

Laetitia Lenel

Curriculum Vitae

Department of History, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Education

- 2016 – 2021 **Ph.D., History, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**
Dissertation: “The Hopeful Science. A Transatlantic History of Business Forecasting, 1920 – 1960,” funded by the German Research Foundation/Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (summa cum laude)
- 2017 – 2018 **Visiting Student Research Collaborator, Princeton University**
- 2011 – 2014 **M.A., History, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, University of Geneva, and Charles University, Prague**
Thesis: “Die Erfindung der Konjunkturprognose aus dem Geist der Krise. Das National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), 1913 – 1923”
- 2007 – 2010 **B.A., Modern and Recent History and Philosophy, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg**

Awards and Fellowships

- 2023 Selected by *Tagesspiegel* as one of Berlin’s 100 most important scholars
- 2023 Otto Hintze Prize for the dissertation
- 2023 Friedrich Lütge Prize for outstanding dissertations in the field of social and economic history
- 2022 Johann Gustav Droysen Prize for the dissertation
- 2021 Humboldt Prize for the dissertation
- 2021 Research Grant, SPP 1859 “Experience and Expectation. Historical Foundations of Economic Behaviour”
- 2020 – 2021 Completion Grant, Stiftung Bildung und Wissenschaft
- 2018 Essay Award *WerkstattGeschichte*
- 2017 – 2018 German Academic Exchange Service Scholarship (DAAD)
- 2017 Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Travel Grant
- 2017 Rockefeller Archive Center Research Stipend
- 2017 – 2018 Visiting Fellow Princeton University
- 2010 – 2014 German National Merit Foundation Scholarship/Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes

Publications

Books

- Laetitia Lenel (2024, forthcoming). *The Hopeful Science. A Transatlantic History of Business Forecasting, 1920–1960*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [Manuscript].

Edited Volumes

- Ingo Köhler, Laetitia Lenel, Alexander Nützenadel and Jochen Streb, eds. (forthcoming, 2024). *The Routledge Handbook of Economic Expectations in Historical Perspective*. London: Routledge.
- “Forum Section on Economic Narratives” (2023b). In: *Journal of Modern European History* 21.4. Ed. by Laetitia Lenel and Alexander Nützenadel.
The publication can be found [here](#).
- Hansun Hsiung, Laetitia Lenel and Anna-Maria Meister, eds. (2023a). *Entangled Temporalities*. Vol. 4. *Journal for the History of Knowledge*.
The publication can be found [here](#).
- Ulrich Fritsche, Roman Köster and Laetitia Lenel, eds. (2020). *Futures Past. Economic Forecasting in the 20th and 21st Century*. Berlin: Peter Lang.
The publication can be found [here](#).

Journal Articles

- Laetitia Lenel (2023, forthcoming). “Erwartung und Enttäuschung. Die transatlantische Geschichte der Konjunkturprognostik in drei Akten”. In: *Journal of History and Computing* Special Issue on the History of Forecasting.
- Laetitia Lenel (Dec. 2023e). “The Introduction of the Electronic Computer and the End of Business Forecasting at the NBER”. in: *Æconomia – History / Methodology / Philosophy* 13.3, pp. 657–680.
The article can be found [here](#).
- Laetitia Lenel (2023a). “Economic Narratives and Economic Crises”. In: *Journal of Modern European History* 21.4, pp. 9–12.
- Laetitia Lenel and Alexander Nützenadel (2023a). “Economic Narratives. Introduction”. In: *Journal of Modern European History* 21.4, pp. 2–3.
- Laetitia Lenel (2023d). “Survivor Testimonies and the Problem of Time”. In: *Journal for the History of Knowledge* 4, pp. 193–214.
The article can be found [here](#).
- Hansun Hsiung, Laetitia Lenel and Anna-Maria Meister (2023b). “Introduction: Entangled Temporalities”. In: *Journal for the History of Knowledge* 4, pp. 9–32.
The article can be found [here](#).
- Laetitia Lenel (2023b). “Economists as Storytellers: Scenario Drafting at the International Monetary Fund”. In: *History of Political Economy* 55.3, pp. 577–608.
The article can be found [here](#).
- Laetitia Lenel (2022a). “Krise als Dauerzustand. Die Corona-Pandemie in der Geschichte der Gegenwart”. In: *Neue Politische Literatur*.
The article can be found [here](#).

- Catherine Davies and Laetitia Lenel (Sept. 2022). “Konkurrenz oder Koproduktion? Zur Erinnerung an Holocaust und Kolonialverbrechen”. In: *Merkur. Deutsche Zeitschrift für europäisches Denken* 76, pp. 83–93.
- Laetitia Lenel (2021a). “Searching for a Tide Table for Business: Interwar Conceptions of Statistical Inference in Business Forecasting”. In: *History of Political Economy* 53.6, pp. 139–174.
The article can be found [here](#).
- Laetitia Lenel (2018a). “Mapping the Future. Business Forecasting and the Dynamics of Capitalism in the Interwar Period”. In: *Jahrbuch für Wirtschaftsgeschichte/Economic History Yearbook* 59.2, pp. 377–413.
The working paper version can be downloaded [here](#).
- Laetitia Lenel (2018). “As He Lay Dying. Vom Problem der Wahrheit in der Geschichte”. In: *WerkstattGeschichte* 78, pp. 73–80.

Book Chapters

- Laetitia Lenel and Werner Reichmann (2024, forthcoming). “Economic Forecasting”. In: *Routledge Handbook of Economic Expectations in Historical Perspective*. Ed. by Ingo Köhler, Laetitia Lenel, Alexander Nützenadel and Jochen Streb. London: Routledge.
- Jeremy Adelman, Laetitia Lenel and Pablo Pryluka (2023, forthcoming). “Mapping Economic Interdependence: Creating the Periphery in the Inter-War Period”. In: *Nations, Empires and Other World Products: Making Narratives Across Borders*. Ed. by Jeremy Adelman and Andreas Eckert. London: Bloomsbury [forthcoming 2023].
- Laetitia Lenel, Roman Köster and Ulrich Fritsche (2020). “Introduction”. In: *Futures Past. Economic Forecasting in the 20th and 21st Century*. Ed. by Ulrich Fritsche, Roman Köster and Laetitia Lenel. Berlin: Peter Lang, pp. 11–29.

Book Reviews

- Laetitia Lenel (16th June 2022b). “Review of Francesco Boldizzoni, Foretelling the End of Capitalism. Intellectual Misadventures since Karl Marx”. In: *H-Soz-Kult*.
The review can be found [here](#).
- Laetitia Lenel (25th July 2018b). “Review of Jamie Pietruska, Looking Forward. Prediction and Uncertainty in Modern America”. In: *H-Soz-Kult*.
The review can be found [here](#).
- Laetitia Lenel (2016). “Review of Tim Schanetzky, Regierungsunternehmer. Henry J. Kaiser, Friedrich Flick und die Staatskonjunkturen in den USA und Deutschland”. In: *German History* 34.4, pp. 710–712.

Newspaper Articles, Blogs and Other Writing

- Stephanie Gebert (4th Jan. 2024). *Systemfragen. Warum Hochstapelei uns fasziniert. Interview with Laetitia Lenel*. Deutschlandfunk.
- Laetitia Lenel (27th Dec. 2023c). “Kenne doch die Kundschaft. Warum finden Prognosen trotz Falsifizierung Abnehmer? Ökonomische Voraussagen dienen dem informellen Erwartungsaustausch”. In: *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, N 3.

- Laetitia Lenel, Kevin Lenk and Helge-Jonas Pösche (28th July 2023). *Wieviel Gegenwart Verträgt Die Geschichtsforschung?* Vergangenheitsformen. Rezensionspodcast von H-Soz-Kult.
- Philipp Janssen (2023). *Konjunkturprognosen/Business Forecasts. Interview with Laetitia Lenel.* Anno PunktPunktPunkt (Podcast) 091.
- Laetitia Lenel (2021b). *The Formation of the NBER: Insights from the Rockefeller Archive Center.* URL: <https://rockarch.issuelab.org/resource/the-formation-of-the-nber-insights-from-the-rockefeller-archive-center.html>.
- Laetitia Lenel (5th Dec. 2020e). *Geschichte ohne Libretto.* H-Soz-Kult, Forum Zeiterfahrung. URL: <https://www.hsozkult.de/debate/id/fddebate-132424>.
- Laetitia Lenel (22nd Nov. 2020a). „Gezeiten der Wirtschaft“. *Konjunkturprognosen und ihre Inszenierung.* Geschichte der Gegenwart. URL: <https://geschichtedergegenwart.ch/gezeiten-der-wirtschaft-konjunkturprognosen-und-ihre-inszenierung/>.
- Laetitia Lenel (Oct. 2020d). “Alles schon mal dagewesen?” In: *Program for "Einer gegen alle," Residenztheater Munich*, pp. 14–18.
- Laetitia Lenel (13th May 2020f). *Public and Scientific Uncertainty in the Time of COVID-19.* History of Knowledge. URL: <https://historyofknowledge.net/2020/05/13/public-and-scientific-uncertainty/>.
- Laetitia Lenel (12th Apr. 2020b). *Alles neu macht das Coronavirus?* SciLogs. URL: <https://scilogs.spektrum.de/fischblog/alles-neu-macht-das-coronavirus/>, also published as Laetitia Lenel (18th May 2020c). *Alles neu macht das Coronavirus?* Demokratiegeschichten. URL: <https://www.demokratiegeschichten.de/alles-neu-macht-das-corona-virus/>.
- Ford Madox Ford (2018). “Arbeiten mit Conrad”. Trans. by Laetitia Lenel. In: *SINN UND FORM* 5, pp. 674–677.
- Laetitia Lenel (20th Dec. 2017). “Am Ende eines schrecklichen Jahres”. In: *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

Teaching Experience

- 2022 Berlin Certificate for Teaching in Higher Education
- 2015 – 2016 “Wirtschaftskrisen in historischer Perspektive,” joint seminar with Alexander Nützenadel
- 2015 “Die Weltwirtschaftskrise 1929/31. Deutschland und die USA im Vergleich”
- 2015 “History matters? Zum Verhältnis von Ökonomie und Geschichte”

Conference Presentations and Academic Talks

- 10/2023 “Finanzbetrüger:innen von Adele Spitzeder bis Bernard Madoff,” Hochstapelei. Zur Kulturgeschichte der Täuschung (Potsdam)
- 09/2023 “Can we Manage Expectations?,” Closing Conference “Experience and Expectation,” SPP 1859 (Schwanenwerder)

- 12/2022 “Histoire de la pensée économique contemporaine” (François Allisson). Guest Seminar and Lecture on the History of Business Forecasting (Lausanne)
- 11/2022 “Die Zukunft gestalten? Zukunftsforschung und Geschichtswissenschaften”. 14. infoclio.ch-Tagung (Bern)
- 05/2022 “The Computerization of Economics. Computers, Programming, and the Internet in the History of Economics” (Paris/Online)
- 04/2022 “Economic Narratives” (London)
- 01/2022 Allied Social Sciences Associations (ASSA) Annual Meeting (Boston/Online)
- 09/2021 “Narrative in Economics: Historical Experiences” (London/Online)
- 06/2021 Annual Meeting of the *Ausschuss für die Geschichte der Wirtschaftswissenschaften im Verein für Socialpolitik* (Frankfurt am Main/Online)
- 06/2020 “Timing Knowledge” (Lüneburg/Online)
- 04/2020 HOPE Conference “Exploring the History of Statistical Inference in Economics in the 20th Century” (Durham/Online)
- 07/2019 Annual Meeting of the History of Science (Utrecht)
- 11/2018 Annual Meeting of the History of Science (Seattle)
- 10/2018 “Futures Past? Economic Forecasting in the 20th and 21st Century” (Hamburg)
- 09/2018 Biennial Conference of the European Society for the History of Science (London)
- 05/2018 Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Chair for the History of Science (Berlin)
- 02/2018 Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Chair for 20th Century European History (Berlin)
- 12/2017 History of Science (HOS) Program Seminar (Princeton)
- 05/2017 Humboldt-Princeton Graduate Workshop “The Historical Experience of Time: A Global Look” (Berlin)
- 04/2017 History of Recent Economic Conference/HISRECO (Lucerne)
- 02/2017 Modern International History Group (Sheffield)
- 02/2017 Conference “Experience and Expectation,” SPP 1859 (Mannheim)
- 05/2015 Humboldt-Princeton Graduate Workshop on Global History (Berlin)

Professional Activities & Academic Service

- 2021 – present Coordinator of the Priority Program 1859 “Experience and Expectation. Historical Foundations of Economic Behaviour,” Department of Social and Economic History, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- 04/2022 Conference Organization (together with Jeremy Adelman and Alexander Nützenadel), “Economic Narratives” (London)
- 06/2020 Conference Organization (together with Christian Flow, Anna-Maria Meister, Richard Spiegel, and Janina Wellmann), “Timing Knowledge” (Online)
- 10/2018 Conference Organization (together with Ulrich Fritsche and Roman Köster), “Futures Past. Economic Forecasting in the 20th and 21st Century” at Universität Hamburg

- 05/2017 Workshop Organization (together with Christian Flow, Emily Kern, and Andrew Edwards), “The Historical Experience of Time: A Global Look” at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- 2015 – present Research Assistant at the Chair of Social and Economic History, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- 2014 – 2015 Research Assistant for a Corporate History of OSRAM GmbH, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- 2014 Research Assistant at the Chair of Development and Emerging Markets, University Zurich
- 2011 – 2014 Student Assistant at the Chair for the History of Eastern Europe, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- 2008 Intern in the Archives of the Leo Baeck Institute New York
- 2008 – 2010 Student Assistant at the School of History, Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies (FRIAS)

Affiliations

Arbeitskreis Geschichte+Theorie (Chairperson, together with Tobias Becker)
History of Economic Thought Society
History of Science Society
Netzwerk Wissen und Wirtschaft
Verband der Historiker und Historikerinnen Deutschlands