

Qingyang Freya Zhou

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EDUCATION

- PhD German, with Designated Emphasis in Film Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2026
Dissertation: *Divisive Kinship: Korean German Film and Literature in the Long Cold War*
Committee: Deniz Göktürk (Chair), Anton Kaes, Chenxi Tang, Jinsoo An
- MA German, University of California, Berkeley, 2021
- BA German, Cinema and Media Studies, Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania, 2020 (summa cum laude)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2026–2029 Research Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, Society of Fellows in the Humanities, University of Hong Kong

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Volume

- 2025 Qinna Shen, Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick, and **Qingyang Freya Zhou**. *Charting Asian German Film History: Imagination, Collaboration, and Diasporic Representation*. Rochester, NY: Camden House.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2023 “A Temporality of Imminent, Never-Consummated Arrival’: Contemporary German Documentaries on North Korea.” *German Studies Review* 46, no. 2: 285–305.
- 2022 “Queering the Screen: Spectral Figures and German-Taiwanese Encounters in Monika Treut’s *Ghosted*.” *Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies* 58, no. 3: 251–70.
- 2021 “Der Neo-Orientalismus in der DDR-Reiseliteratur der 1950er-Jahre. Gerhard Kiesling und Bernt von Kügelgens *China* (1957)” [Neo-Orientalism in GDR Travel Literature of the 1950s: Gerhard Kiesling and Bernt von Kügelgens’s *China* (1957)]. *Focus on German Studies* 28, no. 1: 147–71.

Book Chapters

- 2025 Qinna Shen, Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick, and **Qingyang Freya Zhou**. “A Brief History of Asian German Cinema: Themes, Trends, and Modes of Production.” In *Charting Asian German Film History*, 1–20.

- 2025 “Precarious Kinship, Conflicting Memories, and Ambivalent Affects of Belonging in Cho Sung-hyung’s Korean-German Documentaries.” In *Charting Asian German Film History*, 227–48.
- 2022 “A Façade of Solidarity: East Germany’s Attempted Dialogue with China in *The Compass Rose* (*Die Windrose*, 1957).” In *East Asian-German Cinema: The Transnational Screen, 1919 to the Present*, edited by Joanne Miyang Cho, 123–45. New York: Routledge.

Book Reviews

- 2024 Review of Jihoon Kim. *Activism and Post-activism: Korean Documentary Cinema, 1981–2022*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2024, 328 pp. *Journal of Japanese and Korean Cinema* 16, no. 2: 172–75.
- 2022 Review of Caroline Rupprecht. *Asian Fusion: New Encounters in the Asian-German Avant-Garde*. New York: Peter Lang, 2020, 259 pp. *TRANSIT: A Journal of Travel, Migration, and Multiculturalism in the German-Speaking World* 13, no. 2: 140–42.

Invited Contributions and Public Scholarship

- 2026 “Solidarity Across the Color Line: Asia and the GDR as Method.” Forthcoming in *German Studies Review* 49, no. 3.
- 2025 Hester Baer et al. “Obstacles and Optimism: Interviews with German Studies Journal and Book Review Editors.” *Monatshefte* 117, no. 1: 109–22.
- 2024 **Qingyang Freya Zhou**, Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick, and Qinna Shen. “Asian German Filmography: A Teaching Guide.” *TRANSIT Blog*, <https://transit.berkeley.edu/asian-german-filmography/>.

In Preparation

- “Socialist Brotherhood on Eurasian Peripheries: Cinematic Solidarity between East Germany and North Korea.” Intended for *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*.
- “Contesting Chrononormativity: Vicarious Kinship and Unofficial Historiography in Anna Kim’s *Die große Heimkehr* (*The Great Homecoming*, 2017).” Intended for *positions: asia critique*.
- “Reality, Layered Artifice, and Encounters with the Foreign in Werner Herzog’s *Family Romance, LLC*.” Intended for *Journal of Japanese and Korean Cinema*.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2026 UC Dissertation-Year Fellowship
- 2025 Berkeley Institute of East Asian Studies Haas Finishing Lines Grant
- 2025 Prize for Graduate Student Essay on East German Cinema, DEFA Film Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2024 German Studies Association (GSA) Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies Dissertation Fellowship
- 2024 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Conference Travel Grant

- 2024 Halle Foundation Conference Travel Grant
- 2024 Korea University Research Institute of Korean Studies (RIKS) Academy for Young Korean Studies Scholars Award
- 2023 Seoul National University Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies Junior Fellowship
- 2023 Best Article Prize, Coalition of Women in German (WiG)
- 2023 Berkeley Center for Korean Studies Bong Youn Choy Fellowship for Advanced Academic Korean Language Studies at Inter-University Center (IUC), Sungkyunkwan University
- 2022 Prize for the Best Essay in German Studies by a Graduate Student, GSA
- 2021, 2022 US Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for Summer Korean Immersion Program at Middlebury College
- 2021 York University “Inside North Korean Literature, Art, and Film” Summer School Travel Grant
- 2020 Berkeley Center for Chinese Studies Scholarship

INVITED TALKS

- 2026 “Divisive Kinship: The Long Cold War in Korean German Documentary Cinema,” Middlebury College, School of Korean, Middlebury, VT, July 22.
- 2024 “Contesting Chrononormativity: Vicarious Kinship and Unofficial Historiography in Anna Kim’s Novel *Die große Heimkehr* (*The Great Homecoming*, 2017),” University of Tübingen, Department of Korean Studies, Tübingen, Germany, December 18.
- 2024 “Precarious Kinship and Conflicting Memories in Korean-German Film and Literature,” Seoul National University, Department of German Language Education, Seoul, South Korea, April 30.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conference Organized

- 2027 “Between Solidarity and *Ostracism*: Asian-East German Entanglements,” w/ Qinna Shen and Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick, DEFA Film Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst, June 20–27.
- 2022 “Arrested Mobilities: Stillness, Power, and Modernity,” w/ Sean Lambert and Elizabeth Sun, University of California, Berkeley, February 25–26.

Panels Organized

- 2026 “Queer Reproductivity as Poetic *Fortpflanzung*,” GSA, Phoenix, AZ, September 24–27.
- 2026 “Visual Cultures of Socialist Solidarity: Production, Circulation, Preservation,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), Chicago, IL, March 26–29.
- 2025 “Kin-Aesthetics in Transnational German Film and Media,” GSA, Arlington, VA, September 25–28.

- 2023 “Asian Diaspora in the German-Speaking World,” w/ Ricky W. Law and Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick, GSA, Montréal, Canada, October 5–8.

Papers Presented

- 2026 “*Universalpoesie* on Volcanic Mt. Paektu: Queering North Korean-East German Socialist Sisterhood in *Eine Liebe in Pjöngjang* (2022),” GSA, Phoenix, AZ, September 24–27.
- 2026 “Archiving Socialist Solidarity: Gender and Cold War Rivalries in East German–North Korean Film Exchanges,” SCMS, Chicago, IL, March 26–29.
- 2026 “Queering Mount Paektu: North Korean-East German Socialist Sisterhood Through *A Love Affair in Pyongyang* (2022),” Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Vancouver, Canada, March 12–15.
- 2025 “Socialist Brotherhood on Eurasian Peripheries: Cinematic Solidarity between East Germany and North Korea during the Cold War,” GSA, Arlington, VA, September 25–28.
- 2025 “Zwischen Spionage und Liebe. Zeitgenössische deutsch-koreanische Literatur über die nationalen Teilungen des Kalten Krieges” [Between Espionage and Love: Contemporary Korean-German Literature on the National Divisions of the Cold War], Internationale Vereinigung für Germanistik (International Association for Germanic Linguistics and Literature, IVG), Graz, Austria, July 20–27.
- 2023 “Precarious Kinship, Conflicting Memories, and Ambivalent Affects of Belonging in Cho Sung-hyung’s Korean-German Documentaries,” GSA, Montréal, Canada, October 5–8.
- 2023 “Multidirectional Affect through Sight and Sound: Alternative Memory Making in Ulrike Ottinger’s *Exile Shanghai*,” AAS, Boston, MA, March 16–19.
- 2022 “A Temporality of Imminent, Never-Consummated Arrival: Contemporary German Documentaries on North Korea,” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), Online, June 15–18.
- 2022 “Reality, Layered Artifice, and Encounters with the Foreign in Werner Herzog’s *Family Romance, LLC* (2019),” SCMS, Online, March 31–April 3.
- 2021 “Queering the Screen: Spectral Figures and German-Taiwanese Encounters in Monika Treut’s *Ghosted*,” GSA, Indianapolis, IN, September 30–October 3.
- 2021 “Negotiating National Allegory: Homosexuality, Departure, and Homecoming in *Pain and Glory* and *Nina Wu*,” SCMS, Online, March 17–21.
- 2021 “Der Neo-Orientalismus in der DDR-Reiseliteratur der 1950er-Jahren. Gerhard Kiesling und Bernt von Kügelgens *China* (1957),” Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA), Online, March 10–14.
- 2020 “A Façade of Solidarity: East Germany’s Attempted Dialogues with China in *Die Windrose*,” GSA, Online, September 29–October 4.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley, Sole Instructor

Beyond *Squid Game*: Film and Visual Media of National Division (Fall 2025)
Intermediate German I (Fall 2023)
Elementary German II (Spring 2022)
Elementary German I (Fall 2021)

SERVICE

University

Peer Reviewer and Editorial Board Member, *TRANSIT Journal*, 2022–2026
Managing Editor, *TRANSIT Blog* (formerly *Multicultural Germany Project*), 2022–2024

Profession

Book Review Editorial Assistant, *German Studies Review*, 2022–2026
WiG Best Article Prize Selection Committee Member, 2024–2026

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association for Asian Studies, 2021–present
American Comparative Literature Association, 2020–present
Coalition of Women in German, 2021–present
German Studies Association, 2019–present
Modern Language Association, 2022–present
Society for Cinema and Media Studies, 2019–present

LANGUAGES

Chinese (Mandarin): native
English: near-native
German: near-native
Korean: near-native
French: can read with a dictionary
Japanese: can read with a dictionary
Cantonese: beginner speaking