Research Interests:
- Civil society in the Weimar Republic
- German-Americans associational life
- Civil society in the Middle East
- Intellectual history of civil society

Research Methodologies:
- Traditional historical methodological approaches grounded in archival research and analysis of published as well as unpublished primary sources.

Tentative Dissertation Title: Conceptions of Civil Society during the Weimar Republic: Civil Discourse, Leadership Principle, and People’s Community,

Primary Advisor: Dr. Gregory Witkowski

Research Statement:
By integrating civil society theory and post-modernist approaches, I investigate contrasting conceptions of civil society in the Weimar Republic. From the perspective of intellectual history, I analyze the solutions to the tension between private interest and the common good offered by two groups of political commentators and how these intellectuals acted upon their conceptions within a network of clubs and educational endeavors. I contend that the concept of civil society – rooted in modernity, individualism, and acceptance of conflict and compromise – appeared to contemporaries unable to solve the complex problems of modern societies, thus paving the path to concepts such as Volksgemeinschaft (people’s community) and radical nationalism that integrated the ideology of National Socialism. In addition, by analyzing the relationship between a German educational institution and American philanthropic foundations, I focus on the connections between American ideals of democratic processes and the realities of the German political system and question the role of trans-national philanthropy in support of democracy and civil society.

Personal Info:
I hold an M.A. in history (2005) and a master degree in Philanthropic Studies (2007) and have regularly presented at the bi-annual ISTR international conferences and ARNOVA. Since fall 2010, I have been teaching the graduate level courses in civil society offered by the Center and SPEA at IUPUI. I am fluent in Italian, German, and English.