



frühe deutschsprachige
Nationalökonominnen

Early women Economists in/from the German speaking countries

The **“first” generation** is a group of women who fought for being admitted to lectures and seminars at Berlin University at a time when there was no general admission of women. In 1895 the Prussian Administration granted special permissions, after Gustav Schmoller had privately tutored some women in previous semesters and supported their plea. After that date women “guest” students seem to have been attending lectures and seminars regularly, however without receiving degrees. Some of these women did research and their contributions were published (e.g. in *Schollers Jahrbuch* or other scholarly journals). However, they did not make a living / a career as an economist – not even if the field of economics is understood in the widest sense. Many became important figures in Germany’s women’s movement, several became educators in institutions of higher learning for young women. The three women listed here are often mentioned together as the first three female members of Schmoller’s “Staatswissenschaftliches Seminar.” There are several others among those who attended economics classes in Berlin in those early years that might be worth mentioning.

The **“second” generation** is made up of women who finished their studies with a doctoral degree. Out of the women who studied in the German-language area of this age group Rosa Luxemburg and Frieda Wunderlich are already included in the *Dictionary*.

The **“third” generation** is already well represented in the *Dictionary* with 5 entries. **Louise Sommer** contributed to many of the contemporary debates and published widely. **Charlotte Lorenz** and **Charlotte von Reichenau** became Professors (if only “ausserordentlich”) under the Nazi-regime. They are therefore in some sense a counterpart to most of the careers of German-speaking women represented in the *Dictionary*. **Toni Stolper** was (together with her husband and two

colleagues) editor of the weekly paper *Der Deutsche Volkswirt* a very successful publication during the Weimar years. Positioned by its founders as “in between” the *Economist* and *The Nation*, the paper was an important source of information and well recognized voice in public debates about policy issues in general and economic policy in particular.

The last group of “**Interwar, WWII and post-WWII careers**” of women born after the turn of the century is also well represented in the *Dictionary* with 7 entries on women from the German-speaking areas. **Wilhelmine Dreißig** played an important role in the founding decades of the German Federal Republic as an expert on monetary policy and public finance. She was the only woman on the German expert committee that crafted – together with American, British and French military administrators – the legislation to implement the West-German currency reform in 1948. **Ingeborg Esenwein-Rothe** was an important figure in the German academic world after WWII. She published widely especially on statistics and economic policy issues. **Elisabeth Liefmann-Keil** was the first to receive a “full-fledged” chair as an economics university professor in Germany in 1956. **Gertrud Neuhauser**’s was one of the first “smooth” careers of women in German economics – i.e. not interrupted by political / historical events. **Helga Schmucker** is an example of a career with many “switches” – from research on the eastern European and Russian economy in the Nazi-era to public service in the statistical office of the state of Bavaria (leading to a Habilitation), to (federal) policy adviser and professor of household economics in 1964 (So far, literature evaluating her work during the Nazi-era or her later career in light of the first half of her life is not known to us). A contrast to these women who went through successful academic careers is **Marguerite Kuczynski** with a quite extraordinary biography. As in the case of many wives of prominent husbands, her achievements are to some extent overshadowed by those of her husband Jürgen Kuczynski, who was a professor in Berlin and dazzling public figure in post-War East Germany.

„First“ generation (born before 1864), no formal degree

Name	lived	studies / degrees		
Dyhrenfurth, Gertrud	1862-1945/46	Berlin	publications on English women workers and trade unions studies on the working conditions of female textile workers in Berlin	3 first female members of „Staatswissenschaftliches Seminar“ at University of Berlin
Gnauck-Kühne, Caroline Franziska Elisabeth Bachelor thesis: Alina Schulte (2011)	1850-1917	Berlin from 1891: private lessons with Schmoller after 1895: participation in regular seminars of Schmoller with special permission	leading figure in Germany's „Frauenbewegung“; her book <i>Das soziale Gemeinschaftsleben im deutschen Reich. Leitfaden der Volkswirtschaftslehre und Bürgerkunde in sozialgeschichtlichem Aufbau für höhere Schulen und zum Selbstunterricht</i> was first published in 1909 and went through at least 6 editions in more than 50 reprints (the last tracked so far in 1928)	
Simon, Helene Bachelor thesis: Norma Widulle (2011)	1862-1947	London as one of the early LSE-students (1895-fall 1897) Berlin (fall 1897-fall 1898)	expert on English factory legislation, working conditions of female workers, women's movement translator into the German of several of Beatrice and Sidney Webb's works	

„Second“ generation (born between 1865 and 1884)

Name	lived	studies / degrees	positions	
Altmann-Gotttheiner, Elisabeth	1874-1930	London, Berlin, Zürich Diss. Zürich 1902	1908 lecturer Handelshochschule Mannheim 1924 Prof. Handelshochschule Mannheim	first female (full-time) lecturer and professor (note: at a „Handelshochschule“, not a “Universität”)
Cronbach, Else	1879-1913	Berlin Diss. 1907		1908 co-founder of the Austrian „Nationalökonomische Gesellschaft“ together with Ludwig von Mises, Emil Perels, Karl Pribram
Engel-Reimers, Charlotte	1870-1930	Berlin Diss. 1906 Habil. 1930		first female assistant (including teaching obligations) at „Staatswissenschaftliches, Seminar“ University of Berlin
Salomon, Alice Bachelor thesis: Sabine Sellckau (2010)	1872-1948	Berlin Diss. 1906	1908 founder of the first German school for social work in Berlin (Soziale Frauensschule)	1909 Economics textbook <i>Einführung in die Volkswirtschaftslehre: ein Lehrbuch für Frauenschulen.</i>

„Third“ generation (born between 1885 and turn of century)

Name	lived	studies / degrees	Positions	
Hirsch, Edith J.	1899-2003			See: Hagemann, Harald und Claus-Dieter Krohn (1999) Biographisches Handbuch der deutschsprachigen wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen Emigration nach 1933, München: Saur.
Lorenz, Charlotte	1895-1975	Berlin Diss. 1918 Habil. 1927	1937 ausserordentliche Prof. Berlin 1956 ausserordentliche Prof. Göttingen	1933 member of NSDAP note: one of two female economics professors during Nazi-era
Reichenau, Charlotte von Diplom (Master level) thesis: Nicole Graf 2007	1890-1952	Gießen Diss. 1925 Habil. 1927	1934 ausserordentliche Prof. Giessen 1941 ausserplanmässige Prof. Frankfurt / Main	1938 Member of NS-organization „Deutsches Frauenwerk“ note: one of two female economics professors during Nazi-era
Sommer, Louise Doctoral thesis: Ute Lampalzer, to be published by Metropolis 2014	1889-1960	Wien, Basel Diss. Basel 1919 Habil. Genf 1926	lecturer University of Geneva 1947 Guest Prof. at New School for Social Research 1947-50 Aurora College 1950-51 visiting scholar Columbia University 1951-54 American University Washington D.C.	Biographical article by Harald Hagemann in <i>Wissenschaftlerinnen in und aus Österreich. Leben– Werk – Wirken</i> . Ed. by Brigitta Keintzel and Ilse Erika Korotin (2002) Wien etc.: Böhlau Verlag.

Stolper, Toni	1890-1988	Wien, Berlin Diss. Berlin 1917	journalist, wrote for <i>Der österreichische Volkswirt</i> (Wien) 1926 editor of <i>Der deutsche Volkswirt</i> (Berlin), together with her husband Gustav Stolper, Carl Landauer and Georg Katona	1933 emigration to the US, after her husband's death in 1947: close companion of Theodor Heuss (long-time friend of the Stolper couple, first president of the FRG from 1949-1959)
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Interwar, WWII and post-WWII careers – born after turn of century

Name	lived	studies / degrees	positions	
Dreiig, Wilhelmine Bachelor thesis: Laura Koesler (2010)	1913-1985	Berlin Diss. 1939	1948-1966 Bank deutscher Lnder / Bundesbank 1966-1971 ordentliche Prof. (without Habilitation) Free University Berlin 1971-1978 ordentliche Prof. University Frankfurt	member of the expert committee that prepared the German currency reform in 1948
Esenwein-Rothe, Ingeborg	1911-2002	Rostock, Berlin, Wrzburg, Leipzig Diss. Leipzig 1937 Habil. Mnster 1954	1947-1950 lecturer at the Technical University in Chemnitz 1954 lecturer Hochschule fr Sozialwissenschaften Wilhelmshaven 1962 ausserplanmssige Prof. Gttingen 1962 /1963 Prof. University Erlangen-Nrnberg	influential in shaping post-War development of German Universities
Hampe, Asta	1907-2003	Berlin, Hamburg Diss. Hamburg 1947 Habil. 1955	1956 lecturer University Hamburg 1961 ausserplanmssige Prof. University of Hamburg 1963 Professor Marburg	
Kuczynski, Marguerite Diplom (Master level) thesis: Ute Lampalzer, published 2013 by Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin	1904-1998	1921: financed by a French government stipend, she went to the US to study economics graduate studies at the Brookings Institution	assistant with the NBER in the 1920s; came to Germany with her husband Jrgen Kuczynski; emigration to England during Nazi-era; after WWII return to East-Germany (DDR); after 1957: co-editor of the works of Marx and Engels; after her retirement in 1960: edition, annotation, translation of works of Quesnay, Turgot etc.	important contributions in the field of history of economic thought

Liefmann-Keil, Elisabeth Gertrud Diplom (Master level) thesis: Teresa Freing (2009)	1908-1975	Freiburg Diss. 1935 Habil. Freiburg 1946	1947 lecturer Freiburg 1949 ausserplanmässige Prof. Freiburg 1956 ordentliche Prof. University Saarbrücken	first “ordentliche Prof.” für Volkswirtschaftslehre in Germany (over all fields: second “ordentliche Prof.” in Germany) Paper by Nils Goldschmidt and Wendula Gräfin v. Klinckowstroem (2004) in <i>Freiburger Diskussionspapiere zur Ordnungsökonomik</i>
(Pütz-)Neuhauser, Gertrud	1923-1999	Innsbruck Diss. 1949 Habil. 1955	1954-56 Research Assistant University St. Gallen 1956 lecturer University Innsbruck 1962 ausserordentliche Prof. University Innsbruck 1966 ordentliche Prof. University Gießen 1970-1990 University Salzburg	Biographical article by Harald Hagemann in <i>Wissenschaftlerinnen in und aus Österreich. Leben– Werk – Wirken</i> . Ed. by Brigitta Keintzel and Ilse Erika Korotin (2002) Wien etc.: Böhlau Verlag.
Schmucker, Helga	1901-??	München Diss. 1928 Habil. 1957	1934-45 Königsberg, Wiss. Leitung Wirtschaftsinstitut für Russland, Institut für Ostforschung after 1946: Bayrisches statistisches Landesamt 1964 Prof. University Gießen (Haushaltswissenschaften)	1959 Wissenschaftlicher Beirat für Familienfragen, Bundesministerium für Familie und Jugend
Seeberg, Stella	1901-??	Rostock, Kiel, München Diss. München 1924 Habil. Berlin 1939	1942 adjunct faculty at University Graz 1944 lecturer University Graz 1960 adjunct faculty University Göttingen 1964-71 lecturer University Göttingen	beginning 1934 member of several national-socialist party organizations