

SPOTLIGHT ON GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Film Studies PhD Student Pat Brown Receives DAAD Research Grant

Starting at the end of this summer, Film Studies PhD Candidate Pat Brown began living in Berlin to continue work on his dissertation with the support of a prestigious 10-month DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Research Grant.

Pat was among 106 out of a pool of 655 applicants -- and the only student from the University of Iowa -- to receive this highly competitive grant this year. This support will allow him to conduct invaluable archival research on his dissertation, "Spiel/Film: On Play in Weimar Cinema and Culture," which looks into various facets of the film culture of the Weimar Republic in Germany (1918-1933) that augur the emergence of today's play-centric global culture, and indeed suggest that modern media technologies have long encouraged certain types of "play." Thus far Pat's work has focused on positioning Weimar cinema historically and theoretically within a milieu of new media forms that include the innovations of the art movement Berlin Dada and early forms of popular war gaming.

While in Berlin, Pat will be enrolled at the Freie Universität-Berlin and working under the supervision of internationally renowned film scholar Gertrud Koch, conducting research at local archives and libraries

including the Deutsche Kinemathek, the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, the Bundesarchiv Berlin, and the Landesarchiv Berlin. This grant allows him to complete research begun last year and this previous summer with Semester and Summer research grants provided by the University of Iowa Graduate School.

The DAAD grant will also allow him to enjoy the latter part of a Berlin summer.


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