

# **Brenna Reinhart Byrd**

Department of Modern & Classical Languages, Literatures & Cultures  
University of Kentucky  
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## **Education**

Ph.D. Germanic Linguistics, UCLA, June 2010.

M.A., Germanic Linguistics, UCLA, June 2003.

B.A., German, minor in Linguistics, University of Texas at Austin, December 2000

## **Academic Appointments**

Associate Professor, Director of Beginning German, University of Kentucky,  
2021 - Present

Assistant Professor, Director of Beginning German, University of Kentucky,  
2014 - 2021

Lecturer, Director of Beginning German, University of Kentucky, 2010-2014

## **Awards and Honors**

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) national  
finalist for Teacher of the Year: 2017

Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) Teacher of the Year  
Award: 2017

Kentucky World Language Association (KWLA) Outstanding Teacher Award:  
2016

American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) Kentucky Outstanding  
Teacher Award: 2016

University of Kentucky Faculty Fellow for Presentation U: 2015-2017

Nominated by University of Kentucky Department of Modern and Classical  
Languages, Literatures and Cultures for DAAD German Embassy Teacher of  
Excellence Award: 2015.

University of Kentucky College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Teaching  
Award (sole lecturer to receive this award this year): 2012

UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship: 2005-2006

DAAD Graduate Scholarship Stipend, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany:  
2003-2004

Center for European and Russian Studies Pre-dissertation Fellowship with  
Utrecht Exchange Program for one-month study in Utrecht: 2003

Delta Phi Alpha University of Texas German Honor Society: 2000

FGAC Stipend for one year funded study, Universität Kassel, Germany: 1998-  
1999

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## Funded Grants

### External Grants

National Endowment for the Humanities – Digital Projects for the Public Discovery Grant: “The Anatolian Trail: An Indo-European Adventure,” \$30,000, to work on the development of a video game to teach Proto-Indo-European linguistics, culture, and archaeology, Co-PI with Andrew Byrd, 2019.

AATG *Netzwerk Deutsch* funding for Kentucky Chapter Project *Deshalb Deutsch!*, \$700, to create an annual competition and award prizes for students at UK to create videos advertising taking German courses, with Bess Dawson, 2018.

### Internal Grants

Research and Creative Activities Support Program award, \$3,000, to create linguistic puzzles for the video game *Roots of the Ancients*, with Andrew Byrd, 2020.

University of Kentucky Libraries Alternative Textbook Grant Program, \$2,500, to continue work on a free OER textbook that teaches Proto-Indo-European through immersive lessons, with Andrew Byrd, 2020.

University of Kentucky Libraries Alternative Textbook Grant Program, \$2,500, to continue work on a free OER textbook that teaches Proto-Indo-European through immersive lessons, with Andrew Byrd, 2019.

Research and Creative Activities Support Program award, \$5,000, to create artwork and voice-acted dialogue on *The Anatolian Trail: An Indo-European Adventure*, with Andrew Byrd, 2019.

A&S Compressed Course Program, \$5,000, to host Award-winning Scottish Playwright Alan McKendrick to co-teach a Compressed Course entitled “Translating for the Stage: How Language Style Affects ‘Successful’ Performance,” 2014.

## Publications

“Teaching Proto-Indo-European as a Constructed Language,” with Andrew Byrd; Jeffrey Punske, Amy Fountain, and Nathan Sanders (eds.). *Language Invention in Linguistics Pedagogy*. Oxford University Press (September 2020).

“Supporting Graduate Students of Color in German Studies: A Syllabus,” Ervin Malakaj and Regine Criser (eds.). *Diversity, Decolonialization, and the German Curriculum*. Palgrave Macmillan (March 2020).

“Stylized Turkish German as the Resistance Vernacular of German Hip-Hop,” Justin Williams (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Hip Hop*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (April 2015).

## Brenna Reinhart Byrd

“Media Representations of Turkish-German and Hip-Hop Language as a Uniform Ethnolect,” in *Proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Symposium About Language and Society – Austin. Texas Linguistic Forum 53*. Austin: Dept. of Linguistics (2009)  
<<http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/salsa/proceedings/2009.html>>

## Presentations

### Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

- “Deutsche Dichter und Denker: May Ayim,” with Gabrielle Taylor, recorded presentation for Global Youth - Credentialing and Recognizing Excellence and Determination (Y-CRED), Online, October 14, 2021.
- “Roundtable: Teaching in an Age of White Supremacy,” with Maureen Gallagher, Mary Rambaran-Olm, Didem Uca, moderated by Adrienne Merritt; Diversity, Decolonization, and the German Curriculum 2021: A Virtual Gathering, Online, March 12, 2021.
- “Conlanging Proto-Indo-European: An Immersive Experience within Prehistory,” with Andrew Byrd; the Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention, Seattle, Washington, January 10, 2020.
- “Fostering a Growth Mindset with ePortfolios and Reflective Journaling,” with Malinda Massey; American Council on The Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Convention & Expo, Washington, DC, November 22, 2019.
- “Using Instagram to Explore Cultural Perspectives,” ACTFL Convention & Expo: Social Media Lounge, Washington, DC, November 22, 2019. **(invited talk)**
- “The Transparent Learning of Indo-European Studies through an Interactive Video Game,” with Andrew Byrd; Pedagogicon, Richmond, KY, May 17, 2019.
- “Teaching the Methods Course in a Post-Method World,” SCOLT, Myrtle Beach, SC, March 23, 2019.
- “Interkulturelle Kompetenz durch Social Media,” Four-hour German Immersion Workshop for Teachers, sponsored by the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center, Indianapolis, Indiana, January 26, 2019. **(invited talk)**
- “Better Together: K-16 Collaboration on Using Authentic German Resources,” with Bess Dawson; ACTFL Convention & Expo, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 2018.
- “The Anatolian Trail: An Interactive Introduction to Proto-Indo-European,” Electronic Poster Presentation, co-presented with Andrew Byrd; ACTFL Convention & Expo, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 2018.
- “Scaffolding Authentic Materials,” Featured Presenter sponsored by AATG; Indiana Foreign Language Teacher’s Association (IFLTA) Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 2018. **(invited talk)**

## Brenna Reinhart Byrd

- “Panel II with ACTFL/CSC Teachers of the Year Finalists,” IFLTA Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 2018. **(invited talk)**
- “A Methods Course for a Post-Method World,” Featured Presenter; IFLTA Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 2018. **(invited talk)**
- “Teaching with Open Source Materials,” with Julie Human, Ioana Raluca Larco, Ghadir Zannoun; Kentucky World Language Association (KWLA) Annual Conference, Lexington, Kentucky, September 2018.
- “Advertising as Genre: Now with 200% more scaffolding! Act now!” with Bess Dawson; KWLA Annual Conference, Lexington, Kentucky, September 2018.
- “Using Twitter as an Authentic Resource,” with Anna Sparks; KWLA Annual Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, September 2017.
- “New Teacher Workshop,” two separate 3-hour Workshops, with Jennifer Kennedy; KWLA Annual Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, September 2017. **(invited talk)**
- “Video Games and Invented Language — Resurrecting a Dead Language for *Far Cry Primal*,” with Andrew Byrd, Convocation at Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, February 2017. **(invited talk)**
- “Scaffolding Authentic Resources,” 3-hour Workshop, with Molly Thomasy Blasing, Julie Human, Ioana Raluca Larco, Ghadir Zannoun; KWLA Annual Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, September 2016.
- “Life in Oros,” with Andrew Byrd, Ubisoft’s *Far Cry: Primal* VIP International Press Tour, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, January 2016. **(invited talk)**
- “Curricular Reform for Undergraduate German Programs: a Genre-Based Approach,” with Erika Berroth, Jessamine Cooke-Plagwitz, and Christa Spreizer, ACTFL Convention & Expo, San Diego, California, November 2015.
- “Integrating Language and Content through Genre,” KWLA Annual Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, September 2015.
- “Technology in and outside the Classroom,” with Julie Human, Ghadir Zannoun, and Ioana Larco, KWLA Annual Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, September 2015.
- “Sociolinguistics in the German Language Classroom,” Worlds and Words, the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Conference in the Humanities at the University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia, October 2014.
- “Restructuring the Beginning German Language Curriculum,” presentation at the University of Kentucky (UK), April 2014. **(invited talk)**
- “Teaching Language Through Music: Developing Content-Based Units for the Second Year German Class,” with Brad Barr and Harry Richart at Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, April 2014.
- “The Rise of Stylized Turkish German as an Urban Resistance Vernacular Through the Medium of Hip Hop,” International Association for the Study of Popular Music-U.S. Branch, University of California, San Diego, 2009.

## **Brenna Reinhart Byrd**

- “Media Representations of Turkish-German and Hip-Hop Language as a Uniform Ethnolect,” Symposium About Language and Society - Austin, UT Austin, 2009.
- “Why Teach With Technology?”, UCLA, Campuswide Teaching Assistant Conference, 2009. **(invited talk)**
- “Hot Potatoes interactive quiz-tool software,” Language Technology Boot Camp, Pomona College, 2009.
- “Virtual Study Abroad: Example of a Multi-media Program for 2nd-Year Language Students,” with Lisa Parkes at University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), Applied Linguistics speaker series, 2008. **(invited talk)**
- “Virtual Study Abroad: A Multi-Media Language Program for 2nd-Year German,” with Lisa Parkes at the Teaching World Languages in the Digital Age Symposium, UCLA, 2008. **(invited talk)**  
<<http://www.international.ucla.edu/languages/podcasts/article.asp?parentid=92320>>
- “Virtual Study Abroad, A Multi-media Project for Second-Year German,” with Lisa Parkes at The 4th UC Language Consortium Conference on Theoretical & Pedagogical Perspectives, UCSB, 2008.
- “Towards a Cohesive Optimality Theory of Gender Assignment in German,” with Christopher M. Stevens at the Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference (GLAC), UC Davis, 2005.
- “How to Teach Grammar,” Workshop demonstration at UCLA Campuswide Teaching Assistant Conference, 2005. **(invited talk)**

### **Invited Local Talks**

- “Office of Faculty Advancement’s P&T Beginning workshop,” panelist, UK, November 18, 2022.
- “Civility in the Classroom and on the College Campus,” with Michelle Sizemore, A&S Lunchtime Series on Diversity and Inclusivity in the Classroom, UK, February 12, 2020.
- “Managing TAs,” CELT New Faculty Teaching Academy, UK, February 6, 2020.
- “Letting Authentic Materials Fly the Plane: Fostering Interculturality in the Language Classroom,” Fayette County Public Schools Conference, Henry Clay High School, Lexington, Kentucky, January 30, 2020.
- “The Roots of the Ancients: Bringing the Past to Life through Video Games,” with Andrew Byrd, UK Curiosity Fair, UK, October 29, 2019.
- “The Roots of the Ancients: Bringing the Past to Life through Video Games,” with Andrew Byrd, Curiosity Fair Lunch & Learn Presentation, Girls, Girls, Girls Burritos, October 8, 2019.
- “Linguistic Diversity in the Classroom,” with Jennifer Cramer, Jeanmarie Rouhier-Willoughby, and Rusty Barrett, A&S Lunchtime Series on Diversity and Inclusivity in the Classroom, UK, September 4, 2019.
- “Panel Discussion with a TA Supervisor and Experienced TAs,” UK University-wide TA Orientation, August 2019.

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- “Using Video Games to Teach Indo-European Studies,” with Andrew Byrd, European Studies lunch talk series, UK, February 22, 2019.
- “Comparing female agency in translations and adaptations of *Skírnismál*,” MCL 200: Global Literacy, UK, February 19, 2019.
- “Speak Caveman,” Curiosity Matters: Why Ask Why?, organized by UK Libraries and the UK Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Lexington, Kentucky, November 2018.
- “Why take German?” Fayette County Public Schools World Languages Event, Beaumont Middle School, November 2018.
- “Gerd’s story: Comparing female agency in translations of *Skírnismál*,” MCL 200: Global Literacy, UK, October 2018.
- “Panel Discussion with a TA Supervisor and Experienced TAs,” with Luc Dunoyer, Jyoti Gupta, Rachel Jubran, and William Mattingly, UK University-wide TA Orientation, August 2018.
- “Use of Alternative Textbooks for Teaching and Learning,” with Melody Danley and Stephanie Reynolds, moderated by Trey Conatser, organized by UK Libraries and the UK Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Lexington, Kentucky, March 2018.
- “Kanak Sprak: the Rise of a Stylized Resistance Vernacular,” GER 650: Migration, Europeanization and German Identity, UK, Jan 2017.
- “MCLLC Canvas Training,” UK, December 2016.
- “Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment: A Faculty Panel,” with Herman Farrell and Robyn Brown, organized by the UK Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Lexington, Kentucky, October 2016.
- “Panel Discussion with a TA Supervisor and Experienced TAs,” with Annie Beck, Billy Korinko, and Ashley Sorrell, UK University-wide TA Orientation, August 2016.
- “Creating the Languages of *Far Cry: Primal*,” with Andrew Byrd, Featured Panelists at OMGcon, Owensboro, Kentucky, June 2016.
- “Professors Go Primal: a Public Lecture by the Creators of the Languages for *Far Cry: Primal*,” with Andrew Byrd, UK, March 2016.
- “Using PRAAT in Sociolinguistic Research,” LIN 500: Phonetics, UK, April 2014.
- “Turkish-German Hip Hop and Resistance Vernaculars,” LIN 317: Language and Global Hip Hop Culture, UK, 2012.
- “Using Articulatory Phonetics to Teach Pronunciation,” GER/FR/SPA 553: Language Pedagogy, UK, 2011.
- “How to Teach Pronunciation,” GER/FR/SPA 553: Language Pedagogy, UK, 2010.
- “The Rise of Stylized Turkish-German as an Urban Resistance Vernacular,” UK, 2010.
- “A comparison of Gastarbeiterdeutsch and Kanak Sprak,” German 140: Language and Linguistics, UCLA, 2009.
- “Using Technology in the Language Classroom,” German 495: Teaching Assistant Practicum, UCLA, 2009.

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“What is Kanak Sprak?” German 170: Current Topics in Germanic Linguistics, UCLA. 2009.

“Using Technology in the Language Classroom,” German 495: Teaching Assistant Practicum, UCLA, 2008.

“The history of Turkish-German Hip hop,” Anthropology 19: Hip-Hop as Universal Language, UCLA, 2008.

“Language TA Panel,” UCLA Campuswide Teaching Assistant Conference, 2007.

“Grimm Brothers and German Nationalism,” the Dionysium, Austin, TX, 2004.

## **Professional Development and Related Work Experience**

University of Kentucky CELT Teaching Innovation Institute, 2022-2023.

University of Kentucky Arts & Sciences DEI Leaders retreat, Sept. 16, 2022.

Game Worldbuilding and Game World Logic Consultant for Sweet Baby, Inc., 2021-Present.

Linguistic Consultant and Dialect Coach for A44 Games, 2021-2022.

Diversity, Decolonization and the German Curriculum “Why/Whether German” Action Group Discussion, Jan 15, 2021.

KWLA Book Club: ACTFL's *Words and Actions: Teaching World Languages Through the Lens of Social Justice*, June 29 – July 27, 2020.

University of Kentucky Week of Teaching Virtual Symposium, April 27-May 1, 2020.

University of Kentucky Faculty Fellows Cohort 4: Multimodal Communication 2015-2017.

AATG Professional Development Seminar on Authentic Resources, presented by die Zentrallstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen (ZfA), Lexington, KY, April 2016.

Linguistic Consultant and Dialect Coach for Ubisoft's video game *Far Cry: Primal*, 2014-2016.

*Meeting Student Needs in College German Programs* AATG 3-Day Faculty Seminar on Curriculum Development at the College Level, Georgetown University in Washington, DC, October 10-12, 2014.

A&S-CELT Hybridization Institute, MCLLC representative, UK, Sept. 2013.

Intellectual Inquiry UK Core Assessment: Humanities, UK, May 2012.

Instructional Technology Consultant, Center for Digital Humanities, UCLA, 2008-2010.

## **Service**

### **Service to the Profession**

KWLA Conference Organization, Tech Support, 2022.

KWLA Awards Committee, 2017, 2021, 2022.

KWLA Gravitt German Committee, 2020-Present.

KWLA Post-Secondary Liaison, KWLA Executive Board, 2020-Present.

## **Brenna Reinhart Byrd**

KWLA Showcase, organizer and staff, 2011-2014, 2017-Present  
Testing Chair for the Kentucky AATG, 2015-Present  
Fayette County Public Schools World Languages Event, Beaumont Middle School, November 2018.  
Southern Conference on Language Teaching Awards Committee, 2018.

### **Service to the University of Kentucky**

Folklore & Mythology Club Faculty Sponsor, 2023-Present.  
Women in Gaming Faculty Advisor, 2024-Present.  
MCLLC DEI Committee Chair, 2020-2021, 2022-Present.  
Moran Scholarship Committee, 2020.  
Esports Initiative Faculty Focus Group, 2019-Present.  
MCLLC World Language Open House, Organizing Committee, 2018-Present.  
MCL 100 & MCL 200 & MCL 495 Curriculum Design Committee, 2016-Present.  
German Studies Working Group, 2013-present.  
German Studies PR Committee, 2013-present.  
Folklore & Mythology Working Group Convener, 2016-2020, 2022-Present.  
Folklore & Mythology Working Group, 2013-present.  
MCLLC Online PR Committee, 2013-present.  
Interdepartmental Language Placement Exam Committee, 2014-present.  
See Blue U Orientation Advising, Summer 2018, 2019.  
MCLLC Undergraduate Committee 2015-2016, 2018-2019.  
German Studies Curriculum Committee 2013-2016, 2019.  
German Studies Book Awards Ceremony co-organizer, 2016-2019.  
Phonetics Research Group, 2016-2018.  
Applied Linguistics Working Group, 2016-present.  
SLA Working Group, 2013-present.  
German MA Exam Committees, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.  
MATWL Exam Committee, 2020.  
Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, SLA Executive Committee, UK, 2012, 2016, 2018, 2019  
Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, German Graduate Student Panel co-organizer, UK, 2013-2020.  
Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, SLA abstract reviewer, UK, 2015.  
Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, SLA Panel co-organizer, UK, 2014.  
Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, SLA abstract reviewer, UK, 2013, 2015, 2017.  
Education Abroad Scholarship Selection Committee, Fall 2016.  
Panel Chair for the 15<sup>th</sup> International Courtly Literature Society Congress, Summer 2016.  
SLA Working Group Convener, 2014-2016.  
eLII Faculty Development Review Panel, Spring 2015  
Education Abroad Scholarship Selection Committee, 2012.

## **Brenna Reinhart Byrd**

Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Special Topic Panel organizer:  
“Language Pedagogy -- Reading Literary Texts with Beginners” and  
Graduate Student Panel co-organizer, UK, 2011.

### **Teaching**

#### **University of Kentucky, Modern & Classical Languages, Literatures & Cultures**

- GER 011 German for Reading Knowledge
- GER 101 Basic German
- GER 201 Intermediate German 1
- GER 202 Intermediate German 2
- GER 201/202 Intensive German Study Abroad
- GER 206 Spoken Communication
- GER 307 Intermediate German Composition and Conversation I
- GER 308 Intermediate German Composition and Conversation II
- GER 352 German Speaking Europe: Translating for the Stage
- GER 363 Germanic Mythology
- GER 395 Independent Study (Undergraduate)
- FR / GER / SPA 553 The Teaching of French, German and Spanish
- GER 653 Research and Issues in Teaching German
- GER 768 Research Credit for Master Degree
- GER 781 Independent Studies in German (Graduate)
- LIN 317 Language & Society
- LIN 527 / MCL 598 Language Investigations (Proto-Indo-European)
- MCL 100 The World of Language
- MCL 270 Intro to Folklore & Mythology
- MCL 312 The Art of Adaptation
- MCL 390 Topics in MCL (The Linguistics of German; Proto-Indo-European)
- MCL 591 Language Practicum: Old Norse
- MCL 593 Internship: Teaching German in Kindergarten
- MCL 595 Topics in Folklore and Mythology (The Supernatural; Comparative PIE Language and Mythology)

#### **University of California, Los Angeles, Germanic Languages, Teaching Assistant (TA)**

- First- and Second-year German, Instructor of Record
- Pilot Course Instructor for German Language Level 1, Fall 2007
- German Language Instructor for UCLA Travel Study Abroad Program to Berlin, Prague, and Vienna, Summer 2005
- German M70, Origins of Language

## **Brenna Reinhart Byrd**

### **University of California, Los Angeles, Germanic Languages, Teaching Assistant Consultant (TAC),**

- Co-Instructor for graduate student German Pedagogy seminar 495
- Assisted in syllabus design and reading materials
- Awarded this position twice due to excellent teaching record and skills at mentoring fellow TAs

### **University of California, Los Angeles, Germanic Languages, Technology Teaching Assistant Consultant (TTAC)**

- Designed curriculum, wrote syllabus, material and instructed German 496 graduate seminar on instructional technology

### **University of Texas at Austin, German Outreach in the Schools Program, Undergraduate Instructor**

- Wrote syllabus, material and instructed German course for sixth graders at three different middle schools

## **Professional Organizations**

American Association of Teachers of German  
American Association of University Supervisors and Coordinators  
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages  
Diversity and Decolonization in the German Curriculum  
Kentucky World Language Association  
Southern Conference on Language Teaching

## **Languages**

German: Near-native fluency  
Dutch: Intermediate speaking, advanced reading knowledge  
Swedish, Norwegian: Intermediate reading knowledge  
Russian: philological knowledge plus Novice speaking knowledge  
Turkish: philological knowledge plus Novice speaking knowledge  
Old High German, Old Saxon, Old Norse, Old English, Middle High German,  
Gothic, Old Frisian: Excellent reading/philological knowledge