Andrew Wisely  
*German Archival Support for Biography of Dr. Franz Lucas*  
(Modern Languages & Cultures / College of Arts & Sciences)

I have been long at work on a “criminal biography” of Dr. Franz Lucas (1911-1994), who stood out during the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial of December 1963 to August 1965 as the rare defendant remembered by most survivor prisoners for his benevolent rather than cruel deeds. By the end of that trial, however, it became clear that his acts of civil courage were mixed with his reluctant obedience to criminal orders. This was the case not just for Auschwitz-Birkenau, but also for his stints at Mauthausen, Stutthof, Ravensbrück, and Sachsenhausen between December 1943 and April 1945, about which Lucas was never forthcoming.

As Devin Pendas (2009) has noted, along with oral testimony of survivor witnesses (“intentional evidence”) the best sources for understanding the role of Nazi doctors during the Holocaust have been archival documents, including interrogation protocols of other perpetrators (“unintentional evidence”). The funding I am requesting for May 12-19, 2017 will allow me to visit one library and two archives. More than anything, I expect to discover more about Lucas’s involvement in sterilizing prisoners at Ravensbrück in January 1945—in fact, my archival trip will come on the heels of an international workshop in Israel at which I am presenting on the same topic the week before.