

Berlin: City and Culture

Continuing Studies Study Tour

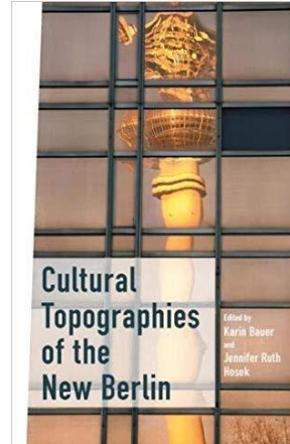
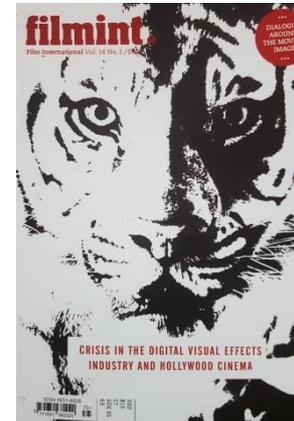
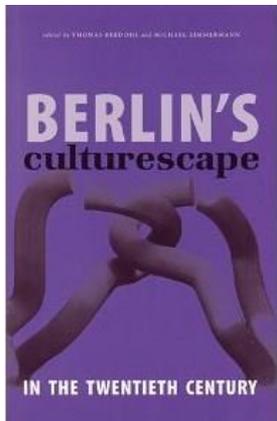
by Dr. Kat Sark

May 7-20, 2019



My work on Berlin

- I started studying Berlin in 2004
- Fascinated and moved by its visible history and fragmentation at the time
- Like no other city in the world: “unfinished,” under construction, in transition
- MA project: post-Wall changes manifested in film, literature, and media
 - Research question: whether there was a sense of a new, reunified German identity and how it was represented
 - 2006 FIFA World Cup – turning point in Berlin identity discourse and in my research
- Simultaneously, I researched Berlin fashion and music scenes, as well as museums and photography, which lead to different book projects and publications



Dissertation: *Branding Berlin* (2014)

- I continued my Berlin research into my PhD, following art, literature, and film that engaged with the transformations in the city, gathering data, interpreting patterns
- 2009 – another turning point with the 20th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall
 - I noticed a shift in the way post-Wall Berlin was being represented (especially in documentary films, memoirs, and art exhibitions)
 - I identified elements of nostalgia for the pre-reconstructed and pre-gentrified Berlin of the early 1990s (“nostalgia for Babylon”)



Mauerpark flea market



Void in the place of the Palace of the Republic

Tour Schedule:

Day 1 and 2 – Travel day and welcome dinner

Day 3 – We start our Berlin adventure with a morning guided walking tour, including such sites as the Brandenburg Gate, the Memorial of the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, Hitler's bunker, The Reichstag and more. Lunch included. Remainder of the day at leisure.

Day 4 – This morning we have a guided walking tour of the former East Berlin, visiting such sites as Alexanderplatz, Karl-Marx-Allee, Oberbaum Bridge and the East-Side-Gallery. This afternoon we have a 90-minute guided overview tour through the fascinating Deutsche Kinemathek Film Museum, which traces the evolution of the German film and television industries, including an exhibition dedicated to Marlene Dietrich. Evening free.



Day 5 –This morning we have a 90-minute guided tour of the **German Historical Museum**, taking us chronologically through 1500 years of Germany’s past. Afternoon free. This evening we attend a performance of the **Berlin Philharmonic**, with works by Mozart and Bruckner.

Day 6 –After breakfast we escape the city and transfer by coach to the Berlin **Botanical Gardens**, where there will be ample time to wander through the beautiful gardens and greenhouses. We will have a group lunch, followed by a one-hour guided tour of the small, but lovely, **Brücke-Museum** of German Expressionist art. Evening free.

Day 7 – Today we have a guided tour by coach to **Dresden**, a city famous for its culture and architecture. Walking tour of the city centre, including entrance to the **Semperoper**. Lunch with time to wander on your own, perhaps along the shore of the Elbe River. We depart Dresden later in the afternoon. Group dinner in Berlin.



Day 8 – A free day for you to take in some sites that are of interest to you. You might wish to go shopping, visit one of the many museums in the city or use your 7-day transit pass to visit Wannsee or Potsdam.

Day 9 – Guided tour of **Jewish Berlin**, including lunch.

Day 10 – Excursion by coach to **Leipzig**, with a historic walking tour, including St. Thomas Church, where Bach was Cantor from 1723 until his death in 1750. We'll have lunch together and then visit Mendelssohn-Haus, a fascinating interactive museum dedicated to Felix and his sister, Fanny. Afterward, you'll have time to wander through Leipzig on your own before we board our coach and head back to Berlin.



Day 11 – Berggruen Museum to view this private collection of works by Picasso, Matisse, Klee, Chagall and Braque. Followed by a **guided boat tour** on the Spree River (with lunch).

Day 12 – This morning we have a one-hour guided tour of highlights of the **Pergamon Museum**, followed by time on your own. This evening we see a production of **Puccini's *Turandot*** by the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

Day 13 – Free day on your own to wander through the Tiergarten or people-watch as you enjoy a coffee or glass of beer at the Café am Neuen See; visit the Holocaust Memorial or another of the many museums in Berlin. We have our farewell dinner tonight.

Day 14 – Travel back to Victoria



Pre-Tour Recommendations:

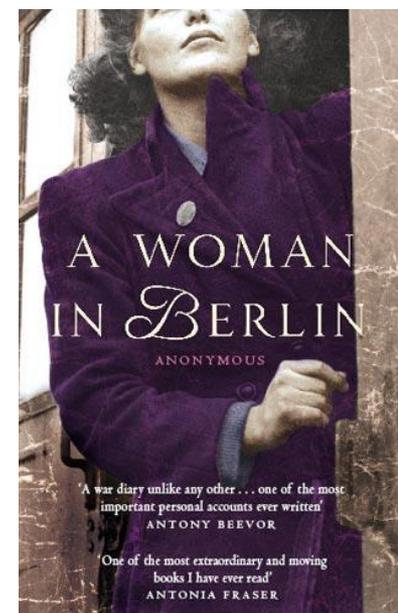
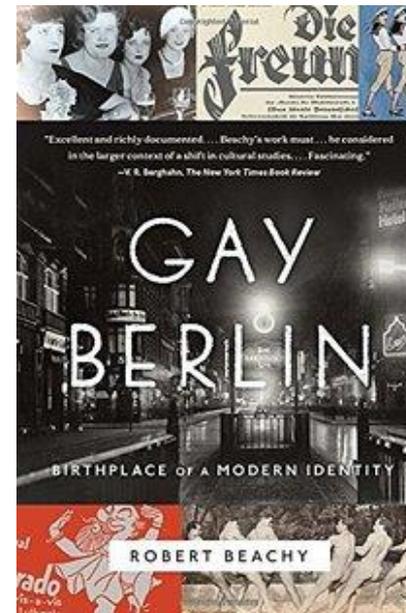
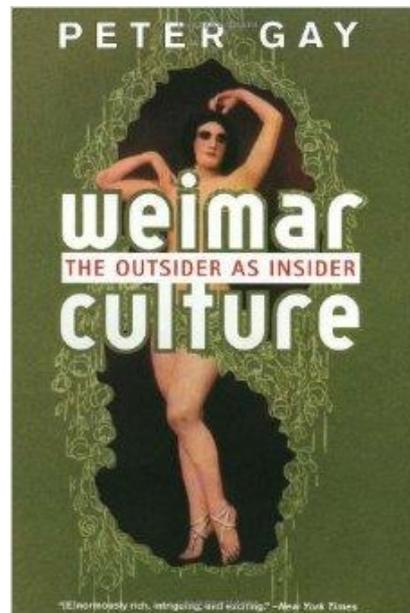
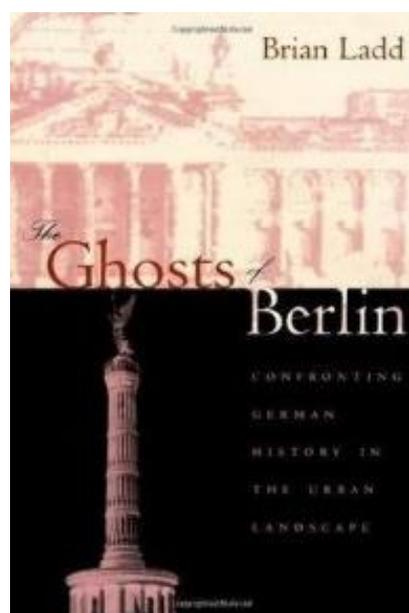
Book on Berlin:

Brian Ladd, *The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape*. Chicago: University Press, 1997.

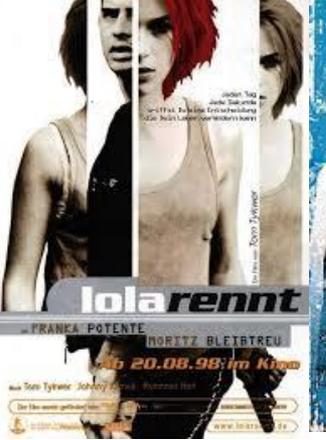
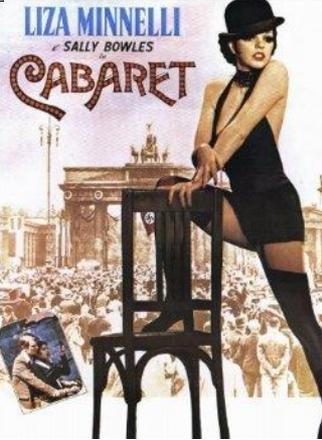
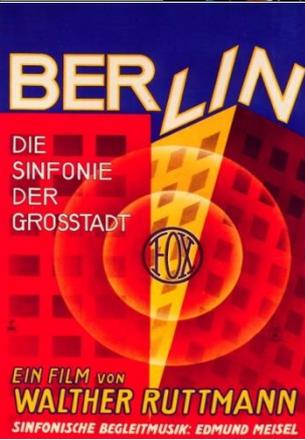
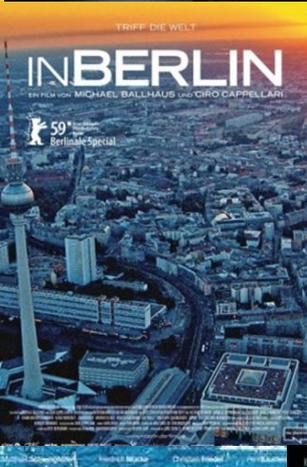
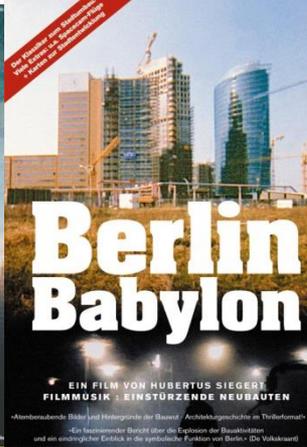
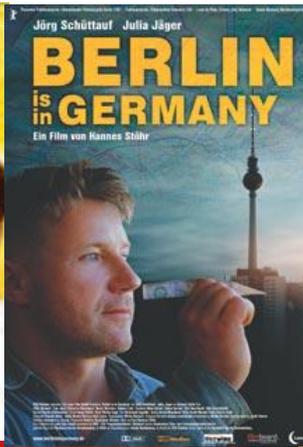
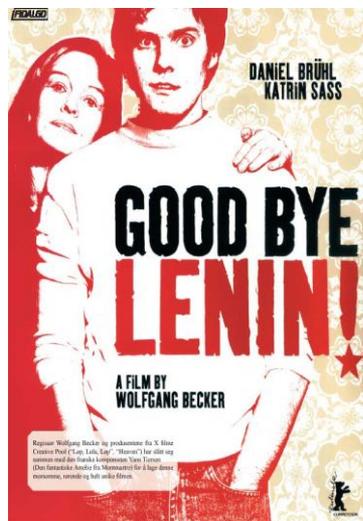
Ruth Andreas-Friedrich, *Battleground Berlin, Diaries 1945-48*, transl. by Anna Boerresen. New York: Paragon House Publishers, 1990.

Peter Gay, *Weimar Culture: The Outsider as Insider*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2001.

Robert Beachy, *Gay Berlin: Birthplace of a Modern Identity*. New York: Vintage Books, 2015.



Films set in Berlin:



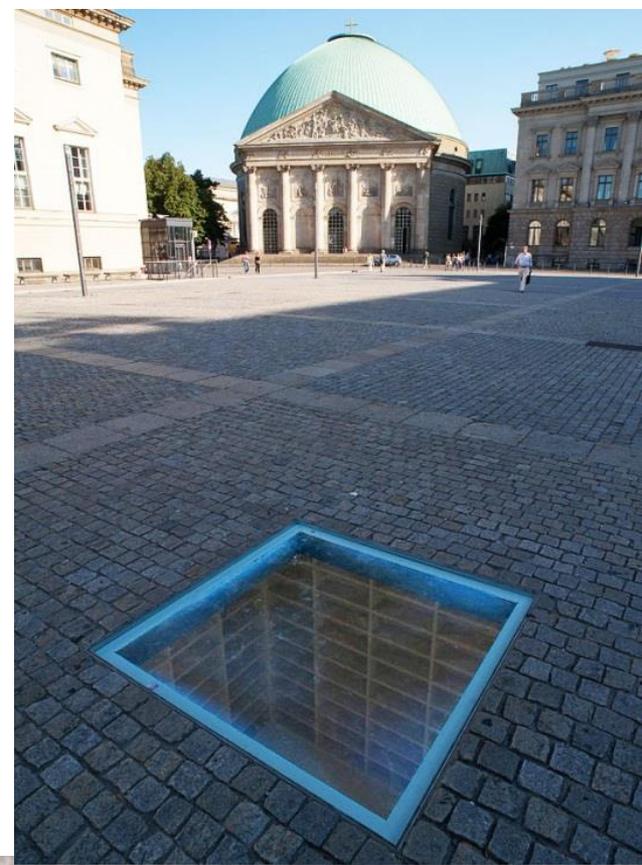
Useful Links:

My blog on Berlin culture, art, and fashion:

<https://suitesculturelles.wordpress.com/cities/berlin/>

My café and shopping recommendations:

<https://suitesculturelles.wordpress.com/2011/11/21/berlin-highlights-cafes-and-book-stores/>



BERLINER MAUER 1961 - 1989

Thank you! – Danke!

