

# Prof. Dr. Michael Butter

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## Education

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07/2012	Habilitation (faculty dissertation) in American Studies University of Freiburg, Germany “Plots, Designs, and Schemes: American Conspiracy Theories from the Puritans to the Present” (Advisor: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hochbruck)
07/2007	PhD in American Studies University of Bonn, Germany “The Epitome of Evil: Hitler in American Fiction, 1939-2002” (Advisor: Prof. Dr. Sabine Sielke)
05/2003	State Exam in German, English, and History M.A. exam in English and German Literature M.A. thesis: “Death and the Media in Selected Works by Don DeLillo” (Advisor: Prof. Dr. Manfred Pütz)
10/1997 – 05/2003	Studies of English, German, and History University of Freiburg, Germany
06/1996	University-entrance diploma

## Employment

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since 10/2014	Chair of American Literary and Cultural History (W3) English Department, Institute of American Studies University of Tübingen, Germany
10/2013 – 09/2014	Professor of American Studies (W2) English Department University of Wuppertal, Germany
04/2011 – 09/2013	Associate Professor of American Studies English Department University of Freiburg, Germany
04/2008 – 03/2011	Junior Research Fellow School of Language & Literature Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), Germany

01/2007 – 03/2008	Assistant Professor of American Studies North American Studies Program University of Bonn, Germany
10/2004 – 12/2006	Adjunct Lecturer North American Studies Program University of Bonn, Germany

## Service

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Since 04/2021	Member of the Advisory Board of “veritas: Beratungsstelle für die Betroffenen von Verschwörungserzählungen”
Since 02/2021	Member of the Advisory Board of the Project “Decoding Antisemitism” (TU Berlin)
10/2020 – 03/2021	Member of “Forum Answers: Conspiracy Theories”, which advised the Bavarian parliament on how to deal with conspiracy theories
07/2020	Advisor to UNESCO and the European Commission on a series of infographics on conspiracy theories (#ThinkBeforeSharing)
04/2017 – 03/2019	Head of the English Department
Since 10/2013	Member of various search committees

## Awards and Fellowships

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07/2021	Recipient of the University of Tübingen’s Prize for Knowledge Communication
07/2004 – 03/2007	PhD Fellowship from the German National Academic Foundation
09/2003 – 05/2004	USA Fellowship for a stay at Yale University from the Baden-Württemberg Foundation
11/2001 – 05/2003	Fellowship from the German National Academic Foundation
09/1999 – 07/2000	English Studies program of the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD

## Stays Abroad

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05/2016	Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge, England
03/2010	Guest Professor at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland
09/2003 – 07/2004	PhD studies at Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA
09/1999 – 07/2000	Studies at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, England

## Research Grants

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04/2020 – 03/2025	approx. € 2,000,000 from the European Research Council Consolidator Grant “Populism and Conspiracy Theory (PACT)”
04/2016 – 09/2020	approx. € 639,000 from the European Cooperation in Science and Technology COST Action “Comparative Analysis of Conspiracy Theories (COMPACT)”
05/2012	approx. € 70,000 from the German Research Council Project B4 “‘New Washingtons?’ The Heroization of American Presidents from the Early Republic to the Reconstruction” of the Collaborative Research Center 948 “Heroes – Heroizations – Heroisms. Transformations and Conjectures from Antiquity to the Modern Day”
01/2011	€ 3,500 from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation for printing the volume <i>Arnold Schwarzenegger: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Body and Image</i> (with Patrick Keller and Simon Wendt)
04/2009	€ 6,000 from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation for the conference “Arnold Schwarzenegger: Interdisziplinäre Perspektiven auf Körper und Image” at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, September 18-20, 2009 (with Patrick Keller and Simon Wendt)
02/2006	€ 1,500 from German National Academic Foundation for the research colloquium “Zeichen der Zeit: Interdisziplinäre Perspektiven zur Semiotik,” October 10-12, 2006 at Heinrich-Heine-Institut in Düsseldorf, Germany (with Regina Grundmann and Christina Sanchez)

## Research Interests

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Conspiracy theories and populism  
American literature and culture of the colonial period and the Early Republic  
Popular culture  
Film and television (especially contemporary television shows)  
Heroes and processes of heroizations  
Narratology  
American culture after 9/11

## Memberships

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German Association for American Studies  
International Society for the Study of Narrative  
German Association of University Professors and Lecturers

## Reviewer for

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German Research Council, Humboldt Foundation, European Research Council, Federal Ministry of Education (BMBF), Latvian Research Council, Austrian Research Council, Austrian Academy of Sciences, German National Academic Foundation, many commercial and university presses in Germany and abroad