

Dr. Benedikt Sepp

Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of History, University of Munich (LMU)

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Short Academic Bio

Dr. Benedikt Sepp is a cultural historian of modern Europe with a focus on protest cultures, political imagination, the far right, and the history of violence. He received his doctorate from the University of Konstanz in 2021 with a prize-winning dissertation on the West German student movement (*Das Prinzip Bewegung*, Wallstein 2023). Currently based at LMU, he works on a history of the transnational circulation of violence-related practices, subjectivities and technology through the lens of small arms standardisation. His additional postdoctoral projects explore memory politics between Germany and East Asia and contemporary conspiracy movements in Germany. His teaching spans modern German and European history, including courses on the radical right, terrorism, National Socialism, and historical theory. He has co-designed exhibitions, podcasts, and interdisciplinary conferences and received multiple awards and research grants.

Current Position

Postdoctoral Researcher, LMU Munich, Department of History

Project: Entscheidende Millimeter. Kaliberstandardisierungen im langen 20. Jahrhundert
(*Crucial Millimetres. Ammunition Standardisation in the 20th Century*)

Funded by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (SE 3402/2-1)

Research Interests

- Protest and social movements and their knowledge forms in 20th-century Europe
 - History of the Far Right and Fascism
 - History of violence (practices, transfers, technology)
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Academic Positions

Since 2025 PI, Research Grant "Entscheidende Millimeter. Kaliberstandardisierungen im langen 20. Jahrhundert", Department of History, LMU Munich

2021–2024 Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of History, LMU Munich

- 2018–2021** Doctoral Researcher and Lecturer, Department of History, University of Konstanz
- 2014–2021** Doctoral Researcher, Cluster of Excellence "Cultural Foundations of Integration", University of Konstanz
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Education

Ph.D. in History, University of Konstanz, 2021

Awarded *summa cum laude*

Recipient of the *Merkur Prize for Outstanding Dissertations*

Shortlisted for *Deutscher Studienpreis, Körber-Stiftung*

M.A. in History and Economics, LMU Munich and NTNU Trondheim, 2013

Additional Training

- 2024: Science Communication on Social Media Seminar, National Institute for Science Communication, Heidelberg
 - 2022: Media Training, National Institute for Science Communication, Heidelberg
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Publications

Monographs

- *Das Prinzip Bewegung. Theorie, Praxis und Radikalisierung in der West-Berliner Linken 1961–1972* [The Principle of Movement: Theory, Practice, and Radicalization in the West Berlin Left], Göttingen: Wallstein, 2023.
- *Linke Leute von rechts? Die nationalrevolutionäre Bewegung in der Bundesrepublik* (Left People from the Right? The National-Revolutionary Movement in West Germany), Marburg: Tectum, 2013.

Journal Articles (Peer-reviewed)

- "Harte Zeiten für die Guten". Kurt Huber und Mirok Li: Eine transnationale Rezeptionsgeschichte des deutschen Widerstands (Hard Times for the Virtuous: A Transnational Reception History of German Resistance against National Socialism), *Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte* 73 (2025), no. 3, pp. 379–411 (with Kristina Milz).
- *Munitionsgeschichte als Projektionsgeschichte. 5,56x45mm: Ein Gewaltstandard des 20. Jahrhunderts* (Ammunition History as a history of projections: 5.56x45mm: A Standard of Violence in the 20th Century), *Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaft* 72 (2024), no. 12, pp. 987–1010.
- *Proletarische Identitätspolitik. Die West-Berliner Basisgruppen 1968–1969* (Proletarian Identity Politics: The West Berlin Grassroots Groups 1968–1969), *Arbeit Bewegung Geschichte* 22 (2023), no. 1, pp. 7–29.

- *Kritik als identitäre Pose. Von der Studentenbewegung zu den Querdenkern?* (Critique as an Identity Performance: From the Student Movement to the COVID Protestors?), *Merkur* 882 (2022), pp. 15–24.
- *Escape to the Front: The Strange Radicalisation of the West German Student Movement*, *Esboços* 29 (2022), pp. 35–47.
- *Wissen, hausgemacht. Selbstverständnis, Expertisen und Hausverstand der 'Querdenker'* (Homemade Knowledge: Self-understanding and 'Common Sense' among COVID Protestors), *Leviathan*, special issue 37 (2021), pp. 468–481 (with Johannes Pantenburg).
- *Corona-Proteste und das (Gegen-)Wissen sozialer Bewegungen* (COVID Protests and the Counter-Knowledge of Social Movements), *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* 3-4 (2021), pp. 22–27 (with Sven Reichardt and Johannes Pantenburg).
- *Die Reformation der Revolution. Die konfessionelle Spaltung als implizites Deutungsmuster* (The Reformation of the Revolution: Confessional Divisions in the Anti-Authoritarian Movement), *Geschichte und Gesellschaft* 45 (2019), no. 3, pp. 444–465.
- *Beyond the Buttocks as a Political-Geographical Model – A Praxeological Approach to West Germany's National Revolutionaries*, *Moving the Social* 56 (2016), pp. 73–92.

Book Chapters

- *Schlafschafe. Wie verfilmt man keine Verschwörung?* (How to Film a Conspiracy that doesn't exist), in Nicolai Hannig, Anette Schlimm, Kim Wünschmann (eds.), *Deutsche Filmgeschichten*, Göttingen 2023, pp. 270–276.
- *Wissensparallelwelten der Querdenker* (Knowledge Parallel Worlds among COVID Protestors), in Sven Reichardt (ed.), *Die Misstrauensgemeinschaft der Querdenker*, Frankfurt/M. 2021, pp. 29–66 (with Sven Reichardt and Johannes Pantenburg).
- *Fugacious Marxisms. Aesthetics of Marxism in the West German Student Movement*, in Stefan Berger, Christoph Cornelissen (eds.), *Marxist Historical Cultures and Social Movements during the Cold War*, Cham 2019, pp. 217–234.
 - Spanish translation: *Marxismos fugaces*, Zaragoza 2021
 - German translation: *Marxistische Geschichtskulturen*, Heidelberg 2024
- *Schwenken, Schmücken und Studieren. Die Mao-Bibel in der westdeutschen Studentenbewegung* (Waving, Decorating, Studying: The Mao Bible in West German Student Movements), in Anke Jaspers et al. (eds.), *Ein kleines rotes Buch*, Berlin 2018, pp. 99–116.

Selected Talks

- *From Borneo to Belfast. British Counterinsurgency and the Armalite rifle*, Tokyo College, April 17, 2025
- *Flugbahnen. Munitionsstandardisierung im langen 20. Jahrhundert* (Trajectories: Ammunition Standardisation in the Long 20th Century), German Historical Institute London, March 25, 2025
- *The Legacy of the White Rose: Can the German Resistance to National Socialism Serve as a Shining Example for Modern Democracy?*, Festival of Democracy, Ulm, June 7, 2024
- *Preparing for Forthcoming Wars: Rifle Cartridge Adoptions and Military Future Expectations*, Project House Europe, LMU Munich, January 16, 2024
- *Can History Be 'Objective'?*, LMU Munich, June 28, 2023

- *Das Gegenwissen der Querdenker – Eine Herausforderung für Wissenschaft und Politik?* (Counter-Knowledge among COVID Protestors – A Challenge for Science and Politics?), Fraunhofer Institute, Kaiserslautern, January 26, 2023
- *Kritik als identitäre Pose* (Critique as Identity Performance), Körber Foundation, Berlin, July 5, 2022
- *Gegen den St(r)ich. Eine kurze Geschichte der Impfgegnerbewegung* (A Short History of the Anti-Vaccination Movement); lecture and panel with Susanne Rühlich MP and Prof. Robert Nuscheler, Kochel am See, July 6, 2021
- *Hartes Denken, harte Körper: Der Zerfall der antiautoritären Bewegung in West-Berlin 1968–1970* (Hard Thinking, Hard Bodies: The Collapse of the Anti-Authoritarian Movement in West Berlin, 1968–1970), University of California, Berkeley

Teaching Experience

University of Munich (LMU) and University of Konstanz, 2018–2025

(Complete list of independently designed and taught courses; translated titles in parentheses)

- Masterclass Global History, Tokyo College (co-teaching with Robert Kramm)
- *Eine Bombe voller Blätter. Erstellung einer Ausstellung zu Flugblattpropaganda an den Fronten des 2. Weltkriegs* (A Bomb Full of Pamphlets: Designing an Exhibition on WWII Leaflet Propaganda)
- *Der Beginn unserer Gegenwart? Die Siebziger Jahre als Übergangszeit* (The Beginning of Our Present? The seventies as a transitional period)
- *Der Kampf gegen die Weltuntergänge* (Fighting the End Times: Fear, Apocalypse and Protest in West Germany, 1949–2022)
- *Terrorismus und politische Gewalt in der Bundesrepublik* (Terrorism and political violence in postwar Germany)
- *Das Unbehagen in der Geschichte* (Psychoanalysis and Poststructuralism in Historiography) (co-teaching with Robert Kramm)
- *Was ist eigentlich Faschismus?* (What Is Fascism?)
- *Wissenschaft im Nationalsozialismus* (Science under National Socialism)
- *Geschichte mit Marx* (Marxism and Marxist historiography) (co-teaching with Robert Kramm)
- *Die radikale Rechte in der Bundesrepublik* (The Radical Right in Postwar Germany)
- *Heute vor 80 Jahren* – A Podcast Seminar on Everyday Life during National Socialism
- *Was war "68"?* (What Was '68? Student Revolt and the Long Sixties in Germany)
- *Die Wahrheit des Volkes* (The Truth of the People: Fake News and Populism)
- *Spitzenkaufen und Bombenangriff – Das Tagebuch eines Leutnants der Wehrmacht* (A Wehrmacht lieutenant's diary)
- *Der Dschihad aus dem Auswärtigen Amt* (Jihad from the German Foreign Office: The German Empire and the Middle East, 1871–1945)

- *Die radikale Linke nach 1945* (The Radical Left after 1945)
 - *Linkes "68", rechtes "68"?* ('68 Left and Right? Political Shifts in Postwar Germany)
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Conferences Organized

- *Movement, Protest, Activism. Interdisciplinary Approaches to an Elusive Phenomenon*, University of Konstanz, 2019 (together with Sven Reichardt, Johannes Pantenburg)
 - *Grenzen und Zukunft der Praxeologie* (Limits and Futures of Praxeology), University of Konstanz, 2017 (together with Ole Munch)
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Public Engagement and Outreach (Selection)

- Blog Post: "The Enemy's Weapon: Learning Guerrilla Warfare Through an American Rifle", *German Historical Institute London Blog*, 2026
- Interviewee, *History's Youngest Heroes*, BBC Radio 4, February 17, 2025
- Interviewee, "Der große Knall – Die Geschichte des Schießpulvers", BR2, February 4, 2025
- TV feature on the Exhibition *A Bomb full of Pamphlets*, Bayerischer Rundfunk, July 30, 2024
- Curator of the Exhibition *A Bomb full of Pamphlets: Propaganda Leaflets on the frontlines of the Second World War* (2024)
- Feature article, *West-östlicher Widerstand (Resistance in East and West)*, *Die Zeit*, July 6, 2023 (with Kristina Milz)
- Interview, "Impfung als ultimativer Übergriff des Staates", *Die Welt*, July 16, 2021
- Feature article, "Bauchgefühl und Mathematik. Ein Gesprächsexperiment mit Querdenkern", *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, October 7, 2020
- Public talks and panels on historical memory, the radical right, and anti-vaccine movements