, Gerda Henkel Foundation, 7/2011–9/2011.

* PhD fellowship, University of Erfurt, 4/2011–6/2011.

* PhD fellowship, German National Academic Foundation, 6/2007-3/2011.

*PhD fellowship, DFG-Graduate School "Human Dignity and Human Rights", University of Erfurt and University of Jena, 4/2007–6/2007.

Academic Teaching

Tell Us Your Past. Dispatches from Erfurt and Philadelphia, (BA/MA), transatlantic video seminar, together with Bryant Simon (Temple University),

Introductory seminar "Urban History" (BA)

Visual History: Methods and Research Areas (BA)

Race and Racism in American History (BA)

Introductory seminar "Rule and Govern" (BA)

U.S. History in Global Perspective (BA)

Colonialism and Photography (MA and BA)

The Philippine American War: Sources and Approaches (BA)

Media History and Globalization (MA)

Colonial Histories: Methods and Research Areas (MA)

Transnational History (MA)

Introductory seminar "Revolutions" (BA)

History of War Photography (BA)

Race and Violence in the American South (BA)

Histories of the Body (BA)

Introductory seminar "Cities and Metropolises" (BA)

Organized Workshops and Conferences

2017 PhD Workshop "Imperialism & Photography. Historical Perspectives." University of Gießen, July 2017, with Katharina Stornig.

2016 Lecture series "ReProduction - Image and Copy from Antiquity to the Present." History department, University of Erfurt, summer term 2016, with Cordula Bachmann.

2014 Workshop "Archives of Violence: War Albums in Historical and Cultural Perspective," University of Erfurt, with Petra Bopp, May 2014.

2013 4th International Conference on Historical Discourse Analysis, Border Crossings and Historical Discourse Analysis, with Jürgen Martschukat, Franz X. Eder, Achim Landwehr, and Philipp Sarasin, University of Erfurt, May 2013.

2012 Workshop "Dynamics of Interaction: Postcolonial Perspectives on Difference and Temporality," with Robert Fischer and Birgit Schäbler, University of Erfurt, June 2012.

2010 International conference, Violence and Visibility: Historical, Cultural, and Political Perspectives from the 19th Century to the Present, with Michael Wildt and Jürgen Martschukat, Humboldt University of Berlin, June 2010.

Service to the Profession and the University

Editor for the German H-Net "H-Soz-Kult" for North America (since 2015)

Member of the Board for Research and Promotion of Young Scholars, University of Erfurt (Nov. 2016 to Nov. 2017)

Memberships

German Association for American Studies

German Historical Association

Presentations

* *Expanding the Kodak Zone: Vernacular Photography and Imperial Encounter in the Philippine-American War*, Jönköping University, Sweden, November 17, 2023 (online).

* *Photography and Imperial encounter. Approaching Private Pictures of the Philippine-American War*, presentation and discussion with graduate students, History Department, Temple University, Philadelphia, March 31, 2022.

* *"Captain Nicolas Ortega and his soldier." Imperial violence and Filipino self-representation in the Philippine American War*, Workshop "War // Photography // Violence," Sciences Po, Paris, December, 12-13, 2019.

* *Koloniale Gewalt und gegenhegemoniale Subjektpositionen in Fotografien des philippinisch-amerikanischen Kriegs*, Workshop "Die Sichtbarmachung und Medialisierung von Gewalt seit dem späten 19. Jahrhundert," Zeitgeschichtlicher Arbeitskreis Niedersachsen (ZAKN), November 8-9, 2019.

* *Imperial self-images and colonized bodies in the Philippine American War*, Lecture Series "Histories of the Body," University of Erfurt, June 5, 2019.

* *A History of the Present? Police Brutality and the African American Struggle for Civil Rights in the 1940s American South*, 10th German-Israeli Frontiers of Humanities Symposium 2018, Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, Berlin, November 18-21, 2018.

* Comment on Section "Visualisierte Ereignisse," Workshop "Die Zeiten des Ereignisses. Neuvermessung einer historischen Kategorie," Arbeitskreis Geschichte + Theorie in cooperation with Center for Contemporary History Potsdam, Potsdam, November 9-10, 2018.

* *Folter und Zivilisation. Fotografien der „water cure" im Philippinisch-Amerikanischen Krieg (1899–1902)*, Section: "Plotting torture." Repräsentation und Remediation gesellschaftlicher Spaltungen, Historikertag 2018, September 25-28, 2018.

* *Koloniale Selbstbilder: Fotografie und die Konstruktion imperialer Subjektpositionen im philippinisch-amerikanischen Krieg (1899-1902)*, Oberseminar Neuere und Neueste Geschichte, Universität Gießen, 5. Juli 2017.

* *Archive der Gewalt: Der koloniale Gewaltraum der Philippinen in privaten Fotoalben US-amerikanischer Soldaten (1899-1902)*, Workshop "Gewalträume und Gewaltkulturen," organized by AK Gewaltordnungen, Hamburg, November 11, 2016.

* *Imperiale Selbstbilder. Fotografie und Gewalt im philippinisch-amerikanischen Krieg (1899-1902),* Erfurter Kolleg, Erfurt, May 6, 2016.

* *"Under the Bamboo Tree" – Fotografie und Encounter im philippinisch-amerikanischen Krieg*, TRANSIT – Closing Conference of the Graduate School "Cultural Contact and Discourses of Scholarship," Rostock, December 18-19, 2015.

* *"Everyone with a camera took snapshots of the more impressive scenes." Fotografie und Gewalt im philippinisch-amerikanischen Krieg (1899-1902)*, Research Colloquia Interamerican Studies and History of the 19th and 20th Centuries, University of Bielefeld, November 27, 2015.

* *Colonial Selfies. Private Photography and Construction of Imperial Subject Positions in the Philippine-American War (1899-1902)*, Workshop "Colonialism, War, & Photography", King's College, London, September 17, 2015.

* *Imperial Self-Fashioning: Approaching Gender and Empire through the Lens of Private Photo Albums of the Philippine American War (1899-1902)*, Conference "Gender and Empire. Exploring Comparative Perspectives and Intersectional Approaches," Cologne, September 23-26, 2015.

* *Pictures, Frames, and Silences: The Potentials and Limits of Reading U.S. Soldier's Photographs and Photo Albums of the Philippine-American War*, Conference "Everyday Stories: Rethinking Alltagsgeschichte from a Transnational Perspective," Tübingen, June 12-14, 2015.

* *Folter, Rassismus und Bürgerrechte in den USA*, Lecture and Discussion on "Lynching, Racism, and Civil Rights in the USA", Hamburg Institute for Social Research (with Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg), March 17, 2015.

* *The Visibility of Death and Violence in U.S. Soldiers' Photo Albums of the Philippine-American War (1899-1902),* 2nd Turkish-German Frontiers of Humanities Symposium, Bochum, November 27-30, 2014.

* *Imperial Masculinities: Representing Gender in U.S. Soldiers' Photo Collections of the Philippine-American War*, Conference "Raum/Zeitlichkeit des Imperialen/TimeSpace of the Imperial," Erfurt/Gotha, Oktober 8-11, 2014.

* *Imperial Narratives: Reading U.S. soldiers' photo albums from the Philippine American War*, Workshop "Archives of Violence: War Albums in Historical and Cultural Perspective," Erfurt, May 7-8, 2014.

* *Mixed Families: Race & Sex in Fotografien aus den kolonialen Philippinen*, Workshop "Die Lust am 'Anderen' – Globalgeschichte zu Intimität und Regulierung von Sexualität im 20. Jahrhundert," Erfurt, April 11-12, 2014.

* *Forced Confessions: Folter und Bürgerrechte in den US-amerikanischen Südstaaten (1930-1955)*, Hamburg Institute for Social Research, February 12, 2013

**Blurry Encounters: Photography, Violence, and the Colonial Gaze in the Philippine-American War (1898-1902),* Annual Conference of the Historians in the German Association for American Studies, "Visual Histories of the United States," Tutzing, February 8-10, 2013

**Expanding the Kodak Zone: Photography and Visual Knowledge in the Philippine American War (1898-1902),* Conference "Borders of Knowledge," Flying University of Transnational Humanities, Hanyang University, Seoul, July 15-18, 2012.

**Contested Truths: Police Torture and African American Testimony in Southern Courts, 1940-1955*, Conference "Uncertain Knowledge. Practices, Media and Agents of (Non-)Affirmation in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century American History," German Historical Institute, Washington D.C., October 20-22, 2011.

**Diskurs, Sichtbarkeit und die Wahrheit der Folter: Fotografie und Evidenz im US-amerikanischen Süden der 1940er Jahre*, conference "Bilder in historischen Diskursen," Third International Conference for Historical Discourse Analysis, Wien, September 29-October 1, 2011.

**Race, Visibility, and the Documentation of Torture in the American South,* Conference "Violence and Visibility: Historical Cultural and Political Perspectives from the 19th century to the Present," Berlin, June 24-26, 2010.

**"The most despicable crime." "Rasse," Sexualität und Zeugenschaft in den amerikanischen Südstaaten,* Conference "Das Sichtbare und das Unsichtbare: Diskurse über Rasse und Sexualität in der Moderne," Göttingen, February 19-20, 2010.

**Modernität und der Skandal der Folter: Rassistische Gewalt und der amerikanische Süden zwischen 1930 und 1955,* Workshop "American Modernism: Die Vereinigten Staaten auf dem Weg in multiple Modernen, 1900-1940?," Historisches Kolleg, Munich, April 16-18, 2009.

* *History of Everyday Life and the State of Exception* (comment), Workshop "Everyday Life in Transnational Perspective: Alltagsgeschichte Revisited," Erfurt, October, 24-25, 2008.

**"The only torture involved is self-induced": Zur Geschichte des Lügendetektors in den USA, 1900-1940,* Workshop "Wahrheit und Gewalt: Der Diskurs der Folter," Bielefeld, December 6-7, 2007.

Media appearances

Interviews with Der Tagesanzeiger, RBB Kultur, Detektor FM, Radio Frei.

Webtalk "Tödlicher Rassismus. Kontinuitäten und Entwicklungen von Polizeigewalt in den USA," DGB-Bildungswerk Thüringen, June 25, 2020.

Radio talk show "The 'outerclass' Warum die USA den Rassismus nicht überwinden," with Bettina Gaus and Anke Ortlepp, SWR 2 Forum, July 14, 2016.

Publications

Monographs

The Color of the Third Degree. Racism, Police Torture, and Civil Rights in the American South, 1930–1955. Translated by Paul Cohen. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019. (Translated and revised edition of *Rassismus und Bürgerrechte. Polizeifolter im Süden der USA 1930–1955*. Hamburg: Hamburger Edition 2014. Translation funded by "Geisteswissenschaften International. Translation Funding for Work in the Humanities and Social Sciences," Fritz Thyssen Foundation, VG Wort, German Book Trade Association and the German Foreign Ministry).

Rassismus und Bürgerrechte. Polizeifolter im Süden der USA 1930–1955. Hamburg: Hamburger Edition 2014.

Edited Books and Journal Issues

Travelling Things - Dinge auf Wanderungen. Comparativ. Zeitschrift für Globalgeschichte und vergleichende Gesellschaftsforschung, 28, 3 (2018), edited with Barbara Lüthi and You Jae Lee.

Violence and Visibility in Modern History. New York: Palgrave Macmillan 2013, edited with Jürgen Martschukat.

Journal articles and book chapters

Travelling Things – Einleitende Überlegungen zu Dingen auf Wanderungen, in *Travelling Things – Dinge auf Wanderungen,* edited by Barbara Lüthi, Silvan Niedermeier and Comparativ. Zeitschrift für Globalgeschichte und vergleichende Gesellschaftsforschung, 28, 3 (2018), 7-13, with Barbara Lüthi und You Jae Lee.

Forced Confessions: Police Torture and the African American Struggle for Civil Rights in the 1930s and 1940s South, *Crime and Punishment in the Jim Crow South*, edited by Amy Louise Wood and Natalie J. Ring. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2019, 58-78.

Colonial Self-Positioning. Approaching the Snapshots of an American Woman in the Philippines (1900–1902), in *New Perspectives on the History of Gender and Empire. Comparative and Global Approaches*, edited by Ulrike Lindner and Dörte Lerp. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018, 115-48.

Intimacy and Annihilation: Approaching the Enforcement of U.S. Colonial Rule in the Southern Philippines through a Private Photograph Collection, *InVisible Culture: An*

Electronic Journal for Visual Culture, Issue 25: Security and Visibility (2017), available online: http://ivc.lib.rochester.edu/intimacy-and-annihilation-approaching-the-enforcement-of-u-s-colonial-rule-in-the-southern-philippines-through-a-private-photograph-collection/.

"If I were King" – Photographic Artifacts and the Construction of Imperial Masculinities in the Philippine-American War (1899–1902), *SpaceTime of the Imperial.* Edited by Holt Meyer, Susanne Rau, and Katharina Waldner. Berlin, Walter de Gruyter 2016, 100-131.

Harry W. Harnish / Josephine Barnes: Mixed Family – Mr Bennet (American) and Filipino Wife (1902). Oder race & sex in kolonialen Fotografien, in *race & sex: Eine Geschichte der Neuzeit. 49 Schlüsseltexte aus vier Jahrhunderten neu gelesen,* edited by Olaf Stieglitz and Jürgen Martschukat. Berlin: Neofelis 2016, 256-262.

Imperial Narratives: Reading U.S. soldiers' photo albums from the Philippine American War, in *Rethinking History. The Journal of Theory and Practice*, 18/1 (2014), 28-49, available online: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13642529.2014.873581.

Diskurs, Sichtbarkeit und die Wahrheit der Folter: Fotografie und Evidenz im US-amerikanischen Süden der 1940er Jahre, in *Bilder in historischen Diskursen*, edited by Franz X. Eder, Oliver Kühschelm, and Christina Linsboth. Wiesbaden: Springer VS 2014, 241-260.

Wilde, in *Metzler Lexikon moderne Mythen. Figuren, Konzepte, Ereignisse*. edited by Stephanie Wodianka and Juliane Ebert. Stuttgart: Metzler 2014, 384-386.

Violence and Visibility: Historical and Theoretical Perspectives, in *Violence and Visibility in Modern History*, edited by Jürgen Martschukat and Silvan Niedermeier. New York: Palgrave Macmillan 2013, 1-23, with Jürgen Martschukat.

Violence, Visibility, and the Investigation of Police Torture in the American South, 1940-1955, in *Violence and Visibility in Modern History*, edited by Jürgen Martschukat and Silvan Niedermeier. New York: Palgrave Macmillan 2013, 91-111.

Schmerz, in *Gewalt. Ein interdisziplinäres Handbuch*, edited by Christian Gudehus and Michaela Christ, Stuttgart: Metzler 2013, 227-231.

Torture and "Modern Civilization": The NAACP's Campaign against Forced Confessions in the American South (1935-1945), in *Fractured Modernity. America Confronts Modern Times, 1890s to 1940s*, edited by: Thomas Welskopp and Alan Lessoff. München: Oldenburg Verlag, 2012, 169-189.

"I didn't rape that lady": "Rasse", Vergewaltigung und Zeugenschaft in den US-amerikanischen Südstaaten, in *WerkstattGeschichte*, 59 (2012), 55-78, available online http://werkstattgeschichte.de/alle_ausgaben/sichtbarverborgen/.

Police Brutality, in *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, Vol. 19, Violence*, edited by Amy L. Wood. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011, 130-132.

“The only torture involved is self-induced”: Zur Geschichte des Lügendetektors in den USA, in *Wahrheit und Gewalt: Der Diskurs der Folter*, edited by Thomas Weitin. Bielefeld: Transcript, 2010, 223-241.

Selected reviews and conference reports

Miller, James A.: Remembering Scottsboro. The Legacy of an Infamous Trial. Princeton: Princeton University Press 2009, in *H-Soz-u-Kult,* May 3, 2010, available online: http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/rezensionen/2010-2-091.

Gewalt, Ordnung und Staatlichkeit. Eine Tagung im Hamburger Warburghaus (30.3.-1.4.2006). Conference report, in W*erkstattGeschichte* 15 (2006), 42, pp. 91-96.