



Vera Geranpayeh

- Ph.D. Student in German Studies, admitted Autumn 2024
- Ph.D. Minor, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- 📄 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Vera Geranpayeh is a PhD Student in German Studies and PhD Minor in Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Stanford University. Her dissertation investigates how gender structures narrative movement in medieval German romance, focusing on minor female figures who remain structurally marginal yet narratively indispensable. She develops a framework for understanding how these figures catalyze plot progression through epistemic authority, mediation, and mobility, while remaining excluded from patriarchal mechanisms of narrative closure, such as minne and marriage.

In addition to her dissertation, she is developing a critical edition and English translation of a vernacular 1593 Franconian aristocratic household cookbook *Ein koch büchlein vonn allerley speiß wie man sie kochen soll* (1593). This project examines domestic authorship, women's custodianship of culinary and medical knowledge, and the transmission of embodied expertise across generations.

Her research is further informed by training in Yiddish and a focused interest in early modern Yiddish texts, particularly domestic and practical writing, charms and magical materials, and the Yiddish Epic tradition.

She is also the student initiator of SCRIPTA, an interdisciplinary research group on gender, knowledge, and agency in premodern manuscript cultures, which combines theoretical discussion with hands-on archival work in Stanford's Special Collections and hosts workshops with invited scholars.

Her broader research spans queer survival, female bonds, and desire in nineteenth-century and fin-de-siècle German literature. She is the recipient of the Clayman Institute's 2025 Marilyn Yalom Research Prize.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Marilyn Yalom Research Prize, Clayman Institute for Gender Research (2025)
- Stipend, Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (2023-2024)
- Stipend, Dr. Leonhard Baak Memorial Scholarship (2022-2024)
- Stipend, Max Kade Foundation (2022-2024)

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- M.A., University of Colorado, Boulder , German Studies
- B.A., Georg-August-Universität Göttingen , North American Studies and English: Language, Literatures, and Cultures
- DAF/DAZ Certificate, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen , Interkulturelle Germanistik

SERVICE, VOLUNTEER, AND COMMUNITY WORK

- SCRIPTA: Gender, Knowledge, and Agency in the Premodern Western European World

Research & Scholarship

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Diversity and Identity
- Equity in Education

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Vera Geranpayeh is a PhD candidate in German Studies. Her dissertation investigates how Vera Geranpayeh is a PhD Student in German Studies and PhD Minor in Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Stanford University. Her dissertation investigates how gender structures narrative movement in medieval German romance, focusing on minor female figures who remain structurally marginal yet narratively indispensable. She develops a framework for understanding how these figures catalyze plot progression through epistemic authority, mediation, and mobility, while remaining excluded from patriarchal mechanisms of narrative closure, such as minne and marriage.

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Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- First-Year German, First Quarter: GERLANG 1 (Aut)
- First-Year German, Second Quarter: GERLANG 2 (Win)
- First-Year German, Third Quarter: GERLANG 3 (Spr)