

Silja Weber

Curriculum Vitae

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Research interests

Performative approaches and drama techniques for foreign language teaching, discourse analysis, critical and inclusive pedagogy, L2 pragmatics, L2 acquisition of lexical semantics and morphosyntax

Education

- 2016 ABD, PhD program, Department of Germanic Studies at Indiana University, minor in Second Language Studies
Dissertation: *Rich discursive contexts and performance spaces in the foreign language classroom*
Dissertation director: Prof. Susanne Even
- 2012 M.A. in Germanic Studies
Master's project: *Acquisition of constraints on the recipient passive in very advanced learners: German and English*, Advisor: Rex Sprouse
- 2009 Certificate in ASL/English interpreting, IUPUI
- 2007-2009 American Sign Language/English Interpreting Program at IUPUI (Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis)
- 2005-2007 American Sign Language program, Vincennes University
- 1999 Erstes Staatsexamen (~ M.Sc. with teaching concentration in Mathematics and English), Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Germany
Master's project: *Integrierbarkeitsbedingungen in der Differentialgeometrie (Conditions of integrability in differential geometry)*, advisor: Hermann Karcher
- 1993-1999 Major in mathematics, minor in English Studies at Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Germany

Teaching and supervising experience

2010 - Associate Instructor in Germanic Studies, IU

Beginning, intermediate, and advanced German

Integration of online resources, forum interaction, task-and problem-based learning, collaborative class projects, and techniques from drama pedagogy for literature and grammar teaching. Redesigning of 3rd semester syllabus for compressed summer session, including online format. Input on syllabus design during textbook change.

Introduction to Business German (Advanced level)

Redesign of syllabus; development of interactive multi-stage assignments and new materials, assessments, and grading rubrics; in-class live video interviews with German professionals

Introduction to German Literature (Advanced level)

Individual class sessions on Zaimoğlu's *Kanak Sprak* and Rilke's poetry

Reading knowledge of German for graduate students (2 course sequence)

Syllabus design, including selection of materials, development of structured cognitive strategy activities, learner centered project, assessment types, and grading criteria

Supervision experience: Coordination of multi-section classes, including

- Weekly course meetings
- Observation of instructors, including detailed written observation reports
- Feedback sessions with instructors
- Negotiation of instructor-student conflicts
- Modification of syllabi, assignments, and grading rubrics
- Organization of oral exams, film showings, etc.

Teacher training experience

2016 University-wide Classroom Climate workshop for new Associate Instructors: The classroom as a performative space (with Eric Zobel and Juliane Wünsch)

2016 IU share fair "AIs Present: Lessons with Diverse and Inclusive Perspectives": *GLBTQ+ students: An invisible minority. Strategies for a more welcoming classroom.*

2016 Guest class session in the departmental pedagogy class for new Associate Instructors, topic: Inclusive teaching and universal design

2012 Goethe Institut Chicago, TA seminar (co-presented with Susanne Even, IU) *Ratten, Romanzen, Kanaksprak und Theater (Teaching Literature)*

Other teaching experience

1999-2000 Foreign Language Assistant, Oxford/Bicester, England. Team-taught middle and high school level German language classes and conversation groups

1998 Classroom practicum for English as a foreign language/mathematics, middle/high school level, Bonn, Germany

1995-1999 Assistant Instructor, Departments for English/Mathematics, Bonn University, Germany. Classes taught: Introduction to linguistics, tutorial sections for undergraduate analysis and linear algebra classes

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles

Weber, S. (2017). Drama pedagogy in intermediate German: Effects on anxiety. *German as a Foreign Language (GFL)*. In print.

Reviews and reports

Weber, S. (2015). Nakatsuhara, F.: The co-construction of conversation in group oral tests. Frankfurt/M: Lang. 2013. In Köster, L. (Ed.) *Informationen Deutsch als Fremdsprache*, 42(2-3): 284-285.

Weber, S. (2014). Performing a conference: The SCENARIO Forum. *Scenario*, 7(2), 127-129. <http://research.ucc.ie/scenario/2014/02/Weber/13/en>

Translations

Ammann, Max Peter (2011): *Die Gottfriedkinder*. Zürich: Rotpunktverlag, 309-311 (excerpt, into English). *Scenario* 7(1), 3-4. <http://research.ucc.ie/scenario/2014/01/Ammann/01/en>

Davids, Jens-Ulrich (2012). Frankensteins Erben. Ein Theaterroman in fünf Akten. Fischerhude Verlag Atelier im Bauernhaus, 299-301 (excerpt, into English). *Scenario* 6(1): 3-4. <http://research.ucc.ie/scenario/2013/01/Davids/01/en>

Fleming, Mike (2016): Überlegungen zum Konzept performativen Lehrens und Lernens. In: Even, Susanne & Schewe, Manfred: *Performative Teaching, Learning, Research*. Berlin/Milow: Schibri. 27-46. (into German, bilingual volume)

Leonard, Hugh (2002). *Home before Night*. London: Methuen, 179-181 (excerpt, into German). *Scenario* 6(2): 4-5. <http://research.ucc.ie/scenario/2013/02/leonard/01/de>

Richie, Stanley (2014). *Bach: Sonatas & Partitas for Solo Violin*, Musica Omnia, 2014. (into German, CD booklet)

Conference and workshop presentations

- 2016 AAAL conference, Orlando, FL: *Overcoming whole group speaking anxiety: The role of drama pedagogy*
- 2016 KFLC, Lexington, KY: *The remains of the day: Learning journals in L2 German*
- 2015 NeMLA convention, Toronto, Canada: *Minority Representation and Voice in the Additional Language Classroom*
- 2015 KFLC, Frankfurt, KY: *Drama and individual differences: What makes students speak?*
- 2014 Scenario Forum International Conference on Performative Teaching and Learning, Cork, Ireland: *Measuring Time in Tír na nÓg: A foray into the relationship between drama pedagogy and second language acquisition*
- 2014 NeMLA convention, Harrisburg, PA: *Fümms böwö tää zää Uu: Using sound, nonsense and movement to scaffold oral fluency*
- 2014 German Theater Project for High Schools, Indiana University: *Sound, movement, and nonsense*. Workshop on German sound/dada poetry and hedging.
- 2013 NeMLA convention, Boston, MA: *The development of meta-cognitive strategies in beginning-level foreign language learners*.
- 2013 IFLTA, Indianapolis, IN: *What, we have to talk?? Scaffolding oral fluency in German*
- 2012 NeMLA convention, Rochester, NY: *Zaimoğlu's German: Cultural and Linguistic Crossroads in the Foreign Language Classroom*.

Fellowships and grants

2016-17 Max Kade Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Germanic Studies, IU
2014 College of Arts and Sciences Conference Travel grant, \$500
2014 NeMLA conference graduate student travel grant
2012 CIMO summer grant for Finnish language study
2009-2010 Oscar Seidlin Fellowship, Department of Germanic Studies, IU

Service and affiliations

2014- Reviewer for the online peer-reviewed journal *Scenario: Journal for Drama and Theatre in Foreign and Second Language Education*.
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/scenario/>
2012- Founder and facilitator, department-internal monthly pedagogy workshops by and for assistant instructors
2010-11, 2012-13, 2016-17 Faculty Liaison, Department of Germanic Studies, IU
2010-11 Treasurer, Graduate Student Conference, Department of Germanic Studies, IU
2009, 2010 Volunteer at the Illinois Deaf-Blind Retreat (interpreter and support service provider), organized by the Chicago Lighthouse
2005-2006 Volunteer at the Indiana School for the Deaf, Indianapolis (classroom assistance)
2012- Member, American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL)

Languages

German (native speaker)
English (near-native)
Finnish (intermediate)
American Sign Language (advanced expressive and receptive skills)
French (adequate reading skills)
Latin (adequate reading skills)
Older Germanic Languages: Gothic, Old High German, Old Saxon, Old Norse, Middle High German (adequate reading skills)

Other interests

Classical music, natural building, social justice, literature, signed languages; work-life balance.