

Alumni Profile

Jonathan Fine – German PhD Program



Career

Please provide a brief overview of your career path since graduating from UCI.

After graduation, I was an adjunct for a year at Gettysburg College. I subsequently spent a year in Berlin as a postdoc through a program sponsored by the Mellon Foundation and Volkswagen Stiftung. This was followed by a year as a sabbatical replacement at Pacific Lutheran University. I am currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of German Studies at Brown University, where I coordinate the German language program. I have also applied my German skills as a translator, an instructional designer, and in search engine optimization.

What do you see yourself doing in five or ten years?

My position at Brown is renewable, but I am also still on the market for a tenure-track position.

Your Time at UCI

When did you attend UCI?

2008-2013

What program were you in?

German

Why did you choose to come to UCI?

The strength of the Critical Theory program

Reflections

What is your most memorable moment/experience at UCI?

One of the most memorable experiences was a particularly small seminar on Schiller. Prof. Gail Hart invited one of the German department's emerita professors, Ruth Klüger, to attend. Ruth has very strong opinions on Schiller. I remember one day that I contradicted her, and I will never forget the piercing stare I received. After I explained myself, she granted that I wasn't completely wrong, which felt like a major victory at the moment.

Was there one thing or one person at UCI that really helped or made a difference in your graduate/postdoctoral career? If so, tell us about whomever or what it was?

My advisor, John Smith, continues to help me years past my graduation. I am also indebted to Jane Newman, who sat me down one of my first weeks at UCI and encouraged me to think about professionalization right from the start of graduate school.

Alumni Life

What are you currently up to?

I am a Visiting Assistant Professor of German Studies at Brown University. I teach undergraduate German-language courses and coordinate the department's language program. In that capacity, I supervise and advise the graduate student TAs.

What advice do you have for a new graduate student?

A Ph.D. is just as much a professional degree as a degree in law or medicine. Start planning at the beginning of graduate school for what you want to do after graduation.

Is there a typical 'down' weekend for you—how do you relax?

I have two kids. There's no such thing as a down weekend.