
German Studies Association Newsletter

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German Studies Association

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Letter from the President

The President's semi-annual letter is usually a forum for updating members on developments in the GSA. I'll mostly leave that to the Executive Director this time, as I have the privilege of writing to you today from Berlin. You see, my home German Studies Department at Dartmouth College sends me here often to teach in and supervise our study program abroad. Though my primary residence is in New Hampshire, these approximately biannual three-month stays in Berlin (with study trips to Dresden and Vienna), along with my visits to family (by marriage) in Switzerland, and a few trips to the Südtirol have provided me with a fairly regular "check-in" with the German-speaking world over the last two decades. Each of you will have your own paths to checking-in with German-speaking cultures and surely some of you enjoy broader or more profound ones than mine. Still, I hope that my "report from the field" might spur exchange of information and opinions among us.

While self-examination is hardly new to the public spheres of German-speaking Central Europe in the postwar period, events of 2015 like the Eurocrisis, the flood of refugees, the VW-exhaust scandals, and the Sterbehilfe debates—even the FIFA and DFB revelations—have forced these societies to reconsider who they really are, what values they truly hold, and what their relationships to countries near and far are and should be. Are we afraid to lead? Do we care what our (grand)fathers perpetrated in Greece seventy plus years ago? How did we treat German-speaking refugees from northeastern Europe in 1945? Ist das Boot voll? Was it "voll" for the Swiss during the war? Should sport halls be turned into dormitories? Can we trust our politicians? Our industry leaders? Are German products truly excellent? What measure foster quality at end of life? Should doctors be allowed to administer life-ending doses of drugs? Are Germans (Austrian, Swiss) more dis/honest than other people after all? While I've boiled them down to their scary essentials, these are some of the questions that are ubiquitous here this fall.

Perhaps I'm choosing to see the proverbial glass half full, but here are a few positive things I've actually seen or heard myself since I arrived in Europe in June.

A large number of my acquaintances spent their vacations in Greece this year. They did so mainly intentionally to support the Greek economy and for some of them to try to explicitly counter the ugly rhetoric that has dominated the verbal traffic between Germany and Greece recently. My friends reported to me how welcoming the locals were even when they learned they were Germans.

Perhaps because they know intimately what it means to be a minority, a large number of the German-speaking inhabitants of northern Italy I encountered in July were actively engaged in helping refugees there: their aid ranged from taking refugees aside and giving them legal advice at the Brenner Pass to watching how officials were behaving there and then writing reports about it to offering information on where refugees could receive food in Bozen to interviewing them and writing plays about their plights. Maxi Obexer, our GSA luncheon speaker in 2014, has written one such play, *Illegale Helfer*—she read out of an early draft to us—which has since been performed several times and will be again shortly in Berlin in a reading that includes some

of the refugees and Swiss helpers she originally interviewed for the project. This past summer Obexer organized and ran in her hometown in the Südtirol an entire summer workshop for young playwrights on the topic of “flight and refuge”; some of the participants had themselves fled to Europe from elsewhere. By the way, our 2015 luncheon speaker Kathrin Röggla did a reading and mentored a group at that workshop.

When large numbers of refugees started to arrive in Berlin earlier this fall, retired and active doctors got busy. A longtime host-father for our Dartmouth students is one such person. He reported to me how spontaneously doctors volunteered to help and how fully they cooperated with one another to assure coordination of care on-site in Spandau. The sister of one of our host-mothers reported similarly on efforts at the Münchner Hauptbahnhof. She herself had spent a significant amount of time in Syria, speaks Arabic and helped orient the stunned arrivals in Munich.

By way of participating in an “Aktionstag für ein schönes Berlin,” my students and I decided to clean up a small local park that hosts quite a steady stream of (German) homeless and alcoholics. One regular was already on a park bench when we arrived at 2 pm. He asked us what we were up to, expressed his approval, showed us the special jars the regulars use for their cigarette butts, and urged us to also do something to help the refugees. I was quite taken with this unsolicited statement of concern for the newest newcomers. While the newspapers were reporting fears of outbursts of violence against foreigners by the local homeless, especially over competition for housing, this gentleman anyways, obviously looked at the plight of the refugees with compassion. One of the Berlin local papers sold by the homeless reported extensively on the annual conference to help homeless youth; from the articles, it seemed that the sponsoring organization was reaching out to refugee youth in numerous ways.

Dresden is getting a very bad rap these days. That’s not justified by what I saw. We were not only in Dresden on a Monday night, we were even scheduled to go to the Semperoper. This was exactly one week after the outrageous comments of Akif Pirincçi lamenting the absence of KZ in today’s Germany. While I hoped that he had crossed a line that would make most semi-reasonable individuals stay home the night we’d be there, I worriedly ordered the students to stick together and get into the opera house as early as possible. What I saw over the course of the day calmed me: on dozens of public and private buildings hung gigantic signs welcoming refugees or proclaiming the friendliness and openness of Dresdeners or confirming the integrity of the rights of all individuals or explicitly denouncing Pegida. Probably many of you know that the Semperoper itself hangs alternating huge signs with various messages against xenophobia. The day we were there it read: Wir sind kein Bühnenbild für Fremdenhass. When I arrived at the Theaterplatz at 6pm (for a 7pm show) there were several hundred individuals merely standing around with several score policefolk at the edges of the square. My students reported that as they crossed the Platz a half-hour later there were several thousand demonstrators, many carrying signs or waving flags (can someone explain to me the relevance of the Hapsburger standard in that context?). The students just happened to catch a reference by the speaker to the Semperoper sign at which lots of demonstrators then booed. This shook them up a bit. Still, the atmosphere remained peaceful, as did the Pegida and the anti-Pegida marches through the city center. A

waitress at the Schinkelwache (also on the Theaterplatz) expressed regret to me about the protests; not a single individual I spoke with over those two days condoned what Pegida was doing.

The Wiener have been dealing with large numbers of refugees from numerous countries for many years now; I can't think of many cities that are currently "bunter" than Vienna. While I heard a few scattered remarks about the subways being too full, what I observed in those subways was the Viennese exercising the same benign neglect they show toward each other toward what appeared to be new arrivals. On the streets I observed something I'd never seen before: locals stopping to ask individuals who looked clueless if they could be of help. (There's an epidemic of such helpfulness in Berlin, too.) Near the back entrance to the West Bahnhof I often use when I'm in Vienna, I saw a distribution center for clothing and food, staffed by quite ordinary looking locals, cheerfully going about their work by Viennese standards.

Of course, what I'm reporting to you here is not comprehensive scientific data. By the time this column appears, something dreadful might have taken place, disproving what I'm claiming to be the good will of the mainly silent and yet not so inactive supportive majority. If relative peace is maintained in the next months and years in Europe, the Europeans—and it looks like above all the Germans—will have to face the huge question of integration: will these newcomers be offered not only shorter or longer term asylum but also paths to becoming new Europeans? That remains to be seen—or rather to be worked toward.

I and many of you are informed witnesses of how the Germans (East and West and now together), Austrians, and Swiss have worked through the horrible legacies of the NS period. Each national group has had different tasks to attend to, of course, and for each country, it's been an uneven and incomplete working through. Still, from what I've studied and what I have myself observed, I believe the national reflection in German-speaking Europe has been more profound and honest than many other nations' confrontations with the dark sides of their pasts. To make my point here as clearly as I can: I'm suggesting that if we look to the recent past and to small but profound gestures of solidarity in the present, we have reason to be optimistic about the future. As intermediaries between the past and present, I believe we scholars of German history, culture, and politics have a special role to play in the public sphere.

There's almost a separate class of "public intellectuals" in Europe; and from what I've read and heard this year, many of them, along with ordinary citizens, are not as sanguine about their future as I am. An important question we've posed implicitly and explicitly in the GSA is what is different about German Studies in North America from the study of German-speaking cultures in Europe? We have some distance and perspective that helps our judgment of what's going on there; at the least, our location inflects it. I'd like to see more of us step up to the microphone to speak about Europe and its current challenges—to Americans and also to Europeans.

What have you seen lately in your visits or in your daily lives in German-speaking Europe? Perhaps we can figure out a way to stage some open debates on the topics I've raised in this column at our upcoming 40th anniversary conference in San Diego.

Speaking of which—and to continue an important recent trend in presidential columns—please make sure you contribute to the “\$40 for 40 years” campaign. We want to be able to tell our funders and future funders that the entire membership believes in the GSA enough to voluntarily contribute to its future stability.

Signing off from Berlin,

Irene Kacandes

The Dartmouth Professor of German Studies and Comparative Literature

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Members and Friends of the GSA,

We've devoted a great deal of time and attention in the past year to preparations for the fortieth anniversary of the German Studies Association, originally founded in 1976 in Tempe, Arizona, as the Western Association for German Studies, or WAGS. Our fortieth-anniversary conference will take place from 29 September to 2 October 2016 at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center in San Diego, a venue that will be familiar to many of our members.

It is our hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend and participate in the San Diego conference! In recent years the GSA has developed a rich array of programs and options for our members, ranging from "traditional" sessions to special thematic clusters of panels organized by our twelve Interdisciplinary Networks to our special Seminars, which will be offered for the fourth straight year and which, like the Networks, have become an established feature of our conferences. This issue of the newsletter contains our annual Call for Papers and our Call for Seminar Proposals as well as a list of all twelve of our Networks. We continue to explore new initiatives and new possibilities for our members, including our recent Arts Night at the conference, which President Irene Kacandes describes in her Letter to the members, and our expanded summer activities in Berlin in conjunction with the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies at the Free University of Berlin. For a number of years we have cosponsored the Berlin Program. More recently, Berlin Program alumni (and GSA members) have arranged a series of summer workshops at the Free University, while the GSA has sent a summer speaker to the Berlin Program for the past three years. In 2015 the speaker was Professor Joy Calico of Vanderbilt University, and in 2016 President Kacandes will be the speaker.

We're also using the occasion of our fortieth anniversary to remind our members of our **"\$40 for 40"** fundraising campaign, to which we hope every single one of you can contribute. If each member could contribute \$40 – or even more, if at all possible! – we could take a big step toward attaining our longer-term and larger fundraising goals. We've established a Fundraising Committee to help steer us toward our goals. Chaired by our veteran secretary/treasurer, Jerry Fetz (himself an experienced fundraiser), the Committee has undertaken a variety of activities designed to put our finances on an even firmer foundation for the future. Jerry and I have already explored a number of options with potential donors in the United States and Europe, and we'll continue to do so in the years to come.

Why are we undertaking our **"\$40 for 40"** campaign and related fundraising activities? The GSA has been on a growth curve for the past decade, as our membership has increased from about 1400 to over 2300. As we've grown, so has the extent and complexity of our activities. Our annual conference has grown in size and variety of offerings, as noted above. This year, in Washington, DC, we introduced a new conference app for the first time. Our studies had shown that, in the first year, such apps are typically used by about a quarter of all conference attendees; but ours was used by over forty percent of our attendees, suggesting that it serves a vital and

useful purpose. We've expanded our audiovisual options, and now provide LCD projectors in each conference breakout room, as well as subwoofers in specially designated sound rooms. Our journal, the *German Studies Review*, is thriving under the able leadership of Sabine Hake and her colleagues. Our publication series, SPEKTRUM, is also doing very well under the energetic guidance of David Luebke and his colleagues. We have made – and continue to make – a conscious effort to incorporate graduate students, adjunct instructors, and early-career colleagues into our programs and activities. We provide free one-year memberships to the Fellows of the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies. We already have a special travel fund that serves as a fund of last resort for non-North Americans who cannot otherwise get travel funding in their home countries. As funding gets tighter, we've expanded the number of travel-fund offers we are able to make; in 2015 it was over forty. One of our top fundraising priorities is to strengthen our endowment so that we can provide similar last-resort travel funds to North American members as well. In this connection, we'd like to express our special appreciation to the Austrian Cultural Forum New York and the German Historical Institute Washington for their own travel funds, which do include North American participants. And mentioning the ACFNY and the GHI is a reminder that we've maintained and extended our collaboration with a great variety of ancillary or related organizations, such as the DAAD and the Embassies of the three major German-speaking countries, to mention only a few.

At the same time, the GSA is engaged broadly in the defense of the humanities and of our core values. We are active members of the American Council of Learned Societies and the National Humanities Alliance, and, where appropriate, we join with other organizations to speak out on issues of concern to our members. Earlier this year, for example, the GSA joined in protest against proposed legislation in Georgia and Indiana – states in which we'll be meeting in 2017 and 2021 respectively – that would have discriminated against members of our community. And each year in March we are represented in Capitol Hill lobbying for National Humanities Day.

We're also trying our best to keep up with developments in technology. Our continued collaboration with the Johns Hopkins University Press has netted us some real benefits, both in terms of database management and in terms of making our members' work available to a wider global audience through Project MUSE. As noted above, we introduced a conference app for the first time in 2015. By 2017, as our wonderful and indefatigable webmaster Terry Pochert looks toward retirement, we'll be updating our conference submission and management software by vetting third-party vendors and making some choices among them.

As we've gotten bigger, with an increasingly complex range of activities, the selection of conference hotels has also become more complicated, especially given significant changes in the hospitality business in North America. Last February I attended a conference in San Diego where we heard fascinating – and worrying – updates on recent trends in the hotel business. Conference hotels have recovered fully from the crisis of 2008-9. "Big-box" conference hotels of the kind we have to use are becoming significantly more expensive, and are less inclined to make concessions in terms of rooms and pricing. Indeed, only seven "big-box" hotels are currently under construction in North America, reminding us of the limited supply of such structures, while the recent purchase of Starwood by Marriott could also have important effects on our hotel

selections. For the last nine years we've been working with Craig Hendrick of ConferenceDirect to help us steer through the shoals of site visits, hotel selection, contract negotiation, and follow-up; those shoals have steadily gotten trickier to navigate in recent years.

Working with Craig, I try to use every means at my disposal to keep prices down and find affordable but workable hotels for our conferences. For example, every November I attend a "familiarization" or "fam" meeting organized by the American Council of Learned Societies; each year it takes place in a different city, and is arranged by that city's Convention and Visitors Bureau in an effort to attract conference business. Our contracts with Kansas City and Portland were a direct result of face-to-face conversations at fam meetings, and I am now seriously looking at a proposal from Montréal for 2022. If we were to go there, it would be our first conference outside the United States.

Given the growing complexity of our tasks, we also decided this year that we should have permanent legal counsel. The American Council of Learned Societies strongly recommended Mr. Stephen Schaefer, partner in the Washington, DC, firm of Whiteford Taylor Preston. Mr. Schaefer is a noted expert in all areas of law regarding non-profit corporations like ours, and he has agreed to serve as our legal representative.

So what does all this have to do with "**\$40 for 40**" and our longer-term fundraising efforts? A lot, of course. Here I hope I don't get too solipsistic. As the GSA has gotten bigger and more complex, we still have a management structure that is essentially based on volunteers and the efforts of volunteers. This is laudable, and in many cases will continue. But the time has come to prepare seriously for the professionalization of our management model. To be sure, ten years ago the GSA "borrowed" me for one trimester a year from Kalamazoo College, compensating the College for that third of the academic year. But I have still continued to teach four courses a year and be involved in the College administrative and committee activity that is so familiar to us all. And of course GSA work takes up the entire year. In June 2016 I'll retire from teaching after 42 years at Kalamazoo College, but I have agreed to continue as Executive Director of the GSA for several more years thereafter. It is absolutely clear, however, that my successor will have to be a full-time management professional, with compensation corresponding to that position. That person will also require an office staff, very likely with at least one full-time office or conference coordinator. This is already the case with several comparably sized ACLS societies. To do that, however, will require a considerable increase in our endowment, managed for us by TIAA-CREF and currently valued at close to \$800,000.

Preparing for the transition to a new management model is by no means the only goal of our fundraising efforts. We are interested in endowing speakers, increasing travel opportunities for our members, thinking about meeting opportunities outside North America, and so much more. Our scholarly activities – our journal, our publications, and our conference – and the provision of professional services to our members remain our *raison d'être*. As we improve our services, we want to keep our dues and fees at acceptably low levels, which in turn requires successful fundraising efforts on all our parts. So please do help!

Speaking of conferences, allow me a few words about the 39th annual conference at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, from 1 to 4 October of this year. We had 1403 attendees, making it the second biggest in our history after the 2013 Denver conference, which drew 1413. Scholars from 32 countries attended the meeting. The largest group (947) came from the US, followed by Germany with 184, Canada with 72, the UK with 47, and Austria with 39. Of the attendees, 846 were “regular” members, 244 were student members, and the rest came from other categories. We offered 25 seminars that each met for three days, and 255 “regular” sessions and roundtables. Ten of our Interdisciplinary Networks offered clusters of sessions, and many other sessions were sponsored by affiliated or ancillary societies. For the first time ever we offered an “Arts Night” on Thursday evening that drew significant interest; we’ll almost certainly organize something similar in San Diego. Our luncheon speakers were Peter Wittig, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Kathrin Röggla, writer and Vice President of the Universität der Künste im Berlin. Our banquet speaker was Professor Joyce Mushaben of the University of Missouri–St. Louis, who presented a memorable and timely talk on Angela Merkel, based on her current research project. Of course, we inevitably run into difficulties and problems. We constantly have to work on appropriate pricing at our host hotels; and this year we had issues of room space and scheduling. On the whole, however, I believe the conference was a success, and we constantly strive to improve our efforts and the quality of the “product” we offer, and at rates our members can afford.

Of course we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Program and Seminar Committees for 2015, and especially to Professor Margaret Menninger of Texas State University, our tireless Program Director for the past two years. As I always say (and can’t say enough), without our committees and the work of all our volunteers, the GSA simply could not exist.

We also owe a tremendous amount to those whose help both behind the scenes and in public is so indispensable to the organization: Charles Fulton, Liz Fulton, Dean Giannoutsos, Bev Gould, Craig Hendrick, Daniel Huffman, Terry Pochert, and Sally Scheuermann.

As we approach our fortieth anniversary in San Diego, we’re also thinking of a number of ways to highlight this special occasion. For example, there is the approaching 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Or – of special relevance to the early history of the Association – there are the famous and important connections between Southern California and the German-speaking world. All your ideas are welcome! And please do think of contributing to our “\$40 for 40” campaign!

Best regards and all best wishes for 2016,

David E. Barclay, PhD
 Executive Director
 German Studies Association
 Margaret and Roger Scholten Professor of International Studies
 Department of History
 Kalamazoo College

Fundraising: Join the “\$40 for 40” Campaign – Please Donate!

We’re asking you to contribute \$40 as we near our 40th year of providing unparalleled opportunities for our members, all of whom share a commitment to the study of the German-speaking world. As we plan how we will move into the GSA’s second 40 years, we need your continued loyalty and support. We also need a few extra dollars from each of you!

IT’S EASY! Go to the GSA website (www.thegsa.org) and click on the Donate line on the home page and make your contribution! Checks may also be sent to Gerald Fetz, GSA Secretary-Treasurer, 545 North Ave. E., Missoula, MT 59801. ~~\$40 isn’t much per member, but~~ If every member donated \$40 this coming year, it would add up to almost \$100,000 !

We would gladly receive additional contribution from those of you who are able to donate more. We have several donation options, described on the GSA website’s “Donate” page.

WHAT WILL THE GSA DO WITH YOUR DONATIONS?

Your GSA Board has set the following priorities for our 4-Year Fundraising Campaign:

- Endow at least 50 % of the required funds needed to provide an appropriate salary and benefits for the GSA Executive Director;
- Endow a sufficient amount to cover the cost of a half-time staff person and the rental of a small office;
- Fund the further expansion of the GSA’s technological infrastructure and its implementation for the conference;
- Endow sufficient funding to support 15-20 Travel Awards to the GSA conferences each year for North American members, similar to the endowment funding for members from elsewhere;
- Support further expansion of recent initiatives such as: the networks, seminars, Spektrum, more collaborations with our partners;
- Raise a sufficient amount of money to keep our dues and conference fees affordable to scholars at all levels of the profession.

WHY DID THE GSA DECIDE TO RAISE FUNDS?

- During the past decade the GSA has grown from 1,400 members to 2,300;
- The conference has grown commensurately larger as well, yet we continue to add and experiment with new approaches to our sessions that help maintain the welcoming, collaborative, and intellectually vibrant character that has been the hallmark of the GSA for 39 years;
- The GSA has introduced several new features that spread the vibrancy and productivity of the conference into the rest of the year: the interdisciplinary networks, the seminars,

the Spektrum Book Series, the Berlin Program, and the collaborations with our ever-growing number of partner organizations and institutions. And we would like provide more support for important collaborations among our members year round.

- For our first 29 years we depended on a volunteer Executive Director and the generosity of his university to pay his salary, to provide office and operations support, and modest staff help. Those days are a thing of the past. We now “buy out” our Executive Director for one trimester and provide him with a summer stipend, yet his work has become full-time.
- And, our goal is do all of that without having to raise dues or conference fees in any significant way.

How Are We Going to Raise the Funds Necessary to Do All of the Above?

The GSA now has a robust fundraising strategy in place and, thanks to the Board and the Fundraising Committee, begun to implement it. It is a strategy that includes reaching out and developing proposals to foundations, government agencies, appropriate corporations, and private individuals. STAY TUNED—we have a good start!

And THANKS for considering a donation to the \$40 for 40 Campaign.

GSA Election Results Announced

The German Studies Association is pleased to announce the results of the recent elections to the Board. The newly elected Board members will serve for three years (2016-18). They are:

- History: Thomas Kühne (Clark University)
- Literature/Cultural Studies/Austria: Imke Meyer (University of Illinois at Chicago)
- Political Science: Eric Langenbacher (Georgetown University)

Our deep appreciation and gratitude go out to all those who agreed to serve as candidates in these elections. Without each of you, the German Studies Association simply could not function! We are very much in your debt!

Additional Reports and Announcements

Planning for the Fortieth Anniversary Conference of the GSA San Diego, California, September 29 - October 2, 2016

The fortieth annual conference of the GSA will take place from September 29 to October 2, 2016, at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle N, San Diego, CA 92108.

This will be our third conference at the Town and Country Resort. It is about a fifteen- to twenty-minute taxi ride from the San Diego airport, and is located in Mission Valley, immediately adjacent to a San Diego Trolley line that can take you to Old Town and downtown in a few minutes. It is also located adjacent to a large shopping mall.

Our fortieth anniversary will be special indeed. Please see the Letter from the President and the Letter from the Executive Director for further details.

The **Call for Seminar Proposals** follows below. After three years, our seminars have proved to be a rousing success. Please note that the deadline for submission of seminar topics announced on the GSA website was November 23, 2015, and will have passed by the time you read this. Applications for participation in seminars will open on **JANUARY 5, 2016** and close on **JANUARY 28th, 2016**. Again, see below for details.

The “traditional” **Call for Papers** also follows below. Please note that the deadline for submitting “traditional” paper, session, or roundtable proposals will be **FEBRUARY 15, 2016**.

Detailed conference submission guidelines can be found below. Submissions for “traditional” papers, sessions, or roundtables will be accepted online (www.thegsa.org) **after January 5, 2016. (Again, please note the earlier deadline for seminar proposals.)** Only online submissions will be accepted. Paper proposals or proposals submitted by e-mail will not be accepted. Although the GSA encourages all types of submissions, including individual papers, members and non-member participants are urged, where practicable, to submit complete session proposals, **including the names of proposed moderators and commentators.** The latter is extremely important if sessions are to be complete. The GSA also encourages the submission of thematic series that might include **up to three** related sessions, and it also vigorously supports interdisciplinary sessions, including sessions that are organized in conjunction with our interdisciplinary Networks.

Although the Program Committee will certainly not reject four-paper session proposals, submitters are reminded that four-paper sessions tend to inhibit commentary and discussion. On the whole, three-paper sessions are vastly preferable. Please note that, in a session with three papers, individual presenters should speak no more than twenty minutes. In four-paper sessions, it is expected that individual presenters will speak for no more than fifteen minutes. In each case, the commentary should not exceed ten minutes in order to enable as much audience discussion as possible.

As in the past, all submissions of “traditional” papers, sessions, and roundtables will take place online at the GSA Web site (www.thegsa.org). Please do note that all presenters, including moderators, commentators, seminar participants, and roundtable participants, must be members of the German Studies Association at the time of submission. For information on membership, please go to the GSA website (www.thegsa.org).

Call for Seminar Proposals ***GERMAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION*** ***FORTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE***

In response to the success of the last three years' seminar programs, the 40th GSA Conference in San Diego, California (September 29-October 2, 2016), will continue to host a series of seminars in addition to its regular conference sessions and roundtables.

Seminars are meant to meet for all three days of the conference to explore new avenues of academic exchange and foster extended discussion, rigorous intellectual debate, and intensified networking. Seminars are typically proposed and led by two to three conveners and they consist of approximately 12 to 20 participants, including representation from different disciplines, a representative number of graduate students and faculty of different ranks. Seminars may, for instance, enable extended discussion of a recent academic publication; the exploration of a promising new research topic; the engagement with pre-circulated papers; the opportunity to debate the work of two scholars with different approaches; the coming together of groups of scholars seeking to develop an anthology; the in-depth discussion of a political or public-policy issue, novel, film, poem, artwork, or musical piece.

Seminar proposers should design topics that will suit the three-day structure of the conference and also submit a list of potential applicants while providing enough room for other GSA members to participate. The purpose of this list is to show that an outreach effort has been undertaken. The invited participants do not make any commitment until they officially apply for the seminar after its approval. It's important to note that application to all approved seminars will be open to all GSA members and that there is no guarantee for the invited participants that they will be accepted. The conveners decision on which applicants will be accepted or might be rejected will be based on a) the quality of the applicants' proposals and b) a balanced proportion of professors at different career stages and graduate students, and c) the disciplinary diversity of the seminar.

In order to reach the goal of extended discussion, seminar conveners and participants are expected to participate in all three installments of the seminar. We ask seminar conveners to monitor attendance and inform the program committee about no shows during the conference. Please note that seminar conveners and seminar applicants who have been accepted for seminar participation **will not be allowed to submit a paper in a regular panel session. However, they may moderate or comment** on other sessions independent of their enrollment in a seminar.

Please submit the title and a 100-word description of your seminar by **November 23, 2015**. The committee will then provide suggestions and assistance for the final submission which is due by **December 10, 2015**. In order to propose a seminar for the 2016 conference provide following materials in one integrated Word document:

1. A 500-word description of the intellectual goals of the seminar.
2. A 250-word description of the proposed seminar's structures and procedures of participation. Make sure to address:
 - a. whether participants will be asked to write and read pre-circulated papers and, if so, of what length;
 - b. whether you will assign additional readings;
 - c. how you envision your communication with seminar participants in the months leading up to the conference;
 - d. how you define the role of the conveners.
3. A list of invited participants, their institutional affiliations, discipline, and academic rank.
4. Mini-biographies of all conveners of no more than 250 words each.
5. A statement about the desired size of the seminar (either 12 to 15 or 16 to 20)
6. A statement about whether you allow for silent auditors and if so for how many (either 1-5 or 6-10).

The GSA Seminar Program Committee will review seminar proposals after December 10, 2015, and it will post a list of approved seminars and their topics on the GSA website by early January 2016. Between January 5 and January 28, 2016, association members will be invited to submit their applications for participation in specific seminars directly to the conveners. The conveners will then submit the proposals for their fully populated seminars to the GSA Seminar Program Committee for the final approval. The GSA Seminar Program Committee will inform seminar conveners and applicants on February 5, 2016, about the final makeup of the seminars. (These deadlines have been chosen to allow time for those not accepted to submit a paper proposal to the general call for papers.)

The GSA Seminar Program Committee consists of

- Heikki Lempa (Moravian College) | hlempa@moravian.edu
- Darcy Buerkle (Smith College) | dbuerkle@smith.edu
- Carrie Smith-Prei (University of Alberta) | carrie.smith-prei@ualberta.ca

Please direct all inquiries and proposals to all three of us.

Call for Papers

GERMAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

FORTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The German Studies Association (GSA) will hold its Fortieth Annual Conference in San Diego, California, September 29-October 2, 2016.

The Program Committee cordially invites proposals on any aspect of German, Austrian, or Swiss studies, including (but not limited to) history, Germanistik, film, art history, political science, anthropology, musicology, religious studies, sociology, and cultural studies. Proposals for entire sessions and for interdisciplinary presentations are strongly encouraged. Individual paper proposals and offers to serve as session moderators or commentators are also welcome. The Call for Seminar Proposals is being distributed separately. Please check your e-mail and the GSA website (www.thegsa.org) for details; **that deadline is November 23. Applications for participation in seminars will be opened on January 5.**

Please see the GSA website for information about the submission process for 'traditional' papers, sessions, and roundtables, which opens on January 5, 2016. ALL proposals must be submitted online; paper forms are not used. **The deadline for proposals is February 15, 2016.**

Please note that presenters must be members of the German Studies Association. Information on membership is available on the GSA website (www.thegsa.org).

In order to avoid complications later, the Program Committee would like to reiterate two extremely important guidelines here (the full list of guidelines is available on the GSA website):

No individual at the GSA Conference may give more than one paper or participate in more than two separate capacities.

All rooms will be equipped with projectors. It is the responsibility of the submitter of proposed panels to ensure payment of the AV fee for use of this equipment. If the paper proposal requires high quality sound equipment, that justification must be made **in detail** at the time of submission.

For more information, visit the GSA website, where previous conference programs and a detailed list of submission guidelines may be found (www.thegsa.org), or contact members of the 2016 Program Committee:

Program Director:

Todd Heidt [theidt\[at\]knox.edu](mailto:theidt[at]knox.edu)
 German, Knox College

Pre-1800 (all fields):

Sara Poor, Princeton University [spoor\[at\]princeton.edu](mailto:spoor[at]princeton.edu)
 Medieval Literature, German, Princeton University

19thc (all fields):

Catriona MacLeod [cmacleod\[at\]sas.upenn.edu](mailto:cmacleod[at]sas.upenn.edu)
 German, University of Pennsylvania

20th/21st C history:

Beth Griech-Polelle [griechba\[at\]plu.edu](mailto:griechba[at]plu.edu)
 History, Pacific Lutheran University
 Annette Timm [atimm\[at\]ucalgary.ca](mailto:atimm[at]ucalgary.ca)
 History, University of Calgary

20th/21st c Germanistik:

Christine Rinne Eaton [crinne\[at\]southalabama.edu](mailto:crinne[at]southalabama.edu)
 German, University of South Alabama
 Valerie Weinstein [valerie.weinstein\[at\]uc.edu](mailto:valerie.weinstein[at]uc.edu)
 German, University of Cincinnati

Contemporary Politics, Economics, and Society:

Jeffrey Anderson [jja5\[at\]georgetown.edu](mailto:jja5[at]georgetown.edu)
 Political Science, Georgetown University
 Robert Mark Spaulding [spauldingr\[at\]uncw.edu](mailto:spauldingr[at]uncw.edu)
 History, University of North Carolina, Wilmington

Interdisciplinary/Diachronic:

Joanne Miyang Cho [choj\[at\]wpunj.edu](mailto:choj[at]wpunj.edu)
 History, William Paterson University
 April Eisman [eismana\[at\]iastate.edu](mailto:eismana[at]iastate.edu)
 Art and Visual Culture, Iowa State University

Seminars:

Heikki Lempa, Chair [hlempa\[at\]moravian.edu](mailto:hlempa[at]moravian.edu)
 History, Moravian College
 Darcy Buerkle [dbuerkle\[at\]smith.edu](mailto:dbuerkle[at]smith.edu)
 History, Smith College
 Carrie Smith-Prei [carrie.smith-prei\[at\]ualberta.ca](mailto:carrie.smith-prei[at]ualberta.ca)
 German, University of Alberta

Guidelines for Submitting 2016 Proposals Fortieth Annual Conference September 29th - October 2nd, 2016 San Diego, California

Submission of Proposals for Individual Papers or Entire Panels

- All papers and panels must be submitted via the GSA website.
- All prospective participants, including moderators and commentators, must be paid members of the German Studies Association for the current year.
- All papers and panel titles must conform to the style guidelines of either *The Chicago Manual of Style* or *Historische Zeitschrift*.
- Papers in both English and German are welcome.
- The submission deadline is **February 15, 2016**, at midnight Eastern Standard Time.
- Organizers of entire sessions should submit a 300-500 word session description, with 350-600 word abstracts for each paper in the session.
- Individual paper submitters should submit a 350-600 word abstract.
- Please indicate, using the drop-down menu, the field/area/chronological period to which you wish your session or paper to be assigned.
- For assistance with the online submission process or with dues payment, first contact Elizabeth Fulton at the [GSA Help Desk](#).

Rules for Presenters

- No individual may undertake more than one "presenter role," defined as giving a paper or participating in a seminar. Participating in a roundtable is not considered a presenter role.
- No individual may undertake more than two roles altogether, including a presenter role. Thus, an individual may give a paper and offer commentary on a separate panel. No individual may present two papers, nor may any individual participate in a seminar and present a paper.
- Individuals **may** both present a paper (or participate in a seminar) **and** participate in one roundtable.

Composition of Panels

- A complete panel must have a moderator, a commentator and no fewer than three and no more than four papers. Incomplete panels may be submitted, but their acceptance and/or eventual composition becomes the purview of the Program

Committee.

- Graduate students may not serve as commentators and there may not be more than two graduate student papers on any panel.
- There may not be more than two individuals on any panel from the same institution.
- Co-authored papers are permitted, but each presentation is limited to two co-presenters. A co-presentation counts as one presentation role for each speaker, for scheduling purposes.
- Proposals for panel series must be limited to no more than three panels.

Requests and fees for audio and/or visual equipment

- All future GSA Conference rooms will be equipped with LCD projectors.
- Individual use of these projectors requires payment of a US \$20 A/V fee due at the time of registration.
- Panels and/or papers requiring high-quality **sound** equipment must be identified during the submission process, and the need for such equipment must be justified. Assignment of panels to rooms specially equipped for sound is at the discretion of the Program Director or the Executive Director.

Scheduling Changes

- The Program Director and the Executive Director reserve the right to move papers from one session to another at their discretion.
- New papers **may not** be substituted in cases of participant withdrawal. All papers presented must undergo formal vetting and approval from the Program Committee.

Withdrawal from the Conference

- Individuals withdrawing from the conference after acceptance of their papers and/or panels will not have their fee for membership in the GSA refunded.
- Anyone who cancels after **1 July** for any reason other than medical or family emergency will not be permitted to submit another proposal for two years.
- Lack of travel funding is **not** a reason for withdrawal. All non-North Americans are eligible for our travel grants, and there is no deadline for application. Please note, though, that the GSA travel grant is intended as a source of last resort. In applying, you will need to present evidence that you cannot receive funding in your home country. If you are eligible for the DAAD travel grant, please apply for it as soon as possible, as they require several months for processing.
- Registration fees for cancellations will be refunded, but will incur a \$50.00

cancellation fee. Exceptions may be made for illness or other serious and unforeseen circumstances. No refunds are available for cancellations after 10 September. For more information, contact Elizabeth Fulton at helpdesk@thegsa.org.

Report on Interdisciplinary Committee and Networks

Jennifer Evans, Carleton University
Pamela Potter, University of Wisconsin--Madison

Current members of the GSA Interdisciplinary Committee include Jennifer Evans (History, Carleton University, co-chair, 2015-2018), Pamela Potter (German and Music, University of Wisconsin-Madison, co-chair, 2015-2018), Celia Applegate (History, Vanderbilt University, 2015-2018), Winson Chu (History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2014-2016), Bala Venkat Mani (German, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2014-2016), Elizabeth Otto (State University of New York, Buffalo, (2014-2016). We wish to thank Angelika von Wahl and Silke Maria Weineck for their three years of service.

Networks Review

Under the supervision of President Irene Kacandes, the IC committee undertook a comprehensive review of the interdisciplinary networks currently in operation. (For a complete list, see below and <https://www.thegsa.org/exchange/networks.html>.) Each network was asked to report on 1) successes registered and challenges faced; 2) whether the network should continue in its present form; and 3) whether there are major issues and concerns for future deliberation. The information we gathered indicated that many of the networks are thriving, while a select few have faced challenges, and it brought to our attention a number of issues regarding the networks' practices and procedures. The IC co-chairs will deliberate with members of the committee to discern appropriate actions based on the findings of the report, particularly with regard to the formation of networks, the relationship between networks and seminars, and the presence of the networks in GSA communications and at the annual meeting. Preliminary discussions at this past GSA have led to ongoing discussions with the President and the seminar co-chairs to address some of these concerns.

Network Appointments

Two new co-chairs were appointed by the president in 2015 for the Visual Culture Network. We welcome Johannes von Moltke (German, U Michigan) and Heather Mathews (Art History, Pacific Lutheran). Several similar appointments will be in order this coming year, and the committee will investigate new and more efficient ways of conducting the process of selection.

Future Plans and Challenges

The information we gathered for our report to the Board on the status of the networks indicates that they are both vibrant and thriving. We are happy to report that most networks are productive, sponsoring two to five panels each year, establishing contacts outside of GSA, and implementing or planning publications. We have also received three expressions of interest in forming new networks, demonstrating that the network format still has relevance for various research agendas. Before the end of their tenure as co-chairs, Marc Silberman and Janet Ward crafted a preliminary Best Practices document to serve as a template for how the committee functions, including its roles and responsibilities. The current co-chairs will revisit this document in 2016 in consultation with members of the IC committee, network coordinators, the President, and the Executive Director so that there may be a clearly delineated set of procedures for committee appointments, terms of service, deadlines, network promotion, and practices for soliciting and selecting network programming.

GSA Networks and Network Co-Chairs, November 2015

1. Alltag

Paul Steege, Villanova University (2014-2016)

Maria Stehle, University of Tennessee (2014-2016)

2. Emotion Studies

Derek Hillard, Kansas State University (2014-2016)

Heikki Lempa, Moravian College (2014-2016)

Russell Spinney Santa Fe Preparatory School (2014-2016)

3. Environmental Studies

Scott Moranda SUNY Cortland (2015-2016)

Sabine Mödersheim University of Wisconsin-Madison (2015-2016)

4. Family and Kinship

Susan Gustafson, University of Rochester (2014-2016)

Gail Hart, University of California, Irvine (2014-2016)

Michaela Hohkamp, Leibniz Universität, Hannover (2013-2015)

5. German Socialisms

April Eisman, Iowa State University (2014-2016)

Benjamin Robinson, Indiana University (2014-2016)

Eli Rubin, Western Michigan University (2014-2016)

6. Law and Legal Cultures

Sace Elder, Eastern Illinois University (2014-2016)

Todd Herzog, University of Cincinnati (2014-2016)

7. Memory Studies

Susanne Baackmann, University of New Mexico (2014-2016)
Jonathan Bach, The New School for Liberal Arts (2014-2016)

8. Music and Sound Studies

Joy Calico, Vanderbilt University (2013-2015)
David Imhoof, Susquehanna University (2013-2015)

9. Religious Cultures

William Donahue, Duke University (2013-2015)
Jean Godsall-Myers, West Chester University (2013-2015)
Rainer Hering, Landesarchiv Schleswig-Holstein (2013-2015)

10. Swiss Studies

Peter Meilaender, Houghton College (2012-2016)
Hans Rindisbacher, Pomona College (2012-2016)

11. Visual Culture

Heather Mathews, Pacific Lutheran University (2015-2016)
Johannes von Moltke, University of Michigan (2015-2016)

12. War and Violence

Susanne Vees-Gulani, Case Western Reserve University (2014-2016)

GSA Announces 2015 Prizes

The German Studies Association is pleased to announce the winners of this year's prize competitions. **H. Glenn Penny** (University of Iowa) is the winner of the **DAAD/GSA Book Prize** for the best book published in history or social sciences in 2013 and 2014. **Tobias Boes** (University of Notre Dame) is the winner of the **DAAD/GSA Article Prize** for the best article in *Germanistik* or cultural studies published in the *German Studies Review* in 2013 and 2014. **Sara Berger** (Fondazione Museo della Shoah, Rome) is the winner of the **Sybil Halpern Milton Prize** for the best book in Holocaust studies published in 2013 or 2014. The Milton Prize is awarded every other year. Honorable Mention is awarded to **Waitman Wade Beorn** (Virginia Holocaust Museum, Richmond, Virginia). **Katharina Isabel Schmidt** (Yale University) is the winner of the **Graduate Student Essay Prize** for the best essay submitted in 2015. Her article will be published in the *German Studies Review*. **Matteo Calla** (Cornell University) receives Honorable Mention.

Heartiest congratulations to our prize winners for their outstanding accomplishments! Here are further details, with the texts of the *laudationes* from the respective prize committees:

DAAD/GSA BOOK PRIZE: H. Glenn Penny, University of Iowa

Kindred by Choice: Germans and American Indians since 1800. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013.

Glenn Penny's book *Kindred by Choice* crosses time and space in exemplary fashion. His work is rooted in German communities – whether Biedermeier readers marveling at the *Leatherstocking Tales*, or German settlers in New Ulm, Minnesota, in the 1860s, or East and West German hobbyists camping out in teepees. His work is also rooted in American Indian communities – those who chose to honor German curiosity and enthusiasm by taking part in a long-enduring trans-Atlantic exchange. In a series of well-written, methodically rich chapters, Penny asks us to rethink the attitude of condescension commonly displayed toward German fans of Karl May or Wild West shows. For many Germans, the “elective affinity” for American Indians was a serious and respectful engagement, and it showed remarkable continuity across the political ruptures of the 20th Century. The committee applauds Penny's provocative, revisionist account for its contribution to German Studies, above all its lucid interpretation of how the encounter with American Indians inflected German identities and German values over time.

DAAD/GSA ARTICLE PRIZE: Tobias Boes, University of Notre Dame

“Political Animals: *Serengeti Shall Not Die* and the Cultural Heritage of Mankind,” *German Studies Review* 36, no. 1 (February 2013): 41-59.

This article productively reevaluates Bernard Grzimek's highly resonant 1959 documentary, *Serengeti darf nicht sterben*. Deploying Mary Louise Pratt's concept of a "European project of global consciousness," it problematizes the film's advocacy for Serengeti wildlife in the name of a cultural and natural heritage "belonging to all mankind." Through compelling analyses of aerial sequences and voice-overs in relation to Nazi and colonialist value systems, the article lays bare the film's use of a disembodied, high altitude visual perspective to envision East African landscapes ideally void of local human presence. Such a perspective is shown to favor Western ways of viewing and power structures as they took shape in the emerging Cold War era, in part by disqualifying the perspectives and needs of local African populations as they attempt to shake off European colonial rule, but also by participating in visual regimes shaped by images made of planet earth during the early space race. These linkages enable the article to make important contributions to environmental studies, film studies, post-colonial studies and conceptions of space, as it raises important contemporary questions about a visual tradition that has heretofore largely figured as a major enabling condition for envisioning global interconnectedness and environmental awareness.

SYBIL HALPERN MILTON BOOK PRIZE: Sara Berger, Fondazione Museo della Shoah, Rome

Experten der Vernichtung: Das T4-Reinhardt-Netzwerk in den Lagern Belzec, Sobibor und Treblinka (Studien zur Gewaltgeschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts). Hamburg: Hamburger Edition, 2013.

The Sybil Halpern Milton Prize committee is pleased to award the prize to Dr. Sara Berger for *Experten der Vernichtung: Das T4-Reinhardt-Netzwerk in den Lagern Belzec, Sobibor und Treblinka*, published by Hamburger Edition in 2013. Dr. Berger's wide-ranging study offers a novel interpretation of the organization of power in the Nazi extermination camps. Her book is a worthy successor to Henry Friedlander's groundbreaking research where it highlights the complex imbrication of the murder of the disabled with the Shoah. Its analyses are most remarkable for the unflinching gaze they cast at that which has been hardest for historians to comprehend: the Operation Reinhardt camps. Dr. Berger's work draws on an astonishing number of archival sources from no less than eight countries and in as many languages. Nearly every page is painfully evocative; where other books provide only few details she has compiled hundreds, all of which are presented with luminous eloquence and restraint.

SYBIL HALPERN MILTON BOOK PRIZE, HONORABLE MENTION: Waitman Wade Beorn, Virginia Holocaust Museum, Richmond, Virginia

Marching into Darkness: The Wehrmacht and the Holocaust in Belarus. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2014.

The Prize Committee awards Honorable Mention to Waitman Wade Beorn's *Marching into Darkness: The Wehrmacht and the Holocaust in Belarus*, published by Harvard

University Press in 2014. Dr. Beorn's research draws on an impressive array of archival and testimonial material, acquired during visits to Eastern Europe. His extraordinary book not only explores, in great detail and through use of examples, how the killers' complicity grew over time, but it also analyzes the widespread myth of the Jewish Bolshevik partisan, propagated in order to inspire and legitimize the killings. Throughout the book, Dr. Beorn integrates evidence and reflection with notable fluidity, never avoiding the thorniest issues.

GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE: Katharina Isabel Schmidt, Yale University

"Unmasking 'American Legal Exceptionalism': German Free Lawyers, American Legal Realists, and the Transatlantic Turn to 'Life', 1903-33"

Katharina Isabel Schmidt's paper "Unmasking 'American Legal Exceptionalism': German Free Lawyers, American Legal Realists and the Transatlantic Turn to 'Life', 1903-33," employs a transnational methodology/transatlantic gaze to historicize the paradigm of American legal exceptionalism by way of comparing the American Legal Realist movement of the late 1920s, credited with fundamentally transforming American legal theory and practice, with the German Free Lawyers, a partially parallel reformist movement which failed to develop a comparable impact on the jurisprudential mainstream. The exploration of this configuration, and the factors contributing to it, is hugely impressive in its intellectual breadth and depth. Schmidt's complex argumentation attends to political, socio-historical and institutional factors alike, and her sovereign presentation combines both broad historical strokes with attention to individual texts and transatlantic reception processes. With its transnational and transdisciplinary reach, this paper is exemplary for the kind of scholarship the German Studies Association aims to foster.

GRDUATE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE, HONORABLE MENTION: Matteo Calla, Cornell University

"Herta Müller's *Atemschaukel* and the Failure of a Realist Aesthetics of the *Lager*"

Matteo Calla's "Herta Müller's *Atemschaukel* and the Failure of a Realist Aesthetics of the *Lager*" presents an original, forceful reading of Müller's literary engagement with the gulag. It does so by way of reconceptualizing Adorno's (otherwise all-too-clichéd) dictum regarding post-Holocaust aesthetics as an argument specifically against realist representation. As Calla's impressive close reading demonstrates, *Atemschaukel* resonates with the "dialectical spirit" of Adorno's verdict: Implicitly critiquing realist accounts of Lager experience, the text poetically figures an autonomous world of experience.

2016 GSA Prize Competitions

In 2016 the GSA will again make a number of awards. We hope that as many members as possible will make nominations and submissions. For the membership of the various prize committees for 2016, please see the committee appointments listed below.

In 2016 the **DAAD/GSA Book Prize** will be awarded for the best book in Germanistik or culture studies published in 2014 or 2015. Inquiries, nominations, and submissions should be sent to the committee chair, Professor Kristin Kopp (University of Missouri, Columbia, koppkr@missouri.edu), by **20 February 2016**. The other members of the committee are Professors Rachel Halverson (Washington State University) and Brent Peterson (Lawrence University).

The **DAAD Article Prize** will be awarded for the best article in history or social sciences that appeared in the *German Studies Review* in 2014 or 2015. Inquiries, nominations, and submissions should be sent to the committee chair, Professor H. Glenn Penny (h-penny@uiowa.edu), by **20 February 2016**. The other members of the committee are Professors Margarete Feinstein (University of California, Los Angeles) and Jared Poley (Georgia State University).

The prize for the **Best Essay in German Studies by a Graduate Student** will again be awarded in 2016. The deadline for nominations and submissions is **15 March 2016**. Papers should be 6,000-9,000 words in length. The winner will be published in the *German Studies Review*. Nominations and submissions should be sent to the committee chair, Professor Christina Gerhardt (crgerhardt@gmail.com). The other members of the committee are Professors Deborah Barton (University of Cardiff) and Natalie Eppelsheimer (Middlebury College).

The **Sybil Halpern Milton Book Prize** is awarded every other year, and will next be awarded in 2017 for the best book in Holocaust Studies published in 2015 and 2016.

Call for Information about Dissertations in German Studies

The German Studies Association is continuing its tradition of posting information in the spring newsletter about dissertations completed in any area of German (that means: Austrian, German, Swiss, German diasporic) Studies (any discipline or interdisciplinary). If you received your Ph.D. in 2014 or 2015 or have already defended in 2015, you may be listed in this year's Spring 2016 newsletter. (No repeats, however!)

Send an email to GSA Vice President Mary Lindemann by **March 25** at mlindemann@miami.edu.

Please type "GSA dissertation list" in the subject line

Be sure to include in this order, please:

1. Name (Last, first)
2. Title of Dissertation
3. Institution and department in which it was defended
4. Name of dissertation director(s)
5. Month and Year of Defense (or degree if no defense)
6. Abstract of the dissertation of 200 or fewer words in either English or German. (150 words is desired length, 200 words an absolute limit. Longer abstracts will be shortened, so please get it the way you want it at the right length!)

Please forward this notice to any institutions or individuals for whom you believe it is relevant.

Thanks!

Mary Lindemann

Vice President, German Studies Association

Delegate Report: American Council of Learned Societies

Patricia Herminghouse
University of Rochester

As GSA's delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), I participated in the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Council, which again this year took place in Philadelphia, May 7-9. Professor David E. Barclay, Executive Director of the GSA, also attended, and participated in meetings of the Conference of Administrative Officers (CAO) of the ACLS. The opening session of the meeting, held on Thursday evening, featured a panel on "Aligning Humanistic Scholarship with Public Engagement, Collaboration, and the Digital Realm."

Stephen Greenberg (History, Rutgers) offered the first take on the "public engagement" focus of the session title, pointing out the long history of ACLS engagement with the public humanities and its more recent attention to the place of cyberinfrastructures in carrying out this mission. James O'Donnell (University Librarian, Arizona State University, and chair, ACLS Board of Directors) focused more on the importance of community outreach and collaborative projects as ways to encourage community engagement, while Steven Kidd (National Humanities Alliance) produced several examples of on-the-ground public engagement. In discussion with the audience, several key points were made: "people," i.e., "the public," do not always want to just "receive," but rather also to "make." We thus need to remain mindful of the difference between "received" and "participatory" knowledge in community-based attempts to promote the importance of the humanities.

The first day of the meeting proper opened with a panel traditionally focused on the current work of present and past fellowship holders. This year Council and CAO members were treated to fascinating reports from awardees in three different ACLS competitions: a 2014 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship recipient, Sylvia Houghteling (Yale), "Politics, Poetry, and the Figural Language of South Asian Textiles, 1600-1730); a 2011 African Humanities Program Postdoctoral Fellow, Grace Musila (Stellenbosch University), "Kenyan and British Imaginaries in Julie Ward's Death in Kenya"; and 2014 Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellow Margaret O'Mara (University of Washington), "Silicon Age: High Technology and the Reinvention of the United States, 1970-2000." Disparate as these topics might seem to be, the presentations of these scholars reflected a commonality in both the originality and the depth of their research.

In the business meeting that followed, ACLS President Pauline Yu's report to the Council included a reminder of the approaching ACLS centennial in 2019. She also announced significant expansions of some ACLS programs: the Burkhardt Residential Fellowship Program for Recently Tenured Scholars will be doubled from ten to twenty awards, as well as a new collaboration with the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Foundation,

which encourages underrepresented minority undergraduates to pursue Ph.D. work in the humanities and social sciences. Thanks to an unexpected increase in investment income for FY 2013-2014 (returns of nearly 16% vs. 6% budgeted), ACLS was able to increase these programs as well as add to the number of awards in a few other fellowship programs in some of the recently completed competitions. President Yu's inspiring address can be found in text and video format on the ACLS website.

In a luncheon address, the recently appointed chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, William "Bro" Adams, echoed some of the sentiments of the opening session on Thursday evening: the future of NEH, he asserted, lies in developing public engagement in the many projects of humanistic inquiry.

The afternoon panel discussion, "Literacies in the 21st Century" featured as keynote speaker Deborah Brandt, Professor Emerita of English, University of Wisconsin. To prepare her audience for her provocative lecture, Professor Brandt had circulated two readings that dealt with her contrarian, but convincing thesis that "writing has come to supplant reading as the basis of daily literate experience," citing, for example, the number of people who now spend more time "keyboarding" than reading. Panelists Dominic McIver Lopes (Philosophy, University of British Columbia), Claude C. Smith (Political Science, Swarthmore College), and Holly Willis (Cinematic Arts, University of Southern California) enlarged, rather than challenged Brandt's thesis, pointing to new forms of visual, media, and digital literacy which likewise are transforming the production of knowledge and forms of scholarly communication.

The annual Charles Homer Haskins lecture, always based on the theme "A Life of Learning," was delivered by Wendy Doniger, Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions, University of Chicago. Her lecture, too, can be viewed on the ACLS website.

Analoge und digitale Quellen. Aktuelles aus deutschen Archiven GSA Archives Committee Report 2015¹

Rainer Hering
Landesarchiv Schleswig-Holstein

Gliederung:

- 1.) Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln
- 2.) Internationaler Suchdienst (ITS) Bad Arolsen
- 3.) Bundesarchiv
- 4.) Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach
- 5.) GSA Archives Committee

1.) Am 3. März 2015 jährte sich der Einsturz des Historischen Archivs der Stadt Köln zum sechsten Mal.² Seitdem ist das zentrale Ziel weiterhin, möglichst zeitnah viel Archivgut wieder benutzbar zu machen. Dabei geht es im Wesentlichen um folgende Aspekte:

- die Rekonstruktion der durch den Einsturz aus dem Herkunftszusammenhang gerissenen Bestände
- Fortschritte bei der Restaurierung, u. a. der planmäßige Abschluss der Vakuumgefriertrocknung
- eine verstärkte Nutzung der Archivalien und Digitalisate
- die zunehmende Internetpräsenz und
- weitere Schritte auf dem Weg hin zu einem Bürgerarchiv durch Ausbau der Serviceleistungen
- die Verringerung der Zahl der Asylarchive und die Konzentration des Archivgutes auf Magazinflächen im Rheinland bis zum Bezug des Neubaus in Köln.

Leider verzögerte sich bis Mai 2015 der erforderliche Beschluss zur Errichtung des geplanten Neubaus am Eifelwall, der nun im gewünschten Umfang und am gewünschten Standort mit breiter politischer Mehrheit im Stadtrat erfolgt ist. Ende des Jahres sollen die Arbeiten an der Baugrube beginnen – und im Jahr 2019 soll das Gebäude an das Stadtarchiv übergeben werden.

In den weiteren Bereichen ist die Arbeit im vergangenen Jahr deutlich vorangeschritten: Fast 1.000.000 Bergungseinheiten sind inzwischen erfasst worden. Die Kolleginnen und Kollegen in Köln und in den Asylarchiven in Detmold, Bonn und Münster haben damit fast 60 Prozent aller geborgenen Archivalien beschrieben, z.T. sogar identifiziert, objektgerecht verpackt und mit einem Barcode versehen. Weiterhin können nun knapp zwei Drittel aller erfassten Archivalien zumindest einem Bestand zuordnen.

¹ The Archives Committee consists of William Gray, Jennifer Rodgers, Malgorzata Swider, Gerhard Weinberg, Meike Werner, and Rainer Hering (chair).

² Für die folgenden Informationen danke ich Dr. Ulrich Fischer vom Historischen Archiv der Stadt Köln.

Seit September 2014 sind Flächen im ehemaligen Landesarchiv Nordrhein-Westfalen, Abteilung Rheinland, in Düsseldorf angemietet worden. Dort soll ein großes Asylarchiv mit einer Lagerfläche von ca. 20 Regalkilometern entstehen; eine Archivarin, Magazinarbeiter und Hilfskräfte sind bereits eingestellt, die dort bis zum Bezug des Neubaus für das Kölner Stadtarchiv arbeiten werden. Voraussichtlich Anfang 2016 werden die Erfassungsarbeiten in Detmold abgeschlossen, so dass ein großes Asylarchiv geräumt werden kann.

Mit der Beschreibung der Archivalien in der Bergungserfassung ist jedoch die archivische Arbeit noch nicht abgeschlossen. Jedes Stück muss noch einmal sorgfältig geprüft, die Erschließungsinformation ggf. korrigiert und optimiert werden. Ca. 19.000 Einheiten sind bislang bearbeitet worden, dabei kann unter allem trockengereinigten Material z.B. nach Nutzungswünschen priorisiert werden.

Die Trockenreinigung aller Bestände schreitet weiter planmäßig voran. Mehr als 17.000 Archivkartons (knapp 2.000 laufende Meter) Archivgut sind in Köln, in der Außenstelle in Wermsdorf, Sachsen, und bei Dienstleistern bisher bearbeitet worden; zusätzlich wurden 29.000 Urkunden gereinigt und ca. 26.000 Großformate konservatorisch bearbeitet. Obwohl in Einzelbereichen (wie etwa bei den Urkunden) schon größere Anteile der Bestände bearbeitet worden sind, liegt der Anteil an bearbeitetem „normalen“ (also kartoniertem) Archivgut noch unter 10 Prozent. Die Trockenreinigung wird daher über längere Sicht eine zentrale und personalintensive Aufgabe bleiben. Immerhin 96 Prozent des einsturzbetroffenen Archivgutes ist nach einer Trockenreinigung wieder mindestens digitalisierungsfähig, knapp die Hälfte kann auch wieder im Original vorgelegt werden.

Erfreulicher Weise nehmen das Interesse der Menschen am Archiv und die Benutzung weiterhin zu. Der Förderverein „Freunde des Historischen Archivs der Stadt Köln“ finanziert zwei Restauratorinnen, die sich ausschließlich um Patenschaftsstücke kümmern. Fast 911.000 EUR konnten an Drittmitteln für die Restaurierung von Einzelstücken eingeworben und mehr als 600 Objekte davon vollrestauriert werden.

Zugenommen hat die Nutzung: Dies betrifft das „Digitale Historische Archiv“ mit (2013) mehr als 40.000 User-IP-Adressen, aber auch die Anzahl an Anfragen, die weiterhin ansteigt und 2014 das erwartete Maß von 2.200 deutlich überschritt. Die für 2015 angenommene Zahl von 2.500 Anfragen dürfte ebenfalls überschritten werden.

Ein Grund für diese Zunahme dürfte auch die zunehmende Verfügbarkeit von Archivgut sein. 1.045 Seiten füllt die aktuelle Version der „Liste der wiederbenutzbaren Archivalien“. Es ist geplant, in der zweiten Jahreshälfte von dieser Liste zu einer in den Portalen für alle Verzeichnungseinheiten einsehbaren Verfügbarkeitsanzeige überzugehen.

2.) Der Internationale Suchdienst in Bad Arolsen (ITS) untersteht den elf Staaten des Internationalen Ausschusses für den Internationalen Suchdienst (Belgien, Frankreich, Deutschland, Griechenland, Israel, Italien, Luxemburg, Niederlande, Polen, Großbritannien, USA). Grundlage sind die Bonner Verträge von 1955 und das Änderungsprotokoll von 2006. Im Auftrag des Ausschusses wurde der ITS jahrzehntelang vom Internationalen Komitee vom Roten

Kreuz (IKRK) geleitet und verwaltet. Am 9. Dezember 2011 unterzeichneten die elf Mitgliedsstaaten zwei neue Abkommen über die Aufgaben und die Administration des ITS. Das Internationale Komitee des Roten Kreuzes zog sich Ende 2012 aus der Leitung des ITS zurück. Neuer institutioneller Partner ist das Bundesarchiv, finanziert wird die Einrichtung aus dem Haushalt des Bundesinnenministeriums. Die Leiterin Prof. Rebecca Boehling wird zum Jahresende ausscheiden.³

Über die Suche von Personen und das Klären von persönlichen Schicksalen hinaus wird die Erschließung der Unterlagen eine stärkere Rolle spielen. Der ITS wird sich weiter von einem Suchdienst hin zu einem Zentrum für Dokumentation, Information und Forschung entwickeln. Damit soll dauerhaft die Zukunft dieser Einrichtung am Standort Bad Arolsen gesichert werden.

Das Archiv des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Arolsen (ITS) ist das weltweit größte Archiv über zivile Opfer des „Dritten Reiches“ und enthält 26.000 laufende Meter Unterlagen über Konzentrationslager, Inhaftierungen und Zwangsarbeit, die über 17,5 Millionen Menschen Auskunft geben. Die Originaldokumente und die Zentrale Namenkartei des International Tracing Service wurden 2013 in das UNESCO-Register „Memory of the World“ aufgenommen.

Digitale Kopie der Daten befinden sich derzeit im US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington sowie in Israel (Yad Vashem in Jerusalem), Polen (Nationales Institut des Gedenkens in Warschau), Belgien (Archives Générales du Royaume), Luxemburg (Centre de Documentation et de Recherche sur la Résistance), in Frankreich (Archives Nationales) und in Großbritannien (Wiener Library in London) – darunter auch Unterlagen über die Deportation französischer Widerstandskämpfer, die Ausbeutung französischer Zwangsarbeiter sowie die Verfolgung der Juden nach der Besetzung Frankreichs durch die Deutschen. Bislang wurden etwa 88 Millionen Abbildungen und über sieben Terabyte an Daten an diese Einrichtungen überreicht, darunter Dokumente zu Konzentrationslagern, Ghettos und Gefängnissen (ca. 18 Millionen Abbildungen), die Zentrale Namenkartei des ITS (ca. 42 Millionen Abbildungen), Registrierungskarten von Displaced Persons (ca. 7 Millionen Abbildungen) sowie Unterlagen zum Thema Zwangsarbeit (ca. 13 Millionen Abbildungen), zu DP Camps und zur Emigration (4,5 Millionen Abbildungen).

Im Dezember 2014 erhielten die sieben „Copyholder“ des digitalen Archivs rund 1,8 Millionen elektronische Dokumente mit neuen und auch erweiterten Metadaten (Indizierungsdaten). Dazu zählen 350.000 neu digitalisierte Korrespondenzakten. Sie sind von großer Bedeutung, da die Menschen, die sich an den ITS wandten, um noch lebende Familienangehörige zu suchen, Auskunft über vorhandene Dokumente oder Nachweise für Entschädigungs- oder Rentenanträge zu erhalten, Angaben zum Verfolgungsweg machten. Diese Hinweise und die Originaldokumente des ITS bieten eine informative Grundlage für die Rekonstruktion von Einzelschicksalen. Zugleich geben sie Auskunft über die Entschädigungspolitik der

³ Vgl. ITS Jahresbericht 2014. Vernetzung mit nationalen und internationalen Einrichtungen. Bad Arolsen 2015.

Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Die Datenabgabe umfasste zudem Anfragen an Vorgängerinstitutionen des ITS aus den Jahren 1945 und 1946 sowie Images der Effekten.

Der ITS hat in Abstimmung mit dem Internationalen Ausschuss damit begonnen, digitale Kopien von Teilbeständen an KZ-Gedenkstätten auszuhändigen, die das jeweilige Konzentrationslager und seine Inhaftierten betreffen. 2014 erfolgte die Übergabe von pdf.A-Dateien von Dokumenten aus den jeweiligen Teilbeständen an folgende Gedenkstätten: Buchenwald, Mittelbau/Dora, Dachau, Mauthausen, Neuengamme, Sachsenhausen, Bergen-Belsen und SS-Sonderlager/KZ Hinzert. Insgesamt wurden an die Gedenkstätten 4.127.623 pdf.A-Dateien übergeben.

Im März 2014 veröffentlichte der ITS ein erweitertes Findbuch zum Child Search Branch. Ein zusätzliches Projekt war die Verzeichnung und Korrektur des

Teilbestandes „Verfolgungsmaßnahmen insbesondere außerhalb der Grenzen des Deutschen Reichs“, die mit der Fertigstellung der Teilbestände „Judenverfolgung allgemein“ und „Verfolgung polnischer Juden – Zeitungsausschnitte“ abgeschlossen ist. Die Veröffentlichung ist für 2015 vorgesehen. In Zusammenarbeit der Referate Archivische Erschließung und Indizierung sowie der Abteilung Forschung und Bildung startete die inhaltliche Erschließung und tiefergehende Indizierung des Karteikartenbestands der Reichsvereinigung der Juden. Bis Ende 2014 hatte das Team knapp ein Drittel der insgesamt circa 32.000 Karteikarten indiziert. Ende 2015 soll zu diesem Bestand ein Findmittel vorgelegt werden.

Eine vorrangige Aufgabe des ITS ist weiterhin die Digitalisierung und Indizierung der Dokumente, an der etwa ein Drittel aller Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter mitwirken. Insgesamt gibt es rund drei Millionen Korrespondenzakten zwischen dem ITS und Behörden, Überlebenden der nationalsozialistischen Verfolgung sowie Familienangehörigen. Davon sind rund 2,3 Millionen sogenannte T/D-Fälle (Tracing and Documentation), von denen bis Ende 2014 insgesamt 1.125.999 gescannt und 1.062.800 indiziert werden konnten. Neben den T/D-Akten gehören zu dem Bestand der Korrespondenzakten unter anderem auch bereits gescannte Briefwechsel der Vorgängerinstitutionen in Zusammenhang mit Auskunftserteilungen. Sie stammen in erster Linie von der United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) und der International Refugee Organization (IRO).

Für die fallbezogenen Akten des Child Search Branch aus den Jahren 1947 bis 1951 (Kinderakten) wird eine tiefergehende Indizierung durchgeführt. Hier werden zu der bestehenden Grundindizierung noch zusätzliche Attribute erfasst, wie beispielsweise Geburtsort, Religion, Nationalität, Namen der Eltern und zuletzt bekannter Aufenthaltsort. 2014 wurden auf diese Art und Weise 41.617 Datensätze ergänzt. Von den rund 100.000 Umschlagen mit Krankenunterlagen zu Displaced Persons (DPs) konnten bislang 28.000 gescannt werden.

Das ITS wird seit der Öffnung seiner Bestände weiterhin intensiv genutzt. Im Jahr 2014 wurden 8.112 Anfragen (2013: 13.313, 2012: 13.365, 2011: 12.941, 2010: 12.981, 2009: 11.768, 2008: 10.251) gestellt. Knapp drei Prozent der Anfragen kamen von Überlebenden der nationalsozialistischen Verfolgung, gut die Hälfte von Angehörigen.

Der ITS wird oft von Gruppen besucht. Dafür hat es pädagogische Grundlinien entwickelt, die aufzeigen, was dort pädagogisch angeboten werden kann. Materialien für verschiedenen Jahrgangsstufen und Schulformen sowie für die außerschulische Bildung werden auf dieser Basis erarbeitet. Für alle Interessenskreise sind spezielle Rundgänge, Workshops und Vorträge erarbeitet worden.

Nähere Informationen sind im Internet zu finden: www.its-arolsen.org.

3.) Bundesarchiv

Am 26. März 2015 wurde das Internetportal "European Holocaust Research Infrastructure" (EHRI) im Beisein zahlreicher internationaler Vertreterinnen und Vertreter aus Politik und Wissenschaft in der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften der Öffentlichkeit präsentiert. Die Webseite stellt Informationen von mehr als 1.800 Archiven aus 51 Ländern zur Geschichte des Holocaust zusammen.

Das von der EU geförderte Projekt startete im Jahr 2010, finanziert durch das 7. Forschungsrahmenprogramm. Zwanzig führende Forschungsinstitutionen und Archive aus Europa und Israel arbeiteten unter der koordinierenden Leitung des niederländischen Instituts für Kriegsforschung gemeinsam daran, die heterogenen Quellen zum Holocaust zu vereinen. Sie haben nun Strukturen geschaffen, mit denen die europäischen Forschungs- und Archivressourcen vernetzt werden können.

EHRI ist nicht nur eine digitale Infrastruktur, sondern auch ein Netzwerk für Forscherinnen und Forscher. Mithilfe von Forschungsstipendien, Sommerkursen, Workshops und Konferenzen fördert das Projekt Kooperationen von Geschichtswissenschaft, Archivwesen und den digitalen Geisteswissenschaften. Zukünftig wird das Portal um weitere Quellenbestände aus Europa, den USA und insbesondere den vergleichsweise wenig erforschten Ländern Osteuropas, ergänzt. Etwa 90 Prozent der Holocaustopfer waren osteuropäische Juden.

Das Bundesarchiv war in der jetzt abgeschlossenen ersten Projektphase assoziierter Partner von EHRI. Ab Mai 2015 erfährt das Netzwerk eine weitere Förderung durch die EU. Diese zweite Projektphase wird das Bundesarchiv als fester Partner im Kernkonsortium begleiten und in diesem Rahmen eine Summer School und einen Online-Kurs als Einführung in deutsche Akten mit Bezug zum Holocaust anbieten.

Nähere Informationen: <http://ehri-project.eu>.⁴

4.) Literaturarchive bieten nicht nur für die Germanistik, sondern gerade auch für die Geschichtswissenschaft wichtige Quellen. Herausragend ist das 1955 gegründete Deutsche Literaturarchiv in Marbach am Neckar. Finanziert wird es von der Bundesregierung und dem Land Baden-Württemberg sowie von den Städten Stuttgart, Ludwigsburg und Marbach sowie dem Landkreis Ludwigsburg. Mit rund 1.200 Nach- und [Vorlässen](#) von namhaften

⁴ Quelle: Bundesarchiv Newsletter Sommer 2015.

Schriftstellern, Schriftstellerinnen und Gelehrten gehört die Marbacher Handschriftensammlung international zu den führenden Sammlungen ihrer Art. Sie erwirbt, erschließt und archiviert Manuskripte, Briefe und Lebensdokumente vom 18. Jahrhundert bis in die Gegenwart. Der Zugang zu den Sammlungen steht allen offen, die Quellen für ihre Arbeit brauchen. Darüber hinaus finden sich hier auch *Redaktionsarchive literarischer Zeitschriften*, wie Merkur, Neue Deutsche Hefte, Text + Kritik, Texte und Zeichen, Die Wandlung, und Verlagsarchive, wie z.B. Cotta, Insel, Luchterhand, MÄRZ, R. Piper, S. Fischer und Suhrkamp. Die Bestände sind bis 1998 in Zettelkatalogen und Bestandslisten nachgewiesen, seit 1999 in der Datenbank.

Neu übernommen wurden u.a. folgende Bestände:

- Delius, F.C. Vorlass, Teil 2
- Enzensberger, Hans Magnus, Vorlass
- Grössel, Hanns, Nachlass
- Grünbein, Durs, Vorlass
- Heidegger, Martin an Fritz
- Heidegger, Martin, Konvolut Vietta
- Kirsch, Sarah, Restnachlass
- Lethen, Helmut, Vorlass
- Michaelis, Rolf, Nachlass
- Mosebach, Martin, Vorlass
- Schiller, Todtenklage
- Schirmbeck, Heinrich, Nachlass
- Strauß, Botho, Vorlass
- Text und Kritik, Archiv der Zeitschrift
- Schirnding, Albert von, Vorlass
- Hoffmann, Dieter, Vorlass
- Hoffmann, Paul, Nachlass
- Müller-Seidel, Walter, Nachlass
- Wilhelm Emrich: Nachlass

Im Museum finden regelmäßig sehenswerte Ausstellungen statt, z.B. im 2014/15 über den *Wert des Originals*, zu der auch ein instruktiver Katalog vorgelegt worden ist: Der Wert des Originals. Mit einem Essay von Gottfried Boehm (marbachermagazin 148). Marbach am Neckar 2014. In einer Welt, in der alles schnell und beliebig häufig reproduzierbar ist, in der es bei digitalen Daten kein wirkliches „Original“ mehr gibt, erhält das Original einen besonderen Stellenwert. Im Klappentext zum Buch heißt es: „In einer Welt der schwierigen Fälle und der unsicheren Dinge heißt dieser [archimedische] Punkt: das Original. Noch nie waren wir so sehr auf Originale angewiesen wie heute, noch nie waren wir so süchtig danach. Das Original sagt uns, wann etwas begann und wie etwas Neues in die Welt kam. Es spendet Legitimität, setzt Werte fest, sichert künstlerische Originalität und kulturelle Ursprünge. Es ist die Antwort auf die Frage, warum etwas sei und nicht nichts: Es verhindert, dass uns die Welt entgleitet, die Kopien überhand nehmen dass Fälschungen uns blenden.“ Originale stehen in einem Zusammenhang mit den jeweiligen Kulturen, die es ermöglichen eine spezielle Wirksamkeit zu erlangen. Nur in

politischen, religiösen, kulturellen Kontexten können Originale „Anfänge schaffen, Geschichtszeichen setzen, Individualitäten begründen, Legitimität verschaffen“ (S. 7).

Adresse: Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach, Schillerhöhe 8-10, 71672 Marbach am Neckar, Telefon +49 7144 848-0, Telefax +49 7144 848-299, <http://www.dla-marbach.de/startseite/index.html>.

5.) Grundsätzlich steht das Archives Committee für Fragen, Probleme und Hinweise zum Archivwesen im deutschsprachigen Bereich zur Verfügung. Auch Anregungen und Vorschläge für Veranstaltungen auf GSA-Konferenzen werden gern entgegengenommen. Sofern Mitglieder Erfahrungen mit der Anwendung der Informationsfreiheitsgesetze in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland haben, wird um Rückmeldung gebeten.

Rainer Hering, Landesarchiv Schleswig-Holstein, Prinzenpalais, 24837 Schleswig, Germany
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New GSA Committee Appointments, 2015-16

Interdisciplinary Committee/ Networks

Jennifer Evans (History, Carleton University)

jennifer.evans@carleton.ca

Pamela Potter (German/Music, University of Wisconsin—Madison)

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Program Committee

Program Director:

Todd Heidt (German, Knox College)

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Pre-1800 all fields:

Sara (Sally) Poor (German, Princeton University)

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19th Century (all fields):

Catriona MacLeod (German, University of Pennsylvania)

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20th/21st Century History:

Beth Griech-Polelle (History, Pacific Lutheran University)

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Annette Timm (History, University of Calgary)

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20th and 21st C literature and cultural studies:

Christine Rinne Eaton (German, University of South Alabama)

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Valerie Weinstein (German, University of Cincinnati)

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Contemporary Politics, Economics, and Society:

Jeffrey Anderson (Political Science, Georgetown University)

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Robert Mark Spaulding (History, University of North Carolina at Wilmington)

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Diachronic and Interdisciplinary:

Joanne Miyang Cho (History, William Paterson University) choj@wpunj.edu

April Eisman (Art History, Iowa State University) eismana@iastate.edu

Seminar Committee:

Heikki Lempa, Chair (History, Moravian College)
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 Darcy Buerkle (History, Smith College)
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 Carrie Smith-Prei (German, University of Alberta)
 carrie.smith-prei@ualberta.ca

Nominating Committee:

Celia Applegate, Chair (History, Vanderbilt University)
 celia.applegate@vanderbilt.edu
 Carol Hager (Political Science, Bryn Mawr College)
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 Dan Magilow (German/Holocaust/Visual, University of Tennessee, Knoxville)
 dmagilow@utk.edu
 Rick McCormick (German/Film, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)
mccor001@umn.edu

DAAD Book Prize:

Kristin Kopp, Chair (German, University of Missouri, Columbia)
 koppkr@missouri.edu
 Rachel Halverson (German, Washington State University)
 rachel_halverson@wsu.edu
 Brent Peterson (German, Lawrence University) brent.peterson@lawrence.edu

DAAD Article Prize:

H. Glenn Penny, chair (History, University of Iowa)
 h-penny@uiowa.edu
 Margarete Feinstein (Research Scholar, University of California at Los Angeles)
 mfeinstein@ucla.edu
 Jared Poley (History, Georgia State University)
jpoley@gsu.edu

Graduate Student Essay Prize:

Christina Gerhardt, chair (German, Film, University of Hawai'i)
 crgerhardt@gmail.com
 Deborah Barton (History, University of Cardiff)
 deborah.barton@utoronto.ca
 Natalie Eppelsheimer (German, Middlebury College)
eppelshe@middlebury.edu

Berlin Fellows Selection Committee:

Margaret Menninger (History, Texas State University)
mm48@txstate.edu

Brad Prager (German/Film/Jewish Studies, University of Missouri, Columbia)
pragerb@missouri.edu

In Memoriam: Hans Mommsen (1930-2015)

The German Studies Association was saddened to learn of the death of Hans Mommsen on November 5, 2015. It is tempting for those of us who knew and loved Hans to think of the fact that he passed away on his 85th birthday as another example of vintage Mommsen. But as well-known as Hans was for the tenacity and spirit with which he would defend his point of view, he was also known for the enormous generosity and encouragement that he provided to young scholars like myself – and particularly from this side of the Atlantic – when they were just learning to negotiate the challenges of presenting papers and publishing their first work. As one of my former students at Canisius observed on learning of Hans' death: "It may sound silly, but I felt like I had met a rock star when he took the time to talk with me in the halls of Churchill Tower." No one could have asked for a better mentor.

Unlike many of his peers, Hans was intensely interested in learning what American historians had to say about modern German history and did what he could to remain on top of the current state of North American scholarship on topics of interest to him. He held visiting professorships at Princeton, Harvard, Berkeley, and Georgetown. He attended at least four meetings of the German Studies Association, once as a luncheon speaker talking about the dissolution of the German army in the last stages of World War II and then more frequently as a commentator and panelist. His comments again were always vintage Mommsen: trenchant, incisive, and supportive particularly when younger scholars were involved.

Hans Mommsen was first and foremost a political historian. At the beginning of his career, Hans had argued that the historical sciences needed to be infused with the methodologies, insights, and analytic strategies of political science. His own special interest in this regard was the relationship between Germany's functional elites and the Third Reich. His earliest work was on the German civil service and the role it had played in the stabilization and legitimation of the Nazi regime. The symposium on "Industrielles System und politische Entwicklung in der Weimarer Republik" that he and several of his colleagues at the University of the Ruhr in Bochum organized in the summer of 1973 brought established senior scholars and aspirant younger scholars together in a conference that essentially defined the parameters of future research on the social, economic, and political history of the Weimar Republic for the next thirty years. Aside from his work on the German civil service, Hans is perhaps best known for his massive study of Volkswagen and its workers in the Third Reich.

As much as we remember Hans for the breadth and depth of his scholarship, it is perhaps even more important to remember the moral impulses that inspired his scholarship. For Hans history was a moral enterprise. In this regard Hans is perhaps best known for his rejection of the intentionalist model for understanding the decision-making process in the Third Reich and for his vigorous advocacy of what has come to be known as the functionalist or structural approach to Nazi Germany. Not only was intentionalism incompatible with what the most recent developments in political science were telling us about the polycratic character of the Nazi regime and the decision-making process in the Third Reich, but it also had the effect of exculpating the vast majority of those who were complicit in the crimes of the Third Reich. The conviction that the patterns of complicity in the Third Reich were much broader than the

intentionalist model would allow informed not only Hans' work on the civil service and Volkswagen but also his penetrating analysis of the motives of those who became involved in the anti-Hitler resistance. Hans categorically rejected the doctrine of Germany's collective guilt and consistently argued for a more nuanced and differentiated approach to the question of responsibility for the crimes of Nazi Germany.

Hans' is a voice that will be sorely missed in the historical profession, both in Germany and the United States. But in remembering Hans, let us not forget the warm and generous hospitality that Hans and his wife Grete extended to friends and scholars alike, from their earliest days in Bochum to Munich and Feldafing. The Mommsen household was always a place where those of different views and backgrounds could congregate for a lively, if not occasionally contentious, exchange of ideas, opinions, and viewpoints on history past and present, an exchange tempered always by a good dose of humor and a mutual sense of respect. That too was vintage Mommsen.

Larry Eugene Jones

Canisius College