
German Studies Association

Newsletter

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear members and friends of the German Studies Association,

I need hardly remind any of you that we are all dealing with extraordinarily difficult times, with no end to the current crisis in sight. Thus we are even more grateful to you than usual for your continued support of the German Studies Association. We are a member-driven organization, and without you we simply could not survive. As I hope you have noticed, we have kept all our fees at 2007 levels, and have no current plans to increase them. And I hope you'll agree that the GSA is still a bargain!

You should know that, relatively speaking, the GSA's finances are in reasonably good order. In addition to our regular cash reserves, we have two modest endowment funds, one for general endowment and the other for the travel fund that provides assistance to non-North American GSA members who wish to participate in our meetings. Both endowment funds are down, of course, but not as precipitously as the stock market more generally, as we had several cash cushions that enabled us to soften the fall. In January I was in New York and carefully reviewed all our investments and all our portfolios with one of the country's most careful, reliable, and accomplished investment analysts, a person with a particular understanding of academics and academic institutions. He believes that, on the whole, our strategies have been about as sound as they could be; and he has given us excellent suggestions for the present and the future. Rest assured that we still have the resources and the commitment to maintain our travel fund, at least for the foreseeable future, and also to keep our membership and conference fees at a reasonable level. We are committed to transparency on these matters, and of course can provide details to any member who might be interested. Please feel free to contact me or the chair of our Investment Committee, Professor Gerald Fetz, GSA Secretary/Treasurer.

Another consequence of the present crisis has been an intensification of threats to programs in German and German Studies at universities throughout North America. Most of us are familiar by now with the unhappy events at the University of Southern California; but that case is by no means an isolated matter. As I am writing this in mid-April 2009, we have just heard about new and very alarming threats to German at Florida State University, and this following on the heels of severe threats to German at the University of Florida. In this issue of the newsletter, our Vice President, Professor Stephen Brockmann, addresses the present and future of German Studies programs. And we'd like to call your attention to our threaded, website-based discussion forum on "German Programs at Risk." We hope that as many of you as possible will use this forum to exchange ideas regarding strategies to save and even expand our programs. We cannot afford to wait until the politicians or cost-cutting administrators present us with *faits accomplis*. We must be prepared to deal vigorously and even aggressively to demonstrate the importance of our programs, and to gain and maintain alumni and public support for our activities. Outreach is not something that we academics generally like to do. But it is becoming indispensable. Eternal vigilance is the price of our freedom

and our programs.

In view of all these present difficulties, we are especially gratified that so many of you are planning to attend this year's GSA conference in Washington, D. C. As we note in this issue of the newsletter, you submitted a record number of proposals, which in turn led us to add two more session times on Sunday afternoon, 11 October. As things stand at the time of writing (mid-April 2009), we will have over 310 sessions at this year's meeting. We sent you a global e-mail explaining this, and we recognize that it will represent an added inconvenience for many of you. But the alternative – turning down otherwise perfectly qualified sessions and papers – seemed unacceptable to us. Please see the discussion of the conference in this issue of the newsletter for further details. This promises to be not only our largest conference but also one of our very best, as we will be taking note of a variety of anniversaries and commemorations: e.g., the twentieth anniversary of the *Wende*; the sixtieth anniversary of the *doppelte Staatsgründung* of 1949; or the two hundredth birthday of Felix Mendelssohn and the two hundred fiftieth of Friedrich Schiller.

This issue of the newsletter also contains several other matters of interest to our members. It includes our annual review of dissertations in German Studies. Many of you have found this review very helpful, and we hope you will send us your ideas and suggestions on how to make it more helpful and more useful. We are continuing our series in which affiliated or related organizations describe themselves; and, since we are meeting this year in Washington, we are pleased that the German Historical Institute is introducing itself here, though of course many of you are quite familiar with it already. In addition, most of you will have heard of the catastrophic collapse of the Kölner Stadtarchiv in March 2009, in which, tragically, two people lost their lives and countless irreplaceable documents were damaged or lost. In this issue we are publishing two articles on that incident, one by Professor Rainer Hering, director of the Landesarchiv Schleswig-Holstein and chair of the GSA Archives Committee, and the other by Professor James M. Brophy of the University of Delaware. GSA President Celia Applegate also addresses the Cologne disaster in her "Letter from the President."

Despite the difficulties that this year has presented to all of us, we wish you all the best, and look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the Crystal Gateway Marriott in October for our conference!

Alles Gute

David

David E. Barclay
Executive Director, GSA

Letter from the President

Much about the collapse of the Historical Archive of the City of Cologne remains unclear (how much and what was lost), unresolved (how much might yet be rescued or restored or replaced in some form or another), or controversial (why the building collapsed and who is responsible). But the catastrophic nature of the event is clear enough, and the broadly inclusive holdings of archives mean that every one of the disciplines represented in the German Studies Association has cause to mourn. Rainer Hering and James Brophy address many aspects of the catastrophe in this newsletter. I would simply like to add a few loosely-related thoughts on things lost and things never to be known.

I used the word “mourn” in the previous paragraph, and it’s unlikely that it struck most readers as anything but the view one would expect a member of a scholarly association to take, especially one filled with historians and literary scholars—a cliché even, certainly not worth querying. But why do we mourn the loss of this mountain of paper, in a world filled with that kind of stuff and lacking in many things more necessary to actual living? GSA member David Blackburn, who saw the collapsed building in late March, reported that people had placed candles outside the chain-link fence erected around the site, candles that the incessant rain, which has made recovery additionally difficult, had extinguished, casting an even more mournful aspect onto the scene. Perhaps the candles are for the two people killed in adjacent buildings, but they gave the impression of a broader mourning that encompassed also the millions of pages of manuscripts, books, and scores, that encompass cultural identity. It is impossible to say exactly when the need to hang onto things for practical reasons became linked to the desire to hang onto them for existential ones—to cast a shadow, to be not forgotten. All the lost pages from the Historical Archive of Cologne itself could not have recorded that moment. If, in its beginnings, the archive existed principally as a repository for documents concerning legal transactions and privileges, then arguably by 1594, with the transfer of the records of the Hanseatic League from Bruges to Cologne, and certainly by 1824, with the archive’s acquisition of the medieval manuscripts of collector extraordinaire Ferdinand Franz Wallraff, practical needs and existential desires were fully intertwined in the archival project—an intertwining expressed in the word *Erbe*. For Heinrich Böll’s son René, the destruction has an inescapably personal dimension, given that the family had chosen, in effect, to link their inheritance to that of the larger entities to which Böll had belonged—city, nation, literary public—by giving everything (a few weeks ago, “22 cartons, filled to the brim”) to the Historical Archive. In trying to explain what was “irretrievably lost,” René Böll described the “many things that were kept, including small, completely nondescript objects such as, for example, a rusty nail, specially formed stones, a lifeboat propeller from a German submarine that had rusted on the coast of Ireland.” “All things considered,” he said, such acts of picking up and putting into safe places weren’t only “practical” or “only about being an archivist of his self” but about preserving history in the “traces left by objects.”¹

Among the many reasons we could venture for why the thought of all the lost

stuff is so disturbing, the one that seems most accessible is the melancholy allure of questions that will never be answered. The reverse aspect of this is the more sensational view common to press releases and newspaper stories that the people who use archives are, or ought to be, discoverers of secrets—how easily does that phrase “detective work” follow from the phrase “archival research.” The latest instance of this cultural tic that has come to my attention is a little brouhaha kicked up by Great Britain’s *Independent* and timed for the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn. Under the comically sensational headline “Conspiracy of Silence: Could the Release of Secret Documents Shatter Felix Mendelssohn’s Reputation?,” the newspaper reports that “buried in the bowels of the Royal Academy of Music” lie documents that will forever destroy his reputation as the “happiest of composers.”² And given that love and death, especially the latter, have always been and always will be the matters about which people want to read, no one will be surprised to learn that the documents in questions are said to be, *hinted* at being, letters between Mendelssohn and Jenny Lind, in which he supposedly declares his passion for her and threatens suicide if she rejects his love. To be sure, speculations about the precise relationship between the two long characterized sentimental biographies of the nineteenth century, and yes, Mendelssohn did in fact die not long after the alleged exchange or declaration or whatever it was (though one would have thought that dying of a series of strokes, as had everyone else in one’s immediate family—father, mother, sister—would be alibi enough against such charges).

A week or so later, the *Independent* drew ever closer to pure self-satire by publishing another article, this one claiming that their initial piece had “set in motion a major reassessment of Mendelssohn’s personality and fate,” and that “we hear that today’s pre-eminent Mendelssohn scholar and biographer, R. Larry Todd, is writing to the foundation requesting access to the documents.”³ About the only accurate statement one can find in either article is the description of Larry Todd, who is indeed the pre-eminent scholar of Mendelssohn and the biographer of both him and his sister Fanny Hensel. In late March, Todd was the keynote speaker at a marvelous “humanistic and artistic 200 years commemoration” of Mendelssohn at the University of Montana and spoke a bit more soberly about the Mendelssohn-Lind relationship, about what we do know and what we will probably never know. He, along with many scholars, is certainly curious about the RAM’s holding and has already been given some indication of their less-than-sensational content, but he neither expects revelations nor suspects conspiracies.

The fact is that the two hundredth anniversary of Mendelssohn’s birth has provided the opportunity not to inaugurate a “major reassessment” of the composer, with or without grand new discoveries, but instead to celebrate the results of several decades of vigorous and productive reassessment of his “personality and fate,” certainly, but also of his music and his profoundly important role in shaping in European musical culture. No one any longer imagines (and probably no one ever did) that he was the “happiest of composers.” This was in any case a myth more than a reputation. It was a myth, moreover, pronounced sneeringly to an initially unreceptive German and European public by Wagner and his admirers as evidence of superficiality and, implicitly, as apology for the apparently indissoluble bonds

(in the case of Wagner) among genius, suffering, poor money management, and extramarital sex. The tangible products of the contemporary re-engagement with Mendelssohn are a complete index of his works (just finished), a complete edition of his letters (anticipated at twelve-volume length, the first of which has just been published), and eventually a complete edition of his compositions, due out in 2047 in time for the bicentenary of his death.

Archives have of course played a role in this ongoing process of reassessment, indeed many archives, for Mendelssohn was a man of many places with a nearly inhuman capacity for letter-writing (the lasting influence, it seems, of motherly strictures). Max Bruch and Jacques Offenbach, lesser composers than Mendelssohn but themselves figures who have recently received renewed attention, will not be as lucky as the man Robert Schumann called the “unforgettable” one.⁴ Large portions of their *Nachlässe* resided in the Historical Archive of the City of Cologne. And although neither was so maligned by their successors as was Mendelssohn, both have suffered from that condescension of posterity that is the fate not just of the marginalized and downtrodden but also of artists too popular in their time and artists who outlived their popularity. On the hopeful side, we might remember that Siegfried Kracauer wrote his wonderful *Jacques Offenbach und das Paris seiner Zeit* in exile in Paris (where, to be sure, lots of Offenbachiana was still lying around in 1937) and that some of the Bruch *Nachlass* is housed in the Musikwissenschaftliches Institut of University of Cologne. More things will be found in the ruins and restored, photocopies will be digitalized, research projects will be adjusted, and candles reignited. Still, one can’t help wishing they had put the new subway line somewhere else.

Sincerely,

Celia Applegate
President, GSA

¹ Heinrich Böll Stiftung, “Historical Documents Lost Forever: An Interview with René Böll, Representative of the Heirs of Heinrich Böll and his Son,” April 6, 2009, <http://www.boell.de/educulture/heinrich-boell-en-6471.html> (Accessed April 16, 2009).

² “Conspiracy of Silence,” *The Independent* (January 21, 2009) <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/features/conspiracy-of-silence-could-the-release-of-secret-documents-shatter-felix-mendelssohns-reputation-1300405.html> (Accessed April 16, 2009).

³ Jessica Duchin, “Observations: Mendelssohn Encore,” *The Independent* (January 30, 2009), <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/features/observations-mendelssohn-encore-1519887.html> (Accessed April 16, 2009).

⁴ Larry Todd, *Mendelssohn: A Life* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), xxi

The Thirty-Third Annual Conference of the GSA

Crystal Gateway Marriott Washington, D. C. (Arlington, Virginia) October 8-11, 2009

The Thirty-Third Annual Conference of the German Studies Association will take place from October 8 to October 11, 2009, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202 (www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasgw-crystal-gateway-marriott/).

This conference promises to be by far the largest in the history of the GSA, with over 310 sessions and roundtables approved by the Program Committee at the time this newsletter went to press.

Indeed, the unanticipated and gratifying flood of paper and session proposals confronted us with some serious organizational dilemmas, as we noted in a global e-mail to the membership earlier this year. To repeat the basics of that message: The number of excellent and thoroughly qualified proposals greatly exceeded the number of contracted meeting rooms and time slots. We thus faced a difficult situation. We certainly did not want to turn down qualified proposals that in any other year would have been readily accepted. Accordingly, we negotiated with the hotel and were able to add one more meeting room to our original total of twenty-five. But, even with this addition, we had far more qualified sessions than available slots.

After much discussion, we decided to add **TWO MORE TIME BLOCKS** to our total. Ideally, we would have created a new time block on Thursday and another on Sunday, but it was not possible to create a Thursday time slot. Thus we have added **TWO NEW TIME SLOTS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 11**. The first new time slot will run from 1:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., and the second from 3:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

We are quite aware that this schedule will create problems, especially for people with Monday teaching obligations, for people who live in the Midwest or West, and for people with limited travel budgets. Everyone needs to understand that it will not be possible for everybody to have their sessions take place at the time they would have preferred. So we ask for your understanding and patience; scheduling is always an immensely complicated process, even in the best and easiest of circumstances. But, in considering all our options, we decided that this alternative would be preferable to the only other alternative: rejecting dozens of excellent proposals simply because we did not have enough space or enough time slots.

We've already reserved extra hotel sleeping blocks at the conference rate for those who will be staying over on Sunday night.

This year, many sessions and groups of sessions will focus on several important anniversaries that we will be observing this year. These include the twentieth anniversary of the *Wende*, the sixtieth anniversary of the *doppelte Staatsgründung*, the bicentennial of Felix Mendelssohn's birth, and the 250th anniversary of Friedrich Schiller's birth. Moreover, a number of sessions and roundtables will focus on the

2009 German elections. In addition, this year's conference will include nine sessions that deal with "Asian-German Studies," nine on "'Race' in the German-Speaking Countries," seven on the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Modern German History*, six on "Walls, Borders, and Boundaries," six on "Mixed Matches," five on "On the Move," five on "Karl Marx and the Nineteenth Century," five on "Sweet Terror," four on "Emotions," three on "Bending Boundaries in Medieval German Culture," and many, many more. Quite a few of our sessions and series reflect the efforts of our new Interdisciplinary Committee, so ably chaired by David Sabean at UCLA.

Our **luncheon and banquet speakers** this year are especially exciting, and all of them are well known in the world of German Studies and international scholarship generally. All three reflect this year's anniversary commemorations, especially of 1949 and 1989. We are negotiating the most favorable luncheon and banquet fees possible, and they'll be posted in the website and shown in the conference program. The speakers are:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, LUNCHEON: Our Friday luncheon speaker is **Professor Hanna Schissler**, who will speak on "**The Personal in German History: 1949 and 1989 as Anniversaries and Commemorations.**" Well known in this country and in Europe, Professor Schissler is currently head of the Research Unit at the Georg-Eckert-Institut. In this country she has taught at the University of Minnesota, New York University, and Kalamazoo College, and has served as a Research Fellow at the German Historical Institute. She received her doctorate at the University of Bielefeld and her *Habilitation* at the University of Hanover. Among her many publications are *The Miracle Years: A Cultural History of West Germany 1949 to 1968* (Princeton, 2001) and *Conflict, Catastrophe, and Continuity: Essays in Modern German History*, (Festschrift for Volker Berghahn), co-edited with Frank Biess and Mark Roseman (New York and Oxford, 2007). Hanna Schissler's expertise lies in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century German social history, the history of the Federal Republic, European and North American gender history, historical epistemology and world history. She is currently working on perceptions of "the world" and on the ways in which pupils are taught to understand the globalizing world and on intercultural communication via biographical storytelling.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, BANQUET: The renowned filmmaker **Andreas Dresen** will speak to our annual banquet on "**Vom Zoo in den Dschungel -- Ostdeutsche Filmkultur 20 Jahre nach dem Mauerfall.**" Dresen was born in Gera, East Germany, in 1963. He studied directing at the Academy for Film and Television in Potsdam-Babelsberg. In 1992, Dresen began work as a screenwriter and director. All his films have received prestigious national and international prizes. Dresen's latest film, *Cloud 9*, about a love triangle among elderly people, was an international sensation; it was awarded at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival. One of Germany's most admired filmmakers, Dresen has just finished working on a tragicomedy about a 60-year-old film star, *Whiskey with Vodka* (release fall 2009). He lives in Potsdam and is a member of the Academy of Arts.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, LUNCHEON: Again, our speaker will focus on the events of 1989 and thereafter. **Uwe Saeger** will speak on “**Vom Schmerz und von der Würde oder In machtgeschützter Beschränktheit von Freiheit träumen & in machtentgrenzter Freiheit die Träume beschränken.**” Saeger is a distinguished writer from the former German Democratic Republic who won the Ingeborg Bachmann prize in 1987. Before that he served in the East German army and was stationed at the Wall in Berlin; after his army service he began to have initial success as a writer in the early 1980s. His early work, particularly his play *Außerhalb von Schuld*, engaged critically with real existing socialism in the GDR. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Saeger published his novel *Die Nacht danach und der Morgen* (1991), one of the first post-unification novels to address the relationship between writers and the East German Stasi. Saeger has continued to publish novels in the intervening years, including *Verkleidungen* (2001) and *Laokoons Traum* (2003). He also writes screenplays.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

As in previous years, it will be necessary to register for the conference online this year. Please go to our website (www.thegsa.org) to do this. **THE ONLINE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND HOTEL RESERVATION LINK WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 10 SEPTEMBER OR UNTIL ROOMS AT THE HOTEL SELL OUT.** A confirmed conference registration will lead you to a link that will enable you to make a reservation at the conference hotel, the Crystal Gateway Marriott, at the special conference rate. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY OR THE GSA TO ASK FOR THE RATE. YOU MUST FIRST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THAT RATE.**

Conference rates are:

MEMBERS:

\$ 85.00 BEFORE SEPTEMBER 10

\$ 95.00 AFTER SEPTEMBER 10

NON-MEMBERS:

\$ 150.00 BEFORE SEPTEMBER 10

\$ 160.00 AFTER SEPTEMBER 10

INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS/NO INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION:

\$ 35.00

GRADUATE STUDENTS:

\$ 20.00 (GSA MEMBERS)

\$ 45.00 (NON-MEMBERS OF GSA)

LUNCHEON RESERVATION: Price to be determined (see GSA website and global e-mail)

FRIDAY BANQUET RESERVATION: Price to be determined (see GSA website and global e-mail)

AUDIOVISUAL EXPENSES (PLEASE PAY ONLY IF YOU HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR USE OF AN LCD PROJECTOR): \$ 35.00

EXHIBITORS: \$ 150 per table

HOTEL RATES: \$ 145 per night single and double occupancy

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

This year's conference promises to be not only our biggest but also one of our very best. We owe a special debt of gratitude to the Program Director, Professor Ben Marschke, and to the other members of the Program Committee for their indefatigable efforts. All members of the Program Committee do this work voluntarily, and without their efforts the GSA simply could not function. This year's members are:

Ben Marschke (Humboldt State University), Program Director

Janet Ward (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), Interdisciplinary

Jason Coy (College of Charleston), Medieval/Early Modern/18th Century

George S. Williamson (University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa), 19th Century

Richard W. McCormick (University of Minnesota – Twin Cities), 20th- and
21st Century *Germanistik* and Culture Studies

Katherine Pence (Baruch College – CUNY), 20th- and 21st Century History

E. Gene Frankland (Ball State University), Political Science

For registration, hotel reservations, and for a preliminary draft of the online program, please go to the website at www.thegsa.org. We look forward to seeing you in Washington!

A List of Dissertations in German Studies, 2005-2008

The following list of dissertations completed in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 in the many and diverse fields encompassed by the term German Studies represent the responses to our call for information this past February. We make no claim for the completeness or the accuracy of the list, and we would like to thank all the dissertation directors and recent recipients of Ph.D.'s for providing us with this information.

We will publish a list in all future spring issues of the GSA Newsletter. If you missed this round, please be advised that we will continue to play catch-up for the next two years. If you received your Ph.D. in **2007, 2008, or 2009** you may be listed in next year's Spring newsletter. (No repeats, however!) A call for information will go out next February (2010), but if you wish to provide your information before then, send it to Stephen Brockmann at smb@andrew.cmu.edu.

Abbate, Anika K. *Women Editors and Negotiations of Power in Germany, 1790-1850*. Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Pennsylvania, 2008.

In my dissertation, entitled *Women Editors and Negotiations of Power in Germany, 1790-1850*, I discuss the editorial work of Marianne Ehrmann (1755-95), Therese Huber (1764-1829), Sophie Mereau (1770-1806), and Louise Otto-Peters (1819-95) and explore the strategies these editors pursued to attain agency within the editorial world. In particular, I apply Pierre Bourdieu's theoretical framework of power and view the editorial worlds of eighteenth and nineteenth century Germany as fields of power relations, in which each editor's agency was determined by their monetary, social, and technical resources.

Arndt, Christiane. *Abschied von der Wirklichkeit: Probleme bei der Darstellung von Realität im deutschsprachigen literarischen Realismus*. Johns Hopkins University, 2006.

The late nineteenth century exhibits several features which can be read as remarkable attempts to secure the representation of reality, such as the regard for evidence in criminal investigations, photography as a means and starting point of record taking, the museum as a display of nature, and the editing and ultimately publishing of literary estates. Regarding literary texts by Theodor Fontane, Adalbert Stifter, Theodor Storm, Wilhelm Raabe, and Gottfried Keller, this dissertation shows how the epoch's approach to the newly established cultural phenomena reveals the concerns realism raises with respect to the representation of reality while preserving the traditional process of narration.

Baudner, Jörg. *The Domestic Use of European Policies: European Regional Policies in Southern Italy and Eastern Germany*. Institute of German Studies, University of Birmingham, 2006.

Beuker, Brechtje. *Stage of Destruction: Performing Violence in Postdramatic Theater*. University of Minnesota, 2007.

Bicknell, Helen. *European Works Councils*. Institute of German Studies, University of Birmingham, 2006.

Creech, Jennifer. *Woman as Socialist Subject: East German "Frauenfilme" 1965 and Beyond*. University of Minnesota, 2006.

Dichter, Heather L. *Sporting Democracy: The Western Allies' Reconstruction of Germany Through Sport, 1944-1952*. University of Toronto, 2008.

This dissertation examines how the western Allies used sport to rebuild Germany during the occupation and early years of the Federal Republic. The Allies believed that sport before 1945 helped define Germanness through demonstrations of militarism and

hyper-masculinity. Directive 23 on the Limitation and Demilitarization of Sport imposed Allied goals from the Potsdam Declaration on sport. Sport became an effective instrument of public diplomacy as the western Allies fostered a transformation of German sport by encouraging international competition. The debate over the structural organization of sport provided Germans with an opportunity to demonstrate adoption of democratic ideals to gain autonomy. Sport's internationalism helped Germany regain

international standing because international sport federations lay outside state control. Allied efforts to dissociate sport and politics instead created the conditions for sport's importance during the Cold War, making the use of sport to democratize West Germany an ironic continuation of sport's politicization in Germany.

Diggs, Cerue Kesso. *Brazil after Humboldt: Triangular Perceptions and the Colonial Gaze in Nineteenth-Century German Travel Narratives*. University of Maryland, College Park, Dept. of Germanic Studies, 2008.

This project is a study of nine German travel narratives on Brazil written between 1803 and 1899. It examines their contribution to the discourses on German national identity in the nineteenth century. Famous explorer Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1834) influenced travelers to explore Brazil. Their accounts are read from new historicist and post/colonial perspectives. Katrin Sieg's concept of *triangular thinking* and Susanne Zantop's idea of *colonial fantasies* frame this investigation.

These narratives construct a fluid German identity in response to diverse "Others" encountered in colonial Brazil. German travelers created nationalistic fantasies in their narratives by identifying alternately with colonizers and with colonized subjects. While adding to the area of travel literature, this investigation contributes significantly to the field of German Cultural Studies by its approach to relatively unknown German travel texts. These diaries bare witness to specific historical events, and provide a comparative view of nationalism in nineteenth-century Germany and Brazil.

Dubenion-Smith, Shannon. *Verbal Complex Phenomena in the West Central German Dialects*. Dept. of German. University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2007.

Eichmanns, Gabriele. *Wieviel Heimat vertragen die Deutschen? Eine Neubewertung des Heimatbegriffs im Zeitalter der Globalisierung*. University of Washington, Seattle, 2008.

In my dissertation, I argue that the current German discourse on Heimat, up until now a merely national discourse on an allegedly purely German topic, can only be viewed and examined with regard to recent theories on nation and globalization. In the wake of Germany's reunification the significance of Heimat underwent critical changes caused by the emergence of a newly united German nation as well as by the growing importance of a burgeoning global market. I posit that the concept of Heimat as an exclusively German discourse needs to be re-evaluated in an age where the local and the global are inseparably intertwined. Thus, scholarship must be informed by and engage with a more extensive cross-disciplinary approach in order to arrive at an accurate picture of Heimat in the 21st century.

Eriksson, Erik. *"WALLRAFFEN" Zur Geschichte eines literarischen Genres – im internationalen Vergleich*. Dept. of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison
2006.

Fleming-Froy, Marion. *Problems of Reorientation: German Foreign Cultural Policy in the mid-1990s*. Institute of German Studies, University of Birmingham, 2007.

Frankki, James. *Transvestism in the Middle Ages: The Venusfahrt of Ulrich Von Liechtenstein*. Dept. of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2006.

Gary, Cauleen. *Bildung and Gender in Nineteenth-Century Bourgeois Germany: A Cultural Studies Analysis of Texts by Women Writers*. University of Maryland, College Park, 2008.

My dissertation is a study of *Bildung* and gender as interrelated and essential components of nineteenth-century German bourgeois culture. Not only do I focus on how the pedagogical, philosophical, and social contexts of *Bildung* played a role in defining an individual's understanding of a gendered "self," but I also ask the vital question: If bourgeois society excluded women from the process of inner and civic *Bildung*, how did women in return view themselves as members of the *Bildungsbürgertum*? Selected literary texts by Fanny Lewald (1811-1889), Hedwig Dohm (1833-1919), Franziska Tiburtius (1843-1927), Gabriele Reuter (1859-1941), and Ricarda Huch (1864-1947) reveal that many women created new interpretations of *Bildung* that were quite different from the mainstream conception defined by the male public voice. In addition, a variety of non-literary texts from the nineteenth-century press shows how women simultaneously raised awareness of the

gender paradox in *Bildung* in conventional bourgeois culture, particularly during the nineteenth-century German bourgeois women's movement. The methodological paradigms of New Historicism and Gender Studies play a central role in my analyses of women's *Bildung* as it existed in a cultural discourse of "otherness," and how women's *Bildung* changed and shifted throughout the course of the century.

Foteva, Ana. *Fin de siècle Balkans: The Cultural Politics of Orientalist Imagination at Europe's Margin*. Purdue University, 2008.

This dissertation takes up one of the most politically fraught areas of Europe, the Balkans. Various part of the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, and Byzantine Empires, this region has always been considered Europe's border between Christian Europe and the Muslim East. A close look into the relations between the Habsburg Monarchy and the Balkans demonstrates that the simple dichotomy of Orient versus Occident is insufficient to explain the utter complexity of the region.

The historical research and the analysis of pertinent literary texts by Habsburg/Austrian and Balkan authors shows that the imagination of the Balkans can only be defined by the ambivalent term "utopian dystopia," which encompasses the utopian projections of the Austrian/Habsburg writers onto the Balkans; the dystopian presentations of the Balkans by Balkan authors as an abnormal *no-place* (*ou-topia*) which symbolizes the historical tensions of empires; and the depictions of the Balkans in the Western media as a recurring dystopia.

Franzel, Sean. *The Fiction of Dialogue: The Romantic Lecture as Literary, Scholarly, and Political Form around 1800*. Cornell University, 2008.

The dissertation analyzes how the medial, social, political, and aesthetic status of communication is conceptualized in and through the literary form of the lecture (*Vorlesung*). Through readings of Kant, Fichte, A.W. Schlegel, Schleiermacher, and Adam Mueller, the author argues that the Romantic lecture becomes a site for the expression of anxiety about as well as hope for new pedagogical institutions, social and political change, and authorship in a shifting medial landscape.

Gerlind, Marion. *Off the Road: Remapping Shoah Representations From Perspectives of Ordinary Jewish Women*. University of Minnesota, 2005.

Guenther-Pal, Alison. *Projecting Deviance/Seeing Queerly: Homosexual Representation and Queer Spectatorship in 1950s West Germany*. University of Minnesota, 2007.

Hall, Mirko. *'Mit den Ohren denken': A Critical Theory of Dialectical Listening*. University of Minnesota, 2006.

Hawksley, Jennie. *Deutschlandbilder: Images of Germany and the Problem of Cultural Unification*. Institute of German Studies, University of Birmingham, 2006.

Herten, Stephan. *Essays in Liquidity Theory*. Institute of German Studies, University of Birmingham, 2006.

Hirt, Katherine. *When Machines Play Chopin: Musical Instruments and the Spirit of Musical Performance in Nineteenth-Century German Literature*. University of Washington, Seattle, 2008.

This dissertation examines the complex meaning of the term “mechanical music” in prose writings by E.T.A. Hoffmann, Heinrich Heine, and Rainer Maria Rilke. In response to Kant’s *Kritik der Urteilskraft*, early Romantics tried to separate the mechanical from the sublime in the creation of art. Instrumental music becomes a true autonomous art in its separation from language and rhetoric. However, the attempt to call instrumental music “sublime” renders the term “mechanical music” ambiguous as an aesthetic judgment of performance. New instruments such as the *pianoforte* as well as automated musical instruments influence the rise of virtuosity and by the end of the nineteenth century, the impossibility of performance. The very aesthetic that sought to reconnect humanity to nature places the sublime perfection of the original sound of nature in the machine that exists only as a potential of the imagination in the text.

Hoyer, Jennifer. *‘The Space of Words’: Diaspora and Exile in the Work of Nelly Sachs*. University of Minnesota, 2007.

Iber, Walter Martin. *Die Sowjetische Mineralölverwaltung (SMV) in Österreich 1945-1955. Sowjetische Besatzungswirtschaft und der Kampf ums Öl als Vorgeschichte der OMV*. Karl Franzens-Universität Graz, Institut für Geschichte, 2008.

Nach dem Potsdamer Abkommen 1945 nahm die Sowjetunion das "Deutsche Eigentum" in ihren Besitz. Aus dieser Masse gründete sie u. a. die SMV, die in Österreich in den folgenden zehn Jahren rund 18 Millionen Tonnen Rohöl als "Reparationsleistung" förderte.

Illuzzi, Jennifer G. *“The Bastards of Humanity:” State Authorities’ Interactions with Gypsy Populations in Germany and Italy, 1861-1914*. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2008.

From the period of 1861-1914, in both Germany and Italy, Gypsies became the “bastards of humanity” Mazzini wrote about in *The Duties of Man*. Gypsies’ interactions with state authorities exposed a weakness in the liberal universalist norms of

the *Rechtsstaat*, which was only exacerbated by the nationalizing project underway in both Germany and Italy. By denying them the benefits of national belonging, executive authorities placed Gypsies outside of the juridical order, in a “state of exception” approximating the situation of the homo sacer described by Giorgio Agamben. I argue that the police, executive authorities on all levels of the state, and the judiciary in Italy and Germany participated in positioning Gypsies outside of the juridical order before WWI. The interaction between state authorities and Gypsies reveals the disturbing ease with which executive authorities could violate the norms of the *Rechtsstaat* in pursuit of a more homogeneous national body.

Jaggard, Lyn. *Germany's International Relations of Climate Change*. Institute of German Studies, University of Birmingham, 2005.

Jarosinski, Eric. *The Rhetoric of Transparency in the New Berlin: A Critical Genealogy (Adorno, Benjamin, Kracauer)*. Dept. of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2005.

Jenkins, Jennifer Lynne. *Die Legitimität der Literatur. Metaliterarische Reflexion in Hermann Brochs 'Der Tod des Vergil und Peter Weiss' Die Ästhetik des Widerstands*. Dept. of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2008.

This dissertation examines how Hermann Broch and Peter Weiss treat the question of the legitimacy of literature. It presents an analysis of metaliterary reflections – contemplations on literature conveyed through literature – in Broch’s *Der Tod des Vergil (The Death of Virgil)* (1945) and Weiss’s *Die Ästhetik des Widerstands (The Aesthetics of Resistance)* (1975-1981) and examines theoretical and personal positions articulated in these authors’ non-fiction works, notes and correspondence. The legitimacy question functions as much as a foundation for literature in the twentieth century as it simultaneously challenges it. What *Der Tod des Vergil* and *Die Ästhetik des Widerstands* offer is a literary investigation into the question as to literature’s own legitimacy as a means to access fundamental knowledge about reality.

Karlsson, Helena. *Toward a Multiculturalism for the 21st Century: German and Scandinavian Literary Perspectives, 1990-2005*. University of Minnesota, 2008.

King, James M. *For Self and Others: Bildung in the Life and Thought of Hannah Arendt*. University of Texas at Dallas, 2008.

Arendt can be understood more holistically than what much of present scholarship allows, and this is done by grasping the thread of *Bildung* that pervades her life and work. This investigation, furthermore, moves beyond her notion of plurality and into something this concept cannot provide: a theory of formation. At the heart of Arendt’s life and thought is a relationship between self-formation and the care of

others. These notions are inseparable and lead to other points of penetration into her thought, points most closely associated with education.

In brief, historical and theoretical connections are made among Wilhelm von Humboldt's notion of *Bildung*, Arendt's interpretation of J. G. Herder's *Bildung*, and Arendt's life and thought. *Bildung* is then shown to be vital to Arendt's work on education, a source her other conceptions must acknowledge. To a theorist of freedom and beginnings, the correct education was crucial.

Knapp, Thyra E. *„Ja, Ihr Seid Gemalt“: Ekphrasis and the Outsider in Three Postmodern German Novels*. Dept. of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2008.

With a long and varied history anchored in the interrelatedness of literature and the visual arts, ekphrasis is analyzed for the first time here as a literary device well-suited to the experience of the outsider. Anne Duden's *Das Judasschaf* (1985), Christoph Geiser's *Das geheime Fieber* (1987), and Gert Hofmann's *Der Blindensturz* (1985) feature protagonist-narrators who mediate their lives on the margins by identifying their conditions reflected in paintings, and then narrating what they find there. Only through the verbal expression of their reflections in visual art do these characters find points of identification; only in the gap between two disparate sign systems are they able to replace the impotence of the silent scream with the power of an ekphrastic voice.

Lacroix, Chantal. *National Integration in Germany and the United Kingdom: Exploring the Links with Immigrant Literature*. Institute of German Studies, University of Birmingham, 2007.

Lange, Matthew. *Antisemitic Anticapitalism in German Culture from 1850-1933*. Dept. of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2005.

Lisner, Wiebke. „Hüterinnen der Nation“ *Hebammen im Nationalsozialismus*. Leibniz Universität Hannover, Historisches Seminar, 2004/05.

Im Nationalsozialismus wurde der Hebammenberuf analog zur Neuordnung und Politisierung des Gesundheitswesens aufgewertet. Gestärkt wurden niedergelassene Hausgeburtsh Hebammen entgegen dem steigenden Trend zur Klinikentbindung. Statusgewinn und Aufwertung waren mit einer Politisierung und Einbindung des Berufes in die Umsetzung der nationalsozialistischen Bevölkerungspolitik verbunden. Als „Hüterinnen der Nation“ sollten Hebammen ihr Handeln nicht mehr nach den Bedürfnissen von Mutter und Kind ausrichten, sondern nach denen des nationalsozialistischen „Volkskörpers.“ Die Logik der Sozialrationalisierung und Leistungssteigerung bestimmte zunehmend die Hebammengeburtshilfe. Die Kehrseite war eine engmaschigere staatliche Kontrolle sowie der Verlust von Traditionen und Bräuchen. Erreicht wurde hierdurch eine zunehmende Identifikation der Hebammen mit dem Staat. Die anhand des regionalen Beispiels Lippe

untersuchte lebensweltliche Nähe zwischen Hebamme und Bevölkerung erschwerte jedoch den staatlichen Zugriff.

Lucht, Felicia. *Language Variation in a German-American Community: A Diachronic Study of the Spectrum of Language Use in Lebanon, Wisconsin*. Dept of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2007.

Martinson, Kirk. *Emerging Syntax in Early Second Language Learners: Cross-Linguistic Influence in Early German Immersion Students*. Dept. of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2007.

McKoy, Christopher A., *The Politics of Extremity and the Limits of Anti-Liberal Formalism: An Analysis of Carl Schmitt's The Concept of the Political and Political Theology*. University of California, Santa Barbara (Department of Political Science, 2008).

The Concept of the Political and *Political Theology* have increasingly become Carl Schmitt's most fiercely debated books. This dissertation offers a reading of these texts based on a new interpretation of Schmitt's Weimar political thought as a 'politics of extremity' that results in an anti-liberalism whose formalism is its distinguishing feature. Schmitt's focus on the extreme situation – the exception, the decision, friend-enemy hostilities – led to an authoritarian solution to the political question. Yet it is precisely the inability to specify a priori the parameters of the extreme situation that brings forth his anti-liberal formalism. Schmitt's political concepts are characterized by not requiring specific content. He provides concepts that are formal, open, and universalizable, concepts that are in effect anti-liberal mirror images of the liberal concepts he opposes. Schmitt thereby advances a unique kind of formalism that competes with the formalism of liberalism and whose *raison d'être* is its negation.

Miskimmon, Alister. *Germany and the Common Foreign and Security Policy in the European Union – between Europeanisation and National Singularities*. Institute of German Studies, University of Birmingham, 2005.

Moore, Carolyn. *Between Diplomacy and Interest Representation: Regional Representations in the EU. A German-British Comparison*. Institute of German Studies, University of Birmingham, 2005.

Morandi, Rita. *Contact-induced Language Change and its Socio-historical Correlates: The Case of Cimbrian in Luserna, Italy*. Dept. of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2007.

Moyrer, Monika. *Unheimisch in Deutschland. Fragmentation, Collage, and Performative Aesthetics in Herta Müller's Writings*. University of Minnesota, 2007.

Pakis, Valentine A. *Studies in Early Germanic Biblical Literature: Medieval Rewritings, Medieval Receptions, and Modern Interpretations*. University of Minnesota, 2008.

This dissertation examines the reception of the New Testament in the Germanic Middle Ages and the reception of medieval Germanic biblical literature in the history of scholarship. Close readings of Germanic translations of the New Testament demonstrate 1) how the latter was rewritten according to Germanic conceptions of gender, honor, and wellness; 2) how patristic influences explain cruces in Germanic biblical texts; and 3) how Arianism has left traces in the Gothic Bible. Studies of modern scholarship reveal ideological motivations behind source studies and anxieties over the literary status of early Germanic biblical poetry.

Parvulescu, Constantin. *After the Revolution: The Individualist Anarchist Journal 'Der Einzige' and the Making of the Radical Left in the Early Post-World War I Germany*. University of Minnesota, 2006.

Pearce, Caroline. *The Legacy of the National Socialist Past in the Political Culture of the Berlin Republic, 1998-2003*. Institute of German Studies, University of Birmingham, 2005.

An analysis of debates and controversies engendered by different communities of memory.

Peck, Jason. *'From the Transcendental to the Particular': German-Jewish Philosophy in the Late Eighteenth Century*. University of Minnesota, 2006.

Petrescu, Corina. *"Allen Gewalten zum Trutz sich erhalten": Models of Subversive Spaces in National Socialist Germany*. Dept. of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2006.

This dissertation concentrates on an analysis of public spheres in National Socialist Germany in order to identify, locate, and investigate circumstances of possible resistance to Adolf Hitler's regime. It focuses on the space of the crypto-public – defined as a politicized private sphere, as a potential sphere for anti-state activism. Based on the activities of four organizations operating in Germany between 1933 and 1944 – the Jewish Cultural Association Berlin (Jüdischer Kulturbund Berlin), the Kreisau Circle (Kreisauer Kreis), the White Rose (Weiße Rose) and the Schulze-Boysen/Harnack Organization (Schulze-Boysen/Harnack Organisation) – the analysis shows how this social locus functioned to foster resistance to National Socialism. Use of the verb "resist" favors the meaning to withstand, as the merit of these organizations lies in their efforts at preserving, on an unofficial basis, a form of existence threatened by the National Socialist regime.

Pfrehm, James. *An Empirical Study of the Pluricentricity of German: Comparing German and Austrian Nationals' Perceptions of the Use, Pleasantness, and Standardness of Austrian Standard and German Standard Lexical Items*. Dept. of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2007.

Phelps, Nicole. *Sovereignty, Citizenship, and the New Liberal Order: US-Habsburg Relations and the Transformation of International Politics, 1880-1924*. University of Minnesota, 2008.

My dissertation traces the 19th-century roots of the violence-prone 20th-century international system. I argue that what a government had to do to be recognized as sovereign by other governments changed fundamentally in the wake of World War I. In the 19th century, governments were considered legitimate if they complied with diplomatic norms, but in the post-1919 Liberal Order, sovereignty was based on internal characteristics: states were supposed to strive to possess a democratic government, a racially homogeneous population, and a capitalist economy. The factors driving the change played out in relations between the two most famously diverse states of the 19th century: the United States and the Habsburg Empire. Ironically, it was Habsburg leaders who pushed to maintain a diverse population through the rule of law and individual rights, while American leaders advocated the creation of racially homogeneous states. The ideal of sovereignty encapsulated in the Liberal Order is at the heart of 20th-century violence.

Probst, Christopher. *Protestant Responses to Martin Luther's 'Judenschriften' in Germany, 1929-1945*. Royal Holloway, University of London, 2008.

This dissertation examines Protestant responses to Martin Luther's writings about Jews and Judaism in Germany from 1929-1945. It demonstrates that a significant minority of pastors, bishops, and theologians of varying theological and church-political affiliations, stages in life, and geographical regions in late Weimar and Nazi Germany utilized Luther's 'Judenschriften' with considerable effectiveness to reinforce the antisemitism and anti-Judaism already present in significant degrees among German Protestants. Applying one facet of Gavin Langmuir's approach to the study of history, religion, and antisemitism, I show that irrational and 'nonrational' (or, symbolic) modes of thinking were intertwined both in Luther's writings and in those of his theological descendants in late Weimar and Nazi Germany.

Raham, Rebecca. *Reading & Revising the Topography of German Culture: Christa Reining on Gender and Sexuality*. University of Minnesota, 2005.

Reuter, Bernard. *Questions of Assimilation within the Reception of Victor Klemperer's Autobiographical texts in Post-Wall Germany*. University of Minnesota, 2007.

Riegert, Leo. *Negotiating the German-Jewish: The Uncomfortable Writing of Karl Emil Franzos*. University of Minnesota, 2005.

Rode, Jan C. *Willi Daume und die Entwicklung des Sports in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1945-1970*. Universität Hannover, 2008.

Willi Daume ist vielen Zeitgenossen als Organisator der Olympischen Spiele 1972 in München oder als langjähriger Präsident des Nationalen Olympischen Komitees bekannt. Wenige wissen jedoch, dass der 1913 geborene Unternehmer ein Multi-Funktionär war und die Geschichte des deutschen Sports nach 1945 entscheidend prägte. Die am Historischen Seminar und am Institut für Sportwissenschaft der Leibniz-Universität Hannover entstandene Dissertation blickt zudem auch auf Daumes Anfänge als Olympia-Teilnehmer 1936 und als Sportfunktionär im Nationalsozialismus. Weitere Aspekte sind die von ihm forcierte Inkorporation NS-belasteter Funktionäre beim Neuaufbau des Sports sowie die Instrumentalisierung des Ost-West-Konflikts für die Finanzierung des westdeutschen Spitzensports und seiner Organisationen.

Rosenfeld, Alan. *Captive to Freedom: Urban Guerrillas and the West German State in the 1970s*. University of California, Irvine, 2008.

This project investigates both official and public reactions to the spate of anti-state violence carried out by leftwing extremists in West Germany throughout the 1970s. Although militant organizations such as the Rote Armee Fraktion (Red Army Faction, or RAF) grossly underestimated the willingness of the general public to tolerate violence as a legitimate political means, and thus failed to incite class revolution in West Germany, their actions sparked a proliferation of discourses on the nature of democracy and state power. This study examines the ways in which urban guerilla violence threatened the governability of a nation endeavoring to establish a democratic order defined explicitly in contrast to its communist neighbor, and liberated from the burdens of its own Nazi past.

Ruppert, Bryan. *The Origins of Germany's Post-1945 Commitment to European Integration and International Law*. Institute of German Studies, University of Birmingham, 2005.

Schlosser, Nicholas J. *The Berlin Radio War: Broadcasting in Cold War Berlin and the Shaping of Political Culture in Divided Germany, 1945-1961*. University of Maryland, 2008.

This dissertation explores how German radio journalists shaped political culture in the two postwar Germanys. Specifically, it examines the development of broadcast news reporting in Berlin during the first sixteen years of the Cold War, focusing on the reporters attached to the American sponsored station Radio in the American Sector Berlin (RIAS Berlin) and the radio stations of the German Democratic Republic. During this period, radio stations on both sides of the Iron Curtain waged a media

war in which they fought to define the major events of the early Cold War. The tension between objectivity and partisanship in both East and West Berlin came to define this radio war. Radio stations constantly negotiated this tension in an attempt to encourage listeners to adopt a specific political worldview and forge a bond between broadcaster and listener. Whereas East German broadcasters ultimately eschewed objectivity in favor of partisan news reporting defined by Marxist-Leninist ideology, RIAS attempted to combine factual reporting with concerted efforts to undermine the legitimacy of the German Democratic Republic.

Schumacher, Uwe. *Literarische Imagination und soziologische Zeitdiagnose im wiedervereinigten Deutschland. Untersuchungen zur Funktion von ›Welthaltigkeit‹ im deutschsprachigen Gegenwartsroman am Beispiel von Ingo Schulzes Simple Storys*. University of Pittsburgh, 2008.

This dissertation revitalizes the sociological approach to literature in the light of the ‘cultural turn’ in sociology represented by Pierre Bourdieu, Ulrich Beck, Gerhard Schulze and others – and demonstrates its potential for contemporary German-language literature. Advocating the decisive role of the social functions of cultural products, my investigation exposes the literary representation of the transforming East-German society after reunification in Ingo Schulze’s novel *Simple Storys* to a comparison with the sociological diagnosis of it. Without subjugating the novel to external, non-literary criteria, it demonstrates the specific features of the literary “grip on reality” as opposed to the scientific one and relates them to the competition with the mass media. The social function of contemporary literature-as-art that emerges is to provide new subjective experiences with the potential to change cultural patterns and modes of experience – thus keeping personal identities flexible enough to adjust to an ever-changing social environment.

Sheffer, Edith. *Burned Bridge: How East and West Germans Made the Iron Curtain*. University of California, Berkeley, 2008.

This dissertation explores the creation of the Iron Curtain between two adjacent cities, Sonneberg and Neustadt bei Coburg. The startling extent to which townspeople participated in their own partition challenges several tenets of the Cold War: that the Iron Curtain was unilaterally imposed by Soviet and East German leadership upon a unified, resistant populace, that the West wholly opposed it, and that it was thus a product, not a producer, of East-West divergence. Rather, surprising events at the border suggest how it was constructed dynamically by local, state, and global interests, an axis of anxiety that assumed a life of its own. While devised in Moscow and Washington, Berlin and Bonn, the Iron Curtain was shaped and enforced by the residents who lived along it – victims who became its willing and unwilling wardens. The Iron Curtain was more porous than it appeared, yet ordinary people perceived less freedom than actually existed. As this mental boundary reinforced the physical border, frontier citizens helped construct their own captivity. Belief in the Iron Curtain solidified the Iron Curtain—which is why it was so quick to build, as well as so quick to fall down. Division was, indeed, a “wall in the head.”

Shen, Qinna. *From Jacob Grimm to GDR-Witches: Feminist Witchcraft and Magical Realism in East German Women's Writing*. Yale University, 2008.

The dissertation examines the witch as a feminist identification figure in East German women's writing against a background of nineteenth-century attempts to reposition the witch as a subversive figure and the feminist reappropriation of the witch taking place concurrently in second wave Western feminism. The witch is both the fictive character created by individual writers, and their own self-designation; in the latter case, writing is presented as a form of witchcraft.

The dissertation analyzes the GDR women writers' use of the witch within the theoretical frameworks of socialist feminism and magical realism. These two concepts elucidate the ideological and the aesthetic considerations of the authors in their effort to contravene both the GDR discourse on women's equality under socialism and the socialist realist aesthetic.

Slobodian, Quinn. *Radical Empathy: The Third World and the New Left in 1960s West Germany*. New York University, 2008.

Scholars and former activists have dismissed the West German New Left's relationship to the Third World in the 1960s as misguided identification and a projection of their own revolutionary fantasies. My book project provides an alternative narrative, making two primary interventions in the historiography. I begin by exploring how concrete collaboration with African, Asian and Latin American students on West German university campuses helped catalyze and organize the activism of West German students. I direct attention to the centrality of decolonization struggles and challenge the emerging scholarly consensus that places the origins of the transnational 1960s in the United States.

Secondly, I argue that it was not guerrilla militancy—a path followed by relatively few activists—but the concept of cultural revolution that had the broadest and most enduring influence for West German leftist politics.

Somers-Wicka, Katarina. *On Cliticization in Otfrid's Evangelienbuch*. Dept. of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2007.

Spencer, Tom. *"Was ist Gott?" Representing the Divine in Friedrich Hölderlin*. UNC Chapel Hill, 2008.

I investigate the tension between religious and philosophical representations of the divine in the poet Friedrich Hölderlin and his contemporaries. While religion—especially the Judeo-Christian tradition—puts the divine partly or wholly “beyond” this world, philosophy tends to situate the divine within an immanent system, such as that of Hegelian *Geist*. While Hölderlin's poetry has a reflective form closely related to Hegelian dialectic, it also represents the divine as transcendent and therefore outside the competence of dialectic. Furthermore, Hölderlin repeatedly represents divine experience in terms of the spontaneous “event,” which points back to the biblical model of revelation rather than to a philosophical notion of

God as a universal substance (Spinoza and Hegel) or an “idea of reason” (Kant). In reading Hölderlin this way, I suggest that poetry is a form of discourse in which other historical discourses—in this case: theology and philosophy—can encounter one another without being reduced to the one or the other.

Sutton, Katie. *The Masculine Woman in Weimar Germany (1918-1933)*. University of Melbourne, Australia, 2008.

This dissertation argues that during the Weimar period, the so-called “masculinisation of woman” (Vermännlichung der Frau) was central to representations of the changing female ideal. Drawing on recent queer and gender theory, the study focuses on representations of the masculine woman in the print media, popular literature and cinema from 1918-1933, tracing her rise to media prominence in the early 1920s through to the beginning of the Nazi era, and considering questions of race, class, sexuality and geography. In particular, it seeks to redress the ongoing marginalization of sexual minorities within much research into interwar German cultural history, through the analysis of magazines and other texts produced within Berlin’s female homosexual subculture.

Taylor, Michael. *Moving Bodies: Poetic Theatricality in the Late Enlightenment*. Princeton University, 2007.

Examining theater, literature, visual art, and philosophy from Germany and France, the dissertation investigates ideals of authentic, autonomous selfhood central to the Enlightenment. It argues that these ideals give rise to paradoxical structures of theatricality, in which the body becomes most meaningful as a sign for the inner truth of the soul when it silences the subject’s voice. The body stages a performative immediacy but thereby also acquires a significance that the dissertation elucidates as poetic. The dissertation aims to understand why this theatricality produces a tension between the voice and the body and what it means that this tension resolves in poetic language.

Wagner, Susanne M. *Der 20. Juli 1944 auf der Bühne*. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 2006.

This dissertation is concerned with the depiction of the historic events of July 20, 1944, their representation and reception in West German Theater, and analyzes the plays of Karl Michel’s *Stauffenberg* (1947), Walter Erich Schäfer’s *Die Verschwörung* (1949), Walter Löwen’s *Stauffenberg. Tragödie* (1949-1952), Peter Lotar’s *Das Bild des Menschen. Eine Geschichte unserer Zeit* (1952), Wolfgang Graetz’ *Die Verschwörer* (1965), Hans Hellmut Kirst’s *Aufstand der Offiziere* (1966), and Günther Weisenborn’s *Walküre -44* (1966). It confronts different levels of history and methods of dealing, arranging, and manipulating a historic event in literary representations, and situates the plays in the context of the popular historic drama. The seven plays, whose reception indicate societal developments in early post war Germany, are discussed in a predominately socio-political and historical context as

a contribution to the cultural memory of the German resistance to Hitler.

Wilkerson, Miranda. *(In)Variability in Accent Perception: A Comparison of Native and Non-Native Speakers of German of Varying Proficiency on What Constitutes "Nativity" of Accent in German*. Dept. of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2007.

Wongaroon, Preechayana. *Comparing Franco-German and Sino-Japanese Reconciliation*. Institute of German Studies, University of Birmingham, 2006.

Zegenhagen, Evelyn. *"Schneidige deutsche Mädels." Die ökonomische, soziale, politische und militärische Kontextualisierung deutscher Sportfliegerinnen zwischen 1918 und 1945*. Universität der Bundeswehr, München-Neubiberg, 2006.

This first comprehensive study of German women pilots is based on the biographies of about 180 women, most of them unknown so far. It reflects the women in the context of their social and cultural existence rather than as fragmented individual biographies, thus underlining the author's thesis that women pilots were more than an individual phenomenon: They existed and acted in close dependence on the conditions of their era. Instead of seeing themselves as emancipated, German women pilots ambitiously contributed to the restoration of Germany's reputation after 1918. They strove to perform record-setting flights, thus propagating German politics and propaganda before and after 1933. Their downfall commenced in the mid-1930s, when there was no need anymore to hide Germany's military ambitions. A final chapter deals with the never before studied contributions of women pilots to Germany's efforts in World War II. The dissertation was awarded the renowned *Hugo-Junkers-Preis der deutschen Luftfahrtpresse*.

Reports and Announcements

Election Results Announced

Elections recently took place for three positions on the GSA Board (formerly the Executive Committee). The Board positions are for three-year terms and will begin on 1 January 2010.

The New Board Members are:

Arts (one position):

Lutz Koepnick, Washington University in St. Louis

German Literature and Culture (one position):

Gerd Gemünden, Dartmouth College

History (two positions):

Kathleen Canning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Mary Lindemann, University of Miami

As always, the GSA is hugely grateful to all members who volunteer to be candidates for elective office and who volunteer or agree to serve on our various committees. We are a member-based and member-driven organization, and we appreciate your active and engaged support!

SDAW Prize Winner Announced

As announced previously in this newsletter and on the website, the Stiftung für Deutsch/Amerikanische Wissenschaftsbeziehungen (SDAW) has generously funded a new “SDAW/GSA Award for Best Paper by a Social Scientist within Five Years of the Doctorate.” It provides an award of €1,000 plus publication in the journal *German Politics & Society*. The award will be given every second year, beginning in 2009

The prize committee was composed of Professor Louise K. Davidson-Schmich (political science, University of Miami), chair; Professor Wade Jacoby (political science, Brigham Young University); and Professor Jonathan Wiesen (history, Southern Illinois University). The GSA is very grateful to them for the time and care that they devoted to this competition.

The first SDAW prize winner is **Dr. Katie Sutton**, University of Melbourne, Australia. Here is what the committee had to say in its *laudatio*:

The consensus of the Prize Committee is that this new award should go to Dr. Katie Sutton from the University of Melbourne in Australia for her 2008 paper “The Masculinized Female Athlete in Weimar Germany.” In this piece, the author examines the media depiction of athletic women during the Weimar Republic. She explores the varying reactions to women’s new athleticism in an era where women were also enjoying new political rights. In Sutton’s words, “the perceived threat to traditional male dominance symbolized by the female athlete ... prompted some commentators to denounce women’s physical activity and overemphasize traditional gender roles. ... At the same time I ... point to ways in which less conservative commentators held up women’s growing physical fitness as a positive sign of progress and modernity,” especially within the female homosexual subculture of interwar Berlin.

Sutton’s arguments are richly illustrated with examples from Weimar-era periodicals. She concludes with evidence from the early Nazi era revealing that the “masculinized female athlete” remained in the media of this period as well. Indeed, some aspects of the Weimar-era media’s treatment of female athletes are evident in sports coverage today.

Committee members from both political science and history were impressed with Sutton’s work. One member described the piece as “fascinating and rich in analysis,” and commends the author for moving beyond the familiar focus on “the new woman” to illuminate how post-World War I concerns about sexuality, motherhood, population decline, and the physical health of the nation crystallized around the female athlete.

Another member commented, “This engaging article makes a clear and original contribution to our understanding of athletics and society in Weimar Germany.”

The GSA congratulates Dr. Sutton for winning the first SDAW Prize!

Issues and Discussions in German Studies

[The GSA is greatly concerned about the threats posed to German programs around the country, and wishes to serve as a forum for discussion of how to preserve and expand programs in German and German Studies. Among other things, we are maintaining a threaded website discussion forum on “German Programs at Risk. All GSA members are invited to participate. – The following article, by GSA Vice President Stephen Brockmann, originally appeared in The Chronicle of Higher Education 55, no. 26 (6 March 2009): A 33. It is reprinted with permission. We welcome and encourage responses.]

The Study of Foreign Languages Should Not Be a Zero-Sum Game

Stephen Brockmann

Last April, the University of Southern California announced plans to eliminate its German department, stating that it wanted to shift resources away from European languages to Asian languages like Chinese and Japanese. The decision was made in view of the growing importance of Asia for the American economy generally and the economy in Los Angeles specifically.

That move, and others like it, has sparked a debate about the relative importance of learning European languages like French, German, and Italian. But much of that debate is governed by false assumptions about the process of globalization, the nature of language learning, and the role of the humanities in higher education.

Moves to eliminate the study of one or more languages in order to shift support to the study of other languages proceed from the assumption that there is a stable, limited, and sufficient amount of money already available for language study. In other words, college administrators seem to assume that global shifts in economic power call for changes in the distribution of their budget for the study of foreign languages and cultures, rather than an increase to that budget as a whole. That misconception, in turn, suggests that administrators see the much-vaunted globalization of the world's economy as a process by which particular countries and regions become more important, while other countries and regions become less important—but in which the importance of foreign countries to our economy remains constant and stable.

But that is precisely what globalization is not. Globalization, which has accelerated over the last two decades, is a process by which the health of any nation's individual economy becomes increasingly dependent on international trade. Today few economies remain self-sufficient, and many are dependent on trade not with one or two other countries, but with a vast network of interconnected economies. Countries like the United States that could once rely on domestic trade for economic growth must now look abroad.

One of the few bright spots in the American economy in the past few years was that the United States was selling more goods and services to the rest of the world (largely thanks to a weak dollar), especially to the well-off economies of Europe. That

success partially—although by no means completely—offset the decline in demand at home. Given the economy’s deterioration in recent months, sales to the rest of the world have become even more important.

The rise of globalization suggests that the United States needs to radically increase the study of foreign languages and cultures, not just shift resources from the study of some languages or regions to others. Precisely the opposite has occurred over the past several decades. In 1960, 16.1 percent of American college students studied foreign languages; in 2002 only 8.6 percent did, according to a recent MLA report.

Although foreign-language study has become somewhat more popular in recent years, its overall decline remains striking. During the most intensive period of globalization, our country’s investment in understanding other countries at the postsecondary level has decreased. Yet almost all students in the countries with the world’s most-successful economies—including China and India—study foreign languages and cultures at some point. It is hard to escape the conclusion that the extensive study of foreign languages is positively correlated with economic and political power.

One reason for the decline of foreign-language study in America is probably the lingering, albeit often unacknowledged, belief that globalization will ultimately lead to a world in which everyone—or everyone who matters—speaks English. The assumption, implicit or explicit, is that as the world becomes ever more closely connected, English will become so dominant that it will be unnecessary for native speakers of English to learn other languages.

There is some truth to the idea that English is now the lingua franca for international business and science. But that may not always be the case, and, moreover, it is probably not a good idea for Americans to assume that a world in which most people understand their language, but they don’t understand other peoples’ languages, will be a safe or a happy one for our nation. A country that merely wants to buy goods and services from other countries, thus accumulating a huge trade deficit, may be able to rely on others’ willingness to speak its language. But a country that wants to sell goods and services must learn the languages and cultures of its prospective customers.

It is highly likely that if the United States were to invest more money in understanding foreign languages and cultures, it would be more successful in marketing its goods and services (and its political policies) abroad. In other words, it is not implausible that the chronic U.S. trade deficit, as well as America’s lessened prestige abroad, may be connected to our chronic deficit in knowledge of the rest of the world.

As a professor of German, I have my own investment in the study of European languages and cultures. But even if only for economic reasons, the United States cannot afford to forget Europe, whose combined economy rivals that of the United States and eclipses that of China or India. Moreover, West Europeans have, on average, a significantly higher standard of living and much more disposable income than citizens of most other countries and are therefore highly attractive as potential consumers of American goods and services.

Strong pedagogical reasons, too, call for continued support of European languages in American higher education. English is itself a European language, and therefore it is considerably easier for native speakers of English to learn languages like French, German, Italian, and Spanish than Chinese or Japanese. Promoters of the serious study of foreign languages in the United States would therefore do well

to recommend that native English speakers wanting to learn an Asian language first study a European language. Any task of great difficulty is best undertaken in stages. Experience and common sense suggest that native English speakers who start their language study with the most difficult languages are far more likely to give up than those who begin with somewhat less difficult languages. One result of a turn from European to Asian languages is likely to be even less foreign-language fluency than there is now—hardly a desirable outcome. The fact is that American college students should study both European and Asian languages. We need to get away from either/or thinking.

I want to make three other points about European languages and cultures. The first and most important is that studying them is crucial to understanding the world as it exists today, which has been largely formed by Europe. When I say this I am sometimes accused of taking a Eurocentric view, but most literate people would probably agree that the world we live in today was shaped, for better or worse, by Europe. Countries like Japan and China have become economically and politically successful over the past century primarily by carefully studying European history and practices. For example, during Japan's Meiji Restoration—a period from 1868 to 1912 when the country's economic and military status rose to the level of European powers—Japanese leaders emulated Europe's policies from the Industrial Revolution. It is hard to overestimate the impact of Europe's example on the rest of the world.

Another consideration is the relationship between Europe and America. In 1996 the political scientist Samuel P. Huntington published a controversial but important book called *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*; in which he suggested that the world consists of eight primary cultures, the most important being that of the West, broadly conceived—i.e., the culture of Western Europe and the United States.

That distinction was sometimes simplified in popular understanding as “the West against the rest,” although in fact Huntington's arguments were considerably more nuanced and complex. But one does not need to agree with every point in his book to understand that the cultures of Europe and the culture of the United States have a mutual affinity. Not only did much of American culture emerge out of European cultures, but contemporary Europe consists of stable, prosperous, democratic countries that are strategically and politically allied with the United States, in spite of disagreements over points of policy, such as those that followed America's ill-advised invasion of Iraq. For that reason, an affiliation with Europe continues to be crucial to the United States, and to individual Americans.

Finally, we should not underestimate the importance of ethnic heritage for individual language learners. Although the country's demographic profile is changing, most Americans are of European descent. For reasons of ethnic pride and family heritage, many students choose to study languages spoken in the parts of the world their ancestors came from. There is nothing wrong with that; within limits, it is probably a good thing for Americans to be aware of, and take cautious pride in, their ethnic heritage, as long as such pride is not carried so far that it results in the denigration of other cultures and heritages. Among other things, it helps them to understand that American culture and its worldwide successes are the result of contributions from many different languages and cultures.

At the moment, Americans are understandably focused on our own problems. But those problems have arisen, in large part, because of our failure to understand the rest of the world. We need to encourage all college students to study foreign

languages and culture, and we need to increase budgets for foreign-language departments, not just shift limited funds from one language to another. We can no longer afford ignorance.

The GSA and Related/Affiliated Organizations

[In this issue the GSA Newsletter continues its regular feature on associations, societies, and centers of scholarly research with which it is officially affiliated or informally engaged, or which will be of particular interest to our members. With the thirty-third conference of the GSA taking place in Washington, D. C., it is appropriate that this issue highlights the German Historical Institute Washington DC. The author, Richard F. Wetzell, is Research Fellow and Editor at the GHI.]

The German Historical Institute Washington DC

Richard F. Wetzell

Mission

The German Historical Institute (GHI) Washington DC is an internationally recognized center for advanced study. It serves as a transatlantic bridge connecting American and European scholars and seeks to make their research accessible to decision-makers in politics, society, and economy as well as the general public. While the Institute is particularly dedicated to fostering the study of German history in North America and of American history in Germany, its research and conferences range beyond German and American history to encompass comparative, international and global history as well as research in the fields of economics, sociology and political science. The GHI is especially committed to promoting international scholarly exchange and collaboration by bringing together European and North American scholars as well as academics from other parts of the world in its conferences and research projects.

The GHI was established in 1987 as an independent non-profit foundation. Since 2002 it has been part of the Stiftung Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland (DGIA – Foundation for German Humanities Institutes Abroad), a public-law foundation funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, which coordinates an international network of humanities institutes in Rome (established in 1888), Paris (1958 and 1997), Beirut (1961), London (1976), Tokyo (1988), Warsaw (1993), Moscow (2005) and Istanbul (2009). While the GHI's basic operating budget comes from the DGIA, special programs and initiatives are funded by grants from German and American foundations.

To promote its mission, the German Historical Institute

- conducts advanced historical research
- maintains a research library
- organizes international scholarly conferences
- organizes seminars for junior scholars
- awards doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships
- offers public lectures
- publishes a journal and several book series

Research

The German Historical Institute conducts historical and interdisciplinary research covering a broad geographic, methodological, and thematic spectrum. Ranging well beyond German history, the GHI's research agenda is international and includes American history as well as comparative and transnational history. The Institute's research projects also represent the remarkable diversity of approaches that has come to characterize the field of history in recent decades – including political, economic, social, cultural, gender, environmental and legal history as well as the history of science.

The research projects of GHI research fellows in the fields of transnational and comparative history range from a study of terrorism in Europe and the U.S. to a history of postwar West German and American development policies to global histories of commodities and consumer products. Current and recent GHI projects in American history include a cultural history of air travel in postwar America and a study of the transformation of American evangelicalism in the twentieth century. Research in German history ranges from a history of consumption in Nazi Germany to a history of German criminal justice.

GHI research in transnational and comparative history includes two major collaborative research projects:

– *Immigrant Entrepreneurship: The German-American Business Biography, 1770 to the present*

This research project will shed new light on the entrepreneurial and economic capacity of immigrants by investigating the German-American example in the United States. German immigrants and their descendants have played a disproportionately large role in the American business community. The project will trace their lives, careers and business ventures from Colonial times to the present, integrating the history of German-American immigration into the larger narrative of U.S. economic and business history. Coordinated by a project team at the GHI, an interdisciplinary group of scholars from both sides of the Atlantic will contribute to a multi-volume biographical publication and an online platform, which will serve both as a repository for material that could not be included in the printed volumes and as a teaching tool. By synthesizing the diverse fields of business history, entrepreneurship research, migration history and German-American studies, the project will make a significant contribution to a wide array of academic disciplines and lay the groundwork for further research.

– *African Americans and Germany*

The GHI has been organizing a cluster of research projects, online resources, events, and publications related to the historical relationship between African Americans and Germany, including Afro-German History. These activities currently include a digital archive on “The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany” (www.aacvr-germany.org) as well as an online portal on the black diaspora and Germany from the early modern period until the First World

War that is in the first stages of development. Forthcoming publications in this area are *German and African American Crossovers: Two Centuries of Contact* (edited by Larry A. Greene and Anke Ortlepp), *From DuBois to Obama: The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany* (by Maria Höhn and Martin Klimke), *Blacks and Germans, German Blacks: Germany and the Black Diaspora, 1450-1914* (edited by Mischa Honeck, Martin Klimke, and Anne Kuhlmann-Smirnov). Later this year the Institute will be co-hosting a conference on “African American Civil Rights and Germany in the 20th Century” in cooperation with Vassar College.

For more information on GHI research projects, please visit :

www.ghi-dc.org/research.

Library

The GHI houses an outstanding research library. The library has a comprehensive collection of the German and English-language research literature on modern German history and German-American relations, including many titles not held at any other U.S. library. The collection encompasses about 45,000 books and more than 250 current periodicals and includes a special collection of German Americana. The library is open to the public and provides open-stack access but does not lend. Readers can search the library’s holdings through the online catalog on the GHI website at www.ghi-dc.org/library.

Conferences and Lectures

The German Historical Institute organizes a considerable number of international scholarly conferences on a wide variety of historical topics in cooperation with historians at North American and German universities and research institutions. The GHI’s website www.ghi-dc.org provides a list of upcoming conferences, current “calls for papers,” and reports on past conferences. Conference reports are also published in the *Bulletin of the GHI*.

The GHI also organizes public programs and lectures throughout the year. Some of the lectures, including the Annual Lecture, feature renowned German or North American scholars who present their research to a wider public, while other events, such as the Bucerius Lecture, feature public figures from Germany who offer “eyewitness” perspectives on contemporary German history and politics. Recent lecture series topics have included: Financial Crises: How They Changed History; New Perspectives on the Economic History of National Socialism; African Americans and Germans; The “German Autumn” of 1977: Terror, State, and Society in West Germany; Empire in German and American History; Competing Modernities: Germany and the U.S., 1890 to the present.

For the calendar of upcoming events, please check the GHI website www.ghi-dc.org/events.

Seminars for Junior Scholars

The German Historical Institute is particularly dedicated to supporting the research of promising graduate students and recent Ph.D.'s. To this end the GHI offers a variety of seminars for doctoral students and junior scholars from North America and Europe, including the following:

- Archival Summer Seminar in Germany
- Transatlantic Doctoral Seminar in German History
- Medieval History Seminar
- American Archives and American History Seminar
- Young Scholars Forum in American History

For further information and current application deadlines, please visit the GHI website at www.ghi-dc.org/seminars.

Fellowships, Internships, and Prizes

The German Historical Institute seeks to further transatlantic dialogue and exchange between German and North American academics by offering fellowships open to scholars from both sides of the Atlantic. It is particularly committed to supporting the training and the doctoral as well as postdoctoral research of junior historians through a variety of competitive fellowships, internships, and prizes, including but not limited to:

- Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Postdoctoral Fellowship in North American History
- Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in Economic History
- DGIA Travel Grants
- Internships at the GHI
- Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize
- Franz Steiner Prize
- Helmut Schmidt Prize in German-American Economic History

For further information – including eligibility criteria and application deadlines – as well as other fellowships offered, please visit www.ghi-dc.org/fellowships.

Publications

The GHI has an extensive publishing program in both English and German, which produces the *Bulletin of the GHI*, the *GHI Reference Guides*, and several book series in collaboration with major academic presses.

The GHI's highly regarded English-language book series include the *Publications of the German Historical Institute* published in collaboration with Cambridge University Press (more than 50 titles) and the *Studies in German History* series published together with Berghahn Books. The new book series *Worlds of Consumption* published in cooperation with Palgrave will start this year. The GHI also publishes the leading German-language series on U.S. and transatlantic history, *Transatlantische Historische Studien* with the Franz Steiner Verlag in Stuttgart (more than 35 titles). For a list of titles, please consult the GHI website at www.ghi-dc.org.

ghi-dc.org/books. Some backlist titles from Cambridge University Press are available for free download.

The *Bulletin of the GHI* provides a window on the GHI's research activities and scholarly programs through articles and conference reports. Once a year, a thematic issue appears as a *Bulletin Supplement*. The GHI also publishes *Reference Guides* on different topics. Recent *References Guides* have been devoted to German Jews in the United States, North American history in Europe, German Americana, and medieval history. You may sign up for a free subscription to the *Bulletin* on the GHI website at www.ghi-dc.org/publications, where *Bulletin* back issues and *Reference Guides* are also available for free downloading in pdf format.

German History in Documents and Images

German History in Documents and Images (GHDI) is an unparalleled online collection of primary source materials on German history, accessed by approximately 6,000 users daily. The collection documents German political, social, and cultural history from 1500 to the present through original German texts, all of which are accompanied by new English translations, and a wide range of images. The materials are presented in ten chronological sections, each compiled by a leading expert on the period. All of the materials can be downloaded free of charge for teaching, research, and related purposes. The GHDI project has been made possible by the generous support of the Max Kade Foundation and the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius. Please visit the collection at www.ghi-dc.org/ghdi.

Further GHI Web Resources

--*The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany* (www.aacvr-germany.org).

This research project and digital archive explores the connection between the military service of African American GIs in Germany and the advancement of civil rights in the U.S. through a comprehensive database of documents, images, videos, and oral history interviews.

--*The Nuclear Crisis: Transatlantic Peace Politics, Rearmament, and the Second Cold War* (www.nuclearcrisis.org)

This web portal and digital archive is devoted to the European and North American debates about nuclear armament during the 1970s and 1980s, combining political history with the study of protest cultures as well as discussions of nuclear death in popular culture.

--*German Studies in North America* (www.ghi-dc.org/gсна)

This directory provides a comprehensive listing of scholars based in the United States and Canada whose work touches upon Germany and the German-speaking world, including scholars from all humanities and social science disciplines.

--*North American History in Europe* (www.ghi-dc.org/nahe)

This directory provides a comprehensive survey of the field of U.S. history at universities and research institutions across Europe.

Friends of the GHI

The Friends of the German Historical Institute (FGHI) was founded in 1991 by prominent American historians as a not-for-profit organization to support the programs of the German Historical Institute. Its officers are senior scholars who represent major professional associations such as the American Historical Association (AHA), the AHA's Conference Group for Central European History, the German Studies Association, and the Society for German-American Studies. The purpose of the Friends is to provide a link between the North American academic community and the GHI, and to help support special programs. The Friends of the GHI make possible a broad array of scholarly, educational, and public outreach programs that the GHI could not otherwise undertake. Please consider supporting the Friends with a donation. The Friends of the GHI is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, and gifts to it are tax-deductible.

What Happened? The Collapse of the Kölner Stadtarchiv in March 2009

[The collapse of the Kölner Stadtarchiv on 3 March 2009 was a calamity for the city of Cologne, for everyone in Germany, and for everyone involved with German Studies. Apart from the tragic loss of life that it entailed, the building's collapse also reminded us -- after the devastating fire in the Anna-Amalia-Bibliothek in Weimar and last year's roof fire in the Berlin Philharmonie -- of the physical fragility and vulnerability of our cultural heritage. We are publishing two reports on this catastrophe, one by Professor Rainer Hering, Director of the Landesarchiv Schleswig-Holstein and chair of the GSA Archives Committee, the other by Professor James M. Brophy of the Department of History at the University of Delaware and a veteran user of the Kölner Stadtarchiv.]

Anmerkungen zur Situation des Kölner Stadtarchivs nach dem Einsturz

Rainer Hering

Der Einsturz des Kölner Stadtarchivs am 3. März 2009 gegen 14.00 Uhr hat mit einem Schlag – zumindest für kurze Zeit – Archive in den Fokus der Öffentlichkeit gerückt. Doch der Preis ist hoch: Zwei junge Menschen aus einem Nachbarhaus wurden bei diesem Unglück getötet. Immerhin konnten alle Beschäftigten und Besuchende eines der größten und bedeutendsten kommunalen Archive Deutschlands das Gebäude noch rechtzeitig verlassen. Die bedeutende Überlieferung zur Geschichte Kölns und weit darüber hinaus, z.B. zur Hanse-Geschichte, ist jedoch massiv in Mitleidenschaft gezogen worden. Ein genauer Überblick über die Verluste und Schäden ist jetzt noch nicht möglich. Sicher ist aber, dass die Kölner Überlieferung nicht vollständig verloren ist, sondern dass sie soweit möglich gerettet wird. Von der Sicherung großer Teile der Urkundenbestände, u.a. der ältesten Urkunde aus dem Jahr 922, zahlreicher Handschriften, u.a. von Albertus Magnus, oder des Adenauer-Nachlasses, der Findmittel und der Dienstbibliothek sowie großer Teile der Foto- und Filmsammlung wurde schon in der Presse berichtet. Anfang April war bereits mehr als ein Drittel der Bestände gehoben worden (elf von dreißig Kilometer Unterlagen). Die Bergung der Archivalien aus der Unglücksstelle, die aufgrund der Einsturzgefahr von der Feuerwehr und dem Technischen Hilfswerk ausgeführt wird, schreitet zügig voran, wird noch einige Monate, das erforderliche Sortieren und Restaurieren, für das derzeit eine Möbelhalle genutzt werden kann, Jahre, wenn nicht gar Jahrzehnte dauern. Die besondere bauliche Konstruktion des Magazins führt dazu, dass sehr viel Schutt angefallen ist. Angesichts der Mengen der Archivalien ist zunächst nur eine Grobsortierung möglich, an die Feinarbeit und

ein Zusammenfügen verstreuter Akten kann jetzt noch nicht gedacht werden.

Im Folgenden kann es nicht um die Ursachen des Einsturzes, die intensiv untersucht werden, und um Verantwortlichkeiten gehen. Vielmehr sollen diese Anmerkungen den Blick auf Erfahrungen und Konsequenzen aus dem Einsturz gehen.

Zunächst einmal ist bemerkenswert, dass das Notfallsystem und die archivische Solidarität sich bewährt haben. Die Leiterinnen und Leiter der staatlichen Archivverwaltungen der Bundesrepublik haben kurz nach dem Unglück in ihrer „Coerder Erklärung“, die im Anhang abgedruckt wird, umfassende Unterstützung zugesagt. Sehr kurzfristig wurden bereits Magazinflächen, Materialien und Restaurierungskapazitäten zur Verfügung gestellt. Für die physisch und psychisch anstrengenden und aufwändigen Sortierungsarbeiten, bei denen aus dem abtransportierten Schutt die Archivunterlagen geborgen werden, haben sich aus der gesamten Bundesrepublik Restauratorinnen und Restauratoren sowie Archivarinnen und Archiviare zum freiwilligen Einsatz bereit gefunden. Dadurch ist es möglich, in einem Mehrschichtensystem kontinuierlich die Rettung der Unterlagen voranzutreiben. Dabei wird das trockene vom feucht gewordenen Material getrennt; letzteres wird eingefroren, um es dann später restauratorisch bearbeiten zu können. Durch ein Einfrieren werden nasse Akten vor Schimmel geschützt. In der Gefriertrocknungsanlage werden die Dokumentente einem Vakuum ausgesetzt. Das Eis wird dadurch sofort gasförmig und kann abgesaugt werden.

Als Konsequenz aus dem Einsturz des Kölner Stadtarchivs gelangten die baulichen Standards der bestehenden Archive in den Blickpunkt und entsprechende Prüfungen wurden vorgenommen. Doch dies darf kein singulärer Akt bleiben: Die vorhandenen Standards für bestehende und noch zu errichtenden Archibauten müssen laufend standortbezogen auf ihre Einhaltung überprüft werden, insbesondere, wenn sich bauliche Rahmenbedingungen im Umfeld der Archive ändern.

Die Katastrophe von Köln hat die hohe Bedeutung von geeigneten Notfallplänen für die Archive verdeutlicht. Sie müssen bundesweit und flächendeckend zur Regel werden. In Minutenfrist muss ein Gebäude geräumt werden können. Regelmäßige Übungen mit Beschäftigten und Besuchenden sind ebenso erforderlich wie entsprechende Sicherheitseinrichtungen, Brandschutzmaßnahmen, Notausgänge und barrierefreie Fluchtwege. Dies sind keine überflüssigen bürokratischen Vorschriften, sondern notwendige und lebensrettende Maßnahmen. Auch Probealarme sind ernst zu nehmen!

Wichtig ist die Erkenntnis, dass die Lagerung der Archivalien in speziellen Archivkartons für ihren Erhalt auch unter so extremen Bedingungen eine wichtige Voraussetzung ist. Formiertes Papier bleibt zusammen und hält einen hohen Druck aus. Diese Erfahrung bestätigt den archivischen Grundsatz, dass nicht-formierte Unterlagen dazu verdammt sind, verloren zu gehen. Dies gilt schon für jede Registratur und erst recht für eine dauerhafte Aufbewahrung.

Herausragende Bedeutung kommt der Sicherungsverfilmung zu. Das Bundesamt für Bevölkerungsschutz und Katastrophenhilfe finanziert ein Programm zur bundesweiten Verfilmung der wichtigsten Archivalien, das seine Ursprünge in der Haager Konvention zum Schutz des Kulturgutes hat. Seit 1961 wird in 14

Werkstätten, die an staatliche Archive angegliedert sind, ausgewähltes Archivgut auf 35mm-Silberhalogenid-SW-Film verfilmt. Mittlerweile steht nicht mehr der Verteidigungsfall Pate für diese Maßnahmen, vielmehr soll nunmehr nach dem Ende des Kalten Krieges Kulturgut vor Katastrophen aller Art geschützt werden. Die Filme werden im Oberrieder Stollen bei Freiburg dauerhaft und sicher verwahrt. Dieses Verfahren ist durch eine intensive Qualitätskontrolle und gründliche Dokumentation charakterisiert.

Die jeweiligen Archive können auf eigene Kosten von den vorhandenen Aufnahme­filmen bzw. ‚Mastern‘ eine Kopie für ihre Zwecke anfertigen lassen, die separat zu lagern sind; ein Rückgriff auf den Originalfilm ist nur im Katastrophenfall möglich. Zur Koordinierung dieser Maßnahme gibt es den Fototechnischen Ausschuss der Archivreferentenkonferenz des Bundes und der Länder, in dem jede staatliche Archivverwaltung vertreten ist. Der Ausschuss setzt die technischen Standards dieser Mikroverfilmung fest, prüft Geräte für Beschaffungen, diskutiert inhaltliche Maßstäbe für die Auswahl etc. Zugleich ist er das wesentliche staatliche Gremium zur Unterstützung und Förderung der Mikrofilmtechnik als langzeitstabiles Sicherungsverfahren.

Allerdings reichen die für diese Sicherungsmaßnahme zur Verfügung gestellten finanziellen Mittel längst nicht aus, um in einer überschaubaren Zeit flächendeckend mindestens die bedeutendsten Unterlagen zu reproduzieren. Wenn auch nur ein Grundstock unserer kulturellen und juristischen Überlieferung dauerhaft erhalten werden soll, muss diese bewährte Maßnahme unbedingt massiv aufgestockt werden, um Nachhaltigkeit zu erzielen.

Die Gestaltung der Zukunft in der Gegenwart kann nur erfolgreich sein, wenn man die Geschichte kennt. Dafür ist die dauerhafte Sicherung der Quellen eine zentrale Voraussetzung. Archive sind eine zentrale, zukunftsorientierte Einrichtung, die weit über den Bereich der wissenschaftlichen Forschung hinaus für unsere Gesellschaft wichtig sind.

Wer über Kopien aus dem Kölner Stadtarchiv verfügt, sollte diese an das Archiv geben:

Historisches Archiv
 Stadthaus Deutz – Westgebäude
 Willy-Brandt-Platz 2
 50679 Köln,
 Postfach 10 35 64, 50475 Köln

Spendenkonto:

Stadt Köln, Stichwort „Severin“
 Konto: 190 319 0419
 Bankleitzahl: 370 501 98
 Sparkasse KölnBonn

Anhang:

Die Archivverwaltungen des Bundes und der Länder haben heute auf ihrer Konferenz in Münster-Coerde zum Einsturz des Kölner Stadtarchivs wie folgt Stellung genommen:

1. Die Archivverwaltungen des Bundes und der Länder sind tief betroffen über den Einsturz des Historischen Archivs der Stadt Köln und den damit verbundenen Verlust von Menschenleben. Ihr Mitgefühl gilt allen von diesem Unglück Betroffenen und ihren Angehörigen.
2. Bundesarchiv und Landesarchive bieten den Kölner Kolleginnen und Kollegen ihre solidarische Hilfe bei der unmittelbaren Sicherung und Bergung des Archivguts an. Diese Hilfe wird von Köln aus koordiniert.
3. Darüber hinaus wird zur Restaurierung des geretteten, aber beschädigten Archivguts die Hilfe aller deutschen Archive benötigt. Die Archive von Bund und Ländern werden auch hierbei Köln nach Kräften unterstützen.
4. Die Katastrophe von Köln hat die hohe Bedeutung von geeigneten Notfallplänen für die Archive verdeutlicht. Sie müssen bundesweit und flächendeckend zur Regel werden und dürfen nicht an Verwaltungsgrenzen scheitern.
5. Die Archive, deren großer Wert für die Grundlagen unseres Gemeinwesens nach der Katastrophe allen klar geworden ist, müssen künftig in der Katastrophenprävention von Staat und Gesellschaft noch stärker unterstützt werden, z.B. durch Sicherungsverfilmungen.
6. Die vorhandenen Standards für bestehende und noch zu errichtenden Archibauten müssen standortbezogen auf ihre Einhaltung überprüft werden, insbesondere, wenn sich bauliche Rahmenbedingungen im Umfeld der Archive ändern. Hierzu sind alle Archivträger aufgerufen.
7. Die Archivverwaltungen des Bundes und der Länder sind zuversichtlich, dass trotz der erheblichen Verluste das Historische Archiv der Stadt Köln eine Zukunft als Kulturinstitution von nationalem und europäischem Rang haben wird. Sie sind davon überzeugt, dass sich die Stadt Köln der Verantwortung stellen wird, das Stadtarchiv zu erhalten und wieder aufzubauen.

Münster, den 10. März 2009

Für die Archivreferentenkonferenz des Bundes und der Länder

Prof. Dr. Wilfried Reininghaus
Präsident des Landesarchivs Nordrhein-Westfalen

Cologne's Catastrophe

James M. Brophy

On March 3, 2008, as most readers of this newsletter painfully know, the Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln collapsed. The construction and tunneling of a new subway line under the archive's street caused the building to buckle and fall, an engineering debacle that has yet to be fully assessed. While the city grieves the death of two apartment residents, tends to its wounded, restores the services, schools, and residential life of the *Waidmarkt* neighborhood, and determines the culpability and political consequences of administrative negligence, the scholarly world must mourn the destruction of one of Europe's most important archives. The crushing weight of concrete, glass, and steel wreaked havoc on the archive's vast holdings, whose estimated length lies around thirty shelf kilometers. The degree of destruction is not yet certain – most of it still stands in warehouses as unsorted rubble – but the magnitude of damage from weight and water is severe. The scope of this tragedy exceeds the 50,000 books lost to the 2004 fire in Weimar's Anna-Amalia-Bibliothek tenfold. Whereas many of the library's books could be found in other collections, the archival losses were irretrievable. It is, states Dr. Schmidt-Czaia, the archive's director, Germany's greatest cultural loss since the Second World War.

The cultural worth of the archive transcends municipal and regional dimensions. With its trove spanning eight centuries, Cologne's city archive is the largest and most significant municipal archive north of the alps. It houses, for example, city council resolutions from 1320 and boasts uninterrupted council protocols since 1513. Beginning in 1367, the city amassed 221 books of correspondence, which reveal a thick network of communication among cities, princes, and lords. The archive's 65,000 vellum manuscripts include some of the earliest documents of the early medieval period. Its rich documentation of the city's churches, cathedral chapters, monasteries, and convents constitute critical sources for a wide range of historical inquiry. Similarly, its seals, legal writs, Hanseatic League materials, and other assorted documentation on the city's role as trading metropole are pre-eminent. For its European significance, Cologne's archive is comparable to the municipal holdings in Paris, Seville, London, or Lübeck.

Its holdings for the modern era are no less important. Whether looking at the French administration of the Rhine, cultural Romanticism, early industrialization, banking and finance, Rhenish liberalism, political Catholicism, democratic radicalism, early socialism, urban development, or mayoral politics, the archive's printed and hand-written materials are indispensable. Its extraordinary range of *Nachlässe* is well known: Ferdinand Wallraff, Sulpiz Boiserée, Gustav Mevissen, Ludolf Camphausen, the Bachem family, and Wilhelm Marx are just some names. Its collection on Jacques Offenbach is the largest in the world, and the more recent literary papers of Heinrich Böll, Hans Mayer, Paul Schallück, and Albrecht Fabri speak to the archive's contemporary credentials. The plans, sketches, and models

of such architects as Karl Band, Gottfried Böhm, and Wilhelm Riphahn point to dozens of other architectural *Nachlässe* whose fate remain in peril. Its one million photographs, 104,000 maps and diagrams, and 50,000 posters further constitute a trove for Rhenish, German, and European history. One wonders about the status of the placards, banners, and signs from Cologne's '68 protest scene; such materials rarely find their way to archives.

Those who used the archive extensively will attest its unique character. Not bound by the more rigid protocols of state archives, the evolution of this large municipal repository took in the papers of private individuals, civic organizations, and even businesses, thus offering a wider range of material for historians to design research methods that integrated, coordinated, and connected various fields of inquiry. It allowed historians to counterweigh statist perspectives with a wide range of personal, associational, corporate, and municipal views and voices. For the *longue durée* of Europe's bourgeoisie, whether measured for its continuities or its transformations, the Historisches Archiv offered superb serial and qualitative data for interpreting Bürgertum's political, cultural, economic, and social dimensions. But the archive equally produced important studies of the urban underclasses, foreigners, beggars, and poor relief. Such archives as Cologne's enables fine-grained portraits of social and political life.

However wounded, the archive still lives. Massive and extensive restoration projects are underway. Around-the-clock operations of firemen and trained archivists, librarians, historians, art historians, theologians, architects, and many other trained specialists from Cologne and other areas of Germany have volunteered to sort through the tons of rubble to retrieve material. (In four weeks, 371 truck loads delivered 5.2 tons of building rubble to warehouses for sorting.) The extremely long process of reuniting and reconstituting documents has only just begun. Nonetheless, a report from the city's press office from 31 March suggests a case for optimism: seven shelf kilometers of archival material have thus far been saved. Rescued documents include:

- two signed documents from Albertus Magnus;
- manuscripts from the Wallraf Collection;
- four books from the sixteenth-century Ratsherr Hermann von Weinsberg;
- 40 percent of documents since 922;
 - large portions of the Oberbürgermeister papers of Adenauer, Schwering and Kammerer Billstein;
- the city's account books of the medieval and early modern period;
- the city council protocols, 1396-1798;
- portions of the *Reichskammergerichtsakten*;
- portions of the *Französische Verwaltung*, 1794-1815;

In addition, portions of the repositories of Cologne's schools (modern era), Prussian administration (nineteenth century), and Jesuit College (13th-18th century) have also appeared. The quality of these rescued materials varies greatly. Virtually all materials will undergo intensive restoration.

Yet, as the initial wave of volunteer help subsides, the need for sustained, professional restoration is patently clear. For this long-term rescue project (one archivist estimated thirty years), enormous sums of money will be needed. Consequently, twenty-six leading cultural institutions in Cologne issued united pleas on 4 and 19 March to scholars and learned societies around the world for donations. An abbreviated version of the last appeal reads :

Rettungsaktion für das Historische Archiv der Stadt Köln Spendenaufruf

Das Historische Archiv der Stadt Köln liegt in Trümmern. In diesen Stunden stehen die Bergung der Vermissten und die rasche Genesung aller Verletzten dieses Unglücks im Vordergrund.

Priorität müssen sodann die Rettungsmaßnahmen für die unwiederbringlichen Archivalien dieses größten und wichtigsten Archivs nördlich der Alpen haben. Die einzigartigen Kunstschatze, Urkunden und sonstigen Dokumente sind uns von den vorangegangenen Generationen überantwortet worden und erfordern nun außergewöhnliche Hilfe.

Zusammen mit den Fachleuten des Archivwesens und den Historikern, Kunsthistorikern, Liturgiehistorikern, Theologen und sonstigen Wissenschaftlern, Bibliothekaren, Schriftstellern und Künstlern, Denkmalpflegern, Architekten und Städtebauern in Köln fordern wir die Stadt Köln auf, ohne Verzug durch die Errichtung eines wirksamen Schutzes über den Trümmern die noch auffindbaren Archivalien zu sichern und so zügig wie möglich zu bergen. Zugleich bitten wir darum, die Stadt Köln seitens des Landes und des Bundes zu unterstützen und so rasch wie möglich Mittel für ein umfassendes und sachkundiges Such- und Restaurierungsvorhaben zuzusagen und auch zeitnah bereitzustellen.

Um Spenden wird gebeten:

Spendenkonto:

FREUNDE DES HISTORISCHEN ARCHIVS DER STADT KÖLN,
Konto-Nr. 19 00 45 89 59, BLZ 370 501 98 bei der Sparkasse Köln-Bonn
IBAN: DE 64370501981900458959 Swift Code: COLSDE 33
Stichwort: Rettung Hist. Stadt-Archiv (Spendenquittung auf Wunsch)

Per Adresse:

Historische Gesellschaft Köln, Postfach 10 22 51, 50462
Köln, Telefon 0221 5102604
Telefax 0221 5736-203
E-Mail: sekretariat@koelner-hausundgrund.de

In addition to financial donations, Cologne's historical community is also organizing a "virtual" Historisches Archiv. Supported by the archive itself, this initiative asks all those who possess photocopies of archival material to send digital versions of it to this recently constructed digital archive. For further information see the well-designed website at: <http://www.historischesarchivkoeln.de/> .

Members of the German Studies Association donated generously to the Anna-Amalia-Bibliothek disaster in 2004, and I therefore appeal to GSA members once again to consider the fate of Germany's worst cultural loss in sixty years. Cologne's storied repositories are in dire need. In view of the drastic cutbacks in all state budgets, the urgency for private help is all the greater. As stated by the editors of *Geschichte in Köln*, our generation has been called upon to rescue a core element of Europe's historical memory.



Berlin Program Fellows
at the Bundeskanzleramt

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for Advanced German & European Studies

Request for Research Proposals on Advanced German and European Studies

The *Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies* offers up to one-year of research support at the Freie Universität Berlin. It is open to scholars in all social science and humanities disciplines, including historians working on the period since the mid-19th century.

The program accepts applications from U.S. and Canadian nationals or permanent residents. Applicants for a dissertation fellowship must be full-time graduate students who have completed all coursework required for the Ph.D. and must have achieved ABD (all but dissertation) status by the time the proposed research stay in Berlin begins. Also eligible are U.S. and Canadian Ph.D.s who have received their doctorates within the past two calendar years. Awards provide between ten and twelve months of research support.

Following a model usually reserved for senior researchers at institutes of advanced study, the Berlin Program is a residential program which combines research opportunities with intellectual and cultural interaction. An integral part of the program is a biweekly interdisciplinary colloquium where Fellows present their work and which is guided by two distinguished professors each semester.

The Berlin Program is based at, funded and administered by the Freie Universität Berlin, one of the nation's leading research universities. The program's publicity and selection process is organized in cooperation with the German Studies Association (GSA).

Deadline: December 1

For more complete information and an application form, please visit our website at <http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~bprogram/> or send an email to bprogram@zedat.fu-berlin.de



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