

**Linda Maria Heß**

**EDUCATION & WORK:**

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- October 2016                      Post-doctoral candidate and assistant professor at the department of American Studies – University of Frankfurt, Germany
- July 2016                              Completion and defense of dissertation project “‘No Place for Sissies?’ Queer Aging in North American Fiction,” *summa cum laude* – University of Muenster, Germany
- Oct. 2013 –  
Oct. 2016                              Doctoral candidate and assistant professor at the English Seminar, Chair of American Studies – University of Muenster, Germany
- Nov. 2010 –  
Sept. 2013                              Doctoral candidate and assistant professor for the Junior Professorship in New English Literatures and Culture – University of Augsburg, Germany
- June 2010                              Magistra Artium, *mit Auszeichnung* – University of Frankfurt, Germany  
Major: American Studies, Minors: British Literature, French Literature
- June 2007                              Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude* – Jamestown College, Jamestown, ND, USA  
Major: Anglistik/Amerikanistik; Minor: French Literature
- June 2005                              High school graduation, Frankfurt, Germany

**RESEARCH & TEACHING AREAS:**

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Queer Studies | Aging Studies | Gender Studies | Modernism | Environmental Fiction & Ecocriticism | Popular Culture | Autobiography/Life Writing | North American Literature and Culture 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century

**PUBLICATIONS:**

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Hess, Linda M. *Queer Aging in North American Fiction*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.

Hess, Linda M., Ina Batzke, Eric C. Erbacher, Corinna Lenhardt (eds). *Exploring the Fantastic: Genre, Ideology, and Popular Culture*. Bielefeld: Transcript, 2018.

Hess, Linda M. “‘We’re sick and tired of being dismissed by people like you’ Talking Back to Ageism in *Grace and Frankie*.” *Postgraduate Journal of Women, Ageing, and Media*. 4 (2018): 46-63.

Hess, Linda M. “‘My whole life I’ve been dressing up like a man’: Negotiations of Queer Aging and Queer Temporality in the TV Series *Transparent*.” *European Journal of American Studies*. 11.3 (2017). Document 2. Online since 24 January 2017.

Hess, Linda M. “Portrait of the Father as a Gay Man: A New Story About Gay Aging in Mike Mills’s *Beginners*.” *JMMLA*. 47.2 (2014): 163-183.

## GUEST LECTURES / CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SELECTION):

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- June 2019 Conference presentation “‘This is about how we conduct debate in public about sensitive things’: Narratives of Suffering in Tig Notaro’s and Hannah Gadsby’s Standup Routines” at the annual conference of the German Association of American Studies, Hamburg.
- Feb. 2019 Conference presentation: “Protected – for eternity – for everyone”: National Parks between Frontier Adventure and Grievable Nature” 40<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Southwest Pop Culture/American Culture Association, Albuquerque, NM, USA
- Nov. 2018 Conference presentation: “Vybrant Aging: Representations of Age in *Grace and Frankie*” at the annual conference of the National Women’s Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, USA.
- Sept. 2018 Conference presentation: “The National Park as Resistance – The Alt-National Park Services as a Reaction to Climate Change Politics in the Era of Trump” at the 8<sup>th</sup> biannual conference of the EASLCE “The Garden: Ecological Paradigms of Space, History, and Community” in Würzburg, Germany
- June 2018 **Invited early-career keynote:** “Performativity & Age: A Queer Look at *Grace & Frankie*” at the Research Summer School organized by the Center for Women, Ageing, and Media, Cheltenham, UK
- Nov. 2017 Conference presentation: “Intersections of Racism, Ageism, and Economic Exploitation in *Sand Dollars* (2014)” at the annual conference of the National Women’s Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, USA
- Feb. 2017 Conference presentation: “Queering Age: New Perspectives in Recent Television Narratives” at the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM, USA
- Nov. 2016 Conference presentation: “‘Next you will break my leg so you can buy me a cane’: How Narratives of Lesbian Aging Unsettle the Aging-as-Degradation Narrative” at the annual conference of the National Women’s Studies Association, Montréal, Canada
- June 2016 Conference presentation: “‘Because of the wilderness’: Queer Aging and Spatial Imagery in Jane Rule’s *Memory Board* (1987) and Suzette Mayr’s *The Widows* (1998)” at the conference “In-Between: Liminal Spaces in Canadian Literature and Culture” at the University of Graz, Austria
- Dec. 2015 **Invited guest lecture:** “‘That’s not what it means’: Queer Aging in North American Fiction” in the lecture series: “Que(e)r durch die Disziplinen” at the University of Augsburg
- May 2015 Conference presentation: “‘The city’s right wing-magazine . . . calls her a nympho granny’: Queering Old Age in Lesbian Fiction,” at the inaugural conference of the North American Network for Aging Studies, Miami University Oxford, OH, USA
- Nov. 2014 Conference presentation: “‘There are 2,556,596 faggots in the New York City area’: Mapping the Ephemeral Community in Larry Kramer’s *Faggots* and Andrew Holleran’s *Dancer from the Dance*,” at the 41<sup>st</sup> international conference of the AAAS, University of Graz, Austria

- Jan. 2014                   **Invited guest lecture:** “New Stories About Old Age: Queer Aging in North American Fiction” in the lecture series: *Making America*, at the University of Bamberg
- Nov. 2013                   Conference presentation: “We Need New Stories: Creating a Memoir of Gay Old Age” at the annual conference of the Midwestern Modern Language Association in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.

**CONFERENCE / WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION:**

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- June 2019                   Workshop on “Insult & Injury: American Comedy as a Platform of Social Critique” at the annual conference of the German Association of American Studies, Hamburg.
- Nov. 2018                   Member of the organizing team of the conference “The Return of the Aesthetic in American Studies” at the IEAS, Goethe University, Frankfurt and Chair of the Workshop “The Aesthetics of Identity”
- Nov. 2018                   Co-chair and organizer of 3 workshops and 1 roundtable of the Age and Ageism Caucus at the annual conference of the National Women’s Studies Organization in Atlanta, GA, USA
- Nov. 2017                   Co-chair and organizer of 3 workshops and 1 roundtable of the Age and Ageism Caucus at the annual conference of the National Women’s Studies Organization in Baltimore, MD, USA
- June 2017                   Workshop on “Queer Mobilities – Queer Modernities” at the annual conference of the German Association of American Studies at the University of Hannover
- May-Nov. 2016            Co-organizer of the “US-Election Event-Series” at the University of Münster, a series of five events, including, lectures and discussions, a film screening, and a live broadcast of the 2016 Presidential Election
- Sept. 2016                Co-organizer of the 7<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Association for Research in the Fantastic (GFF) “The Fantastic Now: Research in the Fantastic in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” University of Muenster with Ina Batzke, Eric Erbacher, and Corinna Lenhardt (all University of Muenster)
- May 2015                 Member of the organizing team of the 26<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Association of Anglophone Postcolonial Studies (GAPS) at the University of Muenster
- April 2013                Co-Organizer of the graduate conference “Rated Queer – Deconstructing Narratives of Age,” at the University of Frankfurt with Nina Holst (Frankfurt) and Anika Ullmann (Lüneburg)

**TEACHING:**

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**Course types:** Seminars in literary and cultural studies; B.A. & M.A. level | Introduction to Literary Studies | Academic Skills | lectures in lecture series |

**Topics (selection):** Queer Theory | Queer Film | Aging in North American Literature and Culture | Environmental Fiction | Modernism | Life Writing | Science Fiction |

**Course Size:** 20-40 students in seminars | 40-60 students in introductions

**COMMITTEE/ADMINISTRATIVE WORK:**

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Since April 2019	Gleichstellungsbeauftragte (equal opportunities representative) FB 10
Since Dec. 2017	Member at large & secretary of the Governing Council of the North American Network of Aging Studies
Since June 2017	Board member of the directorate of the IEAS Frankfurt as representative of the academic mid-level/junior faculty
Since April 2017	Board member and secretary of the Calliopean Society (alumni organization of English and American Studies at the Goethe University)
Since Nov. 2016	Co-Chair of the Aging & Ageism Caucus at NWSA
May 2015 – Sept. 2016	Member of the Selection Committee for Applications in the Master's Program "National and Transnational Studies" at the University of Münster
May 2015 – Sept. 2016	Member of the Forschungsnetzwerk Gender am Mittelbau der WWU

**ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS:**

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Since 2017	Southwestern Pop Culture/ American Culture Conference (SWPACA)
Since 2016	National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)/Co-Chair of the Aging & Ageism Caucus at NWSA
Since 2015	North American Network of Aging Studies (NANAS)
Since 2014	European Network of Aging Studies (ENAS)
Since 2013	Modern Language Association (MLA)
Since 2010	German Association of American Studies (DGfA/GAAS)