GIDEON KIPTOO

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Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures
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EDUCATION

PhD in German Literature, Minor in African Studies 2025–Present
Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
Dissertation Proposal: "Tropical Medicine: The Literary Production of Medical Knowledge and Hygiene in the German Colonial Empire"

MA in German Studies 2023
University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
Thesis: "A Corpus-Driven Critical Discourse Analysis of the German Regional and National Press"

Bachelor of Education (Arts) 2022
Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya
Major: German Language and Christian Religious Education

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

21st century German literature · Global Health Humanities · German literature and film · African Studies · German as a Foreign Language (DaF)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant Aug. 2025–Present
Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA · Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures

1) **Teaching and pedagogy**

- Fall 2025- Taught German 1
- Spring 2026- Taught German 2 (2 sections)
- Summer 2026- Designed teaching materials for German 3 as well as didactic materials for novella *Als ich ein Kleiner Junge war* by Erich Kästner
- Fall 2026- Taught German 3

2) **Administrative roles**

- Fall 2026, Spring 2027. Mentoring for the Future Graduate Lead coordinator: https://sgllc.la.psu.edu/mentoring-for-the-future/ (tasks include website maintenance, recruiting mentors and mentees, reaching out to institutions, events planning and moderation)
- Fall 2026. Website apprentice designer for the German Graduate Student Association https://sites.psu.edu/ggsa/
- Fall 2026. Graduate student coordinator for the weekly *Kaffeestunde*

Graduate Assistant Aug. 2023–May 2025
University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ · Dept. of German Studies

- Taught German 101 and 102 (in-person and online asynchronous via VoiceThread and D2L)
- Teaching assistant for General Education courses: German 273 and German 150b
- Held regular office hours and advised students; consulted with department on student enrollment strategies

Intern Apr.–Jul. 2023
Kath. Kindergarten St. Michael, Renchen-Ulm, Germany

- Designed playful activities through music, dance, and culinary experiments; provided kitchen assistance

Customer Service Representative (German-Speaking Clients) 2022–2023
Teleperformance, Nairobi, Kenya

- Handled emails, chats, and phone calls from customers in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland
- Managed delivery inquiries, warranty exchanges, and replacements using Zendesk and Salesforce

Teacher Trainee (Teaching Practice) Apr.–Jul. 2022
Maryhill Girls High School, Thika, Kenya

- Taught beginner German to Form 1 students and Christian Religious Education to Form 2 students
- Performed teacher-on-duty functions

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

1. Kiptoo, G. "Positioning Kenya in the German Schlager: A Case of Roger Whittaker's Himmel und Heimat." *Hybrid Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies*, vol. 7, no. 1, 2025, https://mail.royalliteglobal.com/hybrid-literary/article/view/1678/964
2. Kiptoo, G. "From the Source to Apollo: On Dis/ability, Death, and Faith in the Works of Margaret Ogola." *Jahrbuch für internationale Germanistik*, (forthcoming, passed 2nd edit)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

1. **Between Everyday Life and Aesthetics: Pop Culture in Literature and Film** Aug. 31, 2026

Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany
"Zum deutschen Kolonialismus"

2. **International Conference on Medical Humanities** Mar. 14, 2026

Birkbeck, University of London, UK
"Forgotten Transcripts: Illness, Disability, and Death in Margaret Ogola's *I Swear by Apollo*"

3. **German Studies Association (GSA) Annual Conference** Sept. 28, 2025

49th GSA Conference, Virginia, USA
"Homosexuality in Kenya: A Corpus-Driven Critical Discourse Analysis of the German Regional and National Press"

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

MA Thesis Research 2024–2025
German Department, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
Corpus-Based Discourse Analysis · German Press Representation

RESEARCH & TEACHING DEVELOPMENT

- November 2026 · *German Teaching Training Pipeline*, AATG, Goethe Institute. (Boston, Massachusetts)
- August 2026 · *Between Everyday Life and Aesthetics: Pop Culture in Literature and Film* — Intensive German Language Program and Seminars in Literature- (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany) Workshopped on potential dissertation topic with peers and presented my research "Zum deutschen Kolonialismus", attended German language C1 classses, attended afternoon literatur seminar focusing on German-pop literature)
- March 2026 · *27th St. Louis Symposium on German Literature and Culture*: Archiving the Sounds of German Cultures (Washington University, St. Louis) invited workshop.
- August 2025 · *Online Professional Development* "Deutsch Lehren Lernen", Goethe Institut New York — DLL 2: Learning German as a World Language. Project: Analysis of the textbook *Safari Deutsch* (2009) on multilingualism and *Landeskunde*
- October 2024 · *Online Professional Development* "Deutsch Lehren Lernen", Goethe Institut New York — DLL1: Teaching Competence and Lesson Planning. Project: Impact of U-seating on student oral engagement
- June 2024 · *Goethe-Institut Summer Academy*: Global Teaching and Learning, Dresden, Germany
- January 2024 · *College of Humanities Recruitment Workshop*, University of Arizona, Tucson
- December 2023 · *German as a Foreign Language in the USA*: Authentic Texts in Foreign Language Teaching. DAAD Training, UC Berkeley
- August 2021 · DAAD Scholarship for the International Summer Course, Trier University (virtual)
- December 2021 · Cross-Border Writing, Bielefeld University (virtual)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2026: Goethe Institute & AATG travel grant- $500
- 2026· Max Kade Summer Research Grant -$1050
- 2026· Otto Paul Pflanze Scholarship (DAAD Alumni Association USA)- $3000
- 2025· Graduate Funding for Conference and Research Travel- $1000
- 2025· The GSA Conference Community Fund- $500
- 2025· Graduate Student Research Grant-The University of Arizona LGBTQ+- $1000
- 2024· Weinel Memorial Scholarship- $1000
- 2021· Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) Grant - $1500

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

German Studies Association (GSA)
German Graduate Student Association
American Association of Teachers of German (AATG)

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Organizer, Weekly *Kaffeestunde* 2026–Present
Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

Graduate Committee Representative 2025
University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

President, German Club 2022
Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Swahili and Kalenjin (Native) · English (Fluent) · German (C1 CEFR)