

The New at Brandeis Europe in review Winter 2006-07

CGES' FIRST DECADE

In 2007 CGES is ten years old! Time to take account of the achievements of a decade. CGES lectures, conferences, film screenings, Jewish-German dialogue meetings and many other events, as well as faculty and student research and study have brought a rich spectrum of German and European perspectives to the Brandeis campus every year.

Inaugurated with a symposium on *German Literature, Jewish Critics* in the fall of 1997 (published by Camden House as a volume of articles edited by Professors Stephen Dowden and Meike Werner in 2002) CGES has kept its finger on the world's pulse with symposia about such diverse topics as Iran's nuclear program, the young Jewish communities in Germany today, the Euro, ethnic conflict in the Balkans, EU enlargement, European integration, international Green politics (published as a volume of articles in 2002) women's representation and equality in Europe, the Muslim headscarf controversy, the persecution of Nazi lootings, the normalization of relations between Poles and Jews, new Anti-Semitism in the European left-wing media, the rise of the extreme right, anti-Americanism in Europe post 9/11, the reform of the continental welfare states, the Russian-Jewish diaspora (published as a volume of articles in 2006), and responses to Islamic radicalism and terrorism on both sides of the Atlantic, to name only a few. Many noted personalities have come to visit Brandeis as the Center's guests. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl received an Honorary Degree from Brandeis and was commencement speaker in 1998. Ambassadors Jürgen Chrobog and Wolfgang Ischinger came to campus, as did former Israeli Ambassador to Germany Avi Primor, German-Turkish Member of the German/European Parliament Cem Özdemir, and the candidate for German Federal President, Gesine Schwan.

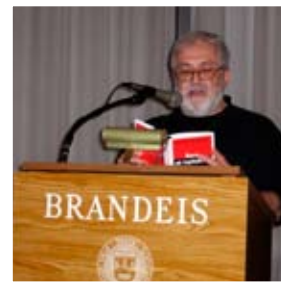
CGES has also continuously supported the arts and the



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HENRYK BRODER and RADICAL ISLAM

Renowned German author HENRYK BRODER brought his provocatively titled book *Hurra, wir kapitulieren* [Hooray, we capitulate] (2006) to Brandeis on November 28, 2006 to launch a discussion with faculty experts about the way in which Europeans and Americans (should) approach the fight against radical Islamic terrorism. Known for his satirical style and unflinching polemic, Broder did not mince his words. He accused German and European leaders of bowing to Islamic terrorists in many cases, as by condemning the Danish cartoons of the prophet Mohammad and silencing Dutch filmmaker Van Gogh. Broder, the son of Holocaust survivors, held misguided 'political correctness' responsible for the 'capitulation', saying that European democracies should instead stand up for the values their constitutions are meant to protect. GEORGE ROSS, Hillquit Professor of Labor and Social Thought and Director, Center for German and European Studies at Brandeis University, accepted Broder's challenge, emphasizing the importance of people like him who act as "thorns in the side of the Establishment". Nevertheless Ross also warned of the danger that Broder's use of words poses: "We must not forget who started this mess" Ross reminded the audience of over 60 students, faculty, and visitors. It was the US, he charged, who financed the Taliban, intended originally as a bulwark against Soviet communism. Similarly, Saddam Hussein and the Iraq revolutionary government were initially greeted by US support. Ross warned that ignoring such historical facts posed the danger of distorting reality in order to shift responsibility on others. ANGEL M. RABASA, Senior Policy Analyst at the RAND Corporation, agreed with Ross' assessment, but also welcomed Broder's initial call for vigilance. Presenting findings from a number of studies he analyzed the profile of Islamic terrorist groups, pointing out that the majority of young terrorists were recent converts from lower middle



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From the Director

Happy Birthdays: The Center for German and European Studies at Brandeis Nears 10, The European Union Turns 50



Nearly ten years ago German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, a great European leader, suggested that Brandeis start a Center for German and European Studies (CGES). He reasoned that what was happening in Germany and Europe was new and unprecedented and that Americans deserved to know more about it. He also promised generous support from the German people. Brandeis was an especially important place for this because of its connections with an American Jewish community that was justifiably sensitive about German and European pasts. CGES has been very active at making Brandeis and its community aware of the multiple dimensions of contemporary Germany and Europe, to learn about politics, culture, and social change in Europe. The CGES philosophy holds, with Chancellor Kohl, that Europe today is no longer the battlefield of nations and excessive, intolerant nationalisms of the past, nor is it an imitation America. Instead it is a vibrant, unifying, continent characterized by democracy, cultural pluralism, creativity, tolerance, and peace, finding creative new ways in a globalizing, sometimes perilous, new world. CGES looks forward to growing to maturity along with this new Europe and, in the process, helping Brandeisians and others to understand its uniqueness.

What greater symbol of this Europe could there be than the European Union, which turns fifty this year. For humans, a fiftieth birthday is a challenge. Youthful enthusiasm and energy have given way to a life lived, when complexity, hard facts, and self-evaluative capacities have supplanted impulsiveness, ideology, and passion. The EU is not human, of course, but rather a complicated set of organizations with large and growing responsibilities. Still, when German Chancellor Angela Merkel convenes EU leaders to Berlin on March 25 to fête the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Rome Treaty, it will be with immense pride. The EU was founded by France and Germany, formerly mortal enemies, and four other countries, with the unspeakable horrors of the first half of the 20th century as a close background. Since 1957 there has been peace among EU members. What started as a modest “common market” is now a single, mammoth Europe-wide economy. Europe now has a single currency, the Euro, and unprecedented prosperity. The EU is second to none in the world at promoting democracy. Beginning with Western European countries whose own democracies were precarious, the Union quickly became a beacon to democracy and reform for Southern Europeans exiting authoritarian dictatorships and then for central and Eastern Europeans exiting communism. The EU’s present 27 members have much to celebrate in Berlin. Young CGES wishes the mature EU a happy birthday, therefore! And as CGES itself grows, you can be sure that it will help the Brandeis community follow the new Europe and the EU with lucidity and energy.

George Ross

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Event Highlights 2006

February 16, 2006

The Life and Times of Bobby Sands

When Bobby Sands died on the sixty-sixth day of his hunger strike against repressive prison conditions in Northern Ireland's H-Block prisons on May 5, 1981, he was only twenty-seven years old and had spent almost nine years of his life in prison as a member of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). Presenting the findings of his new book *Nothing but an Unfinished Song: The Life and Times of Bobby Sands*. DENIS O'HEARN, Professor of Sociology at Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, told a captive Brandeis audience how Sands inspired Nelson Mandela to begin his prison hunger strike in South Africa. O'Hearn contended that Sands greatly contributed to the political process that culminated in the Good Friday accords in 1998.

March 13, 2006

The Image of the Female Gypsy in European Culture

Together with the Department of Romance and Comparative Literature at Brandeis CGES sponsored a talk by LOU CHARNON-DEUTSCH, Professor of Spanish Literature at Stony Brook University. Charnon-Deutsch is the author of several books on women in Spanish literature and culture, including *Narratives of Desire: Nineteenth-Century Spanish Fiction by Women* (1994), *Fictions of the Feminine in the Nineteenth-Century Spanish Press* (1999), and *The Spanish Gypsy. The History of a European Obsession* (2004). In her talk, Charnon-Deutsch contrasted the life of real gypsy women with their idealized fictional counterparts.



April 10, 2006

The Strike in France

It was a very different crowd on the streets of France only months after the riots in the immigrant quarters. Brandeis Faculty experts from the departments of Politics, History, and Romance and Comparative Literature (ROCL) joined forces in an impromptu meeting to analyze the political, social, and historical background of the strike that brought thousands of angry young French to the streets in defense of a welfare system many outside France view as obsolete and outdated. The CPE *Contrat première embauche* legislation that would have permitted employers to dismiss young workers without cause or compensation during their first two years on the job



Martine Voiret, Michael Randall, Paul Jankowski, and George Ross

was duly withdrawn by the government after hundreds of thousands hit the streets over a month-long period. CGES Director GEORGE ROSS presented a brief overview of the situation at the outset, explaining the role of demonstrations for the French psyche, and the contrast to the November riots. PAUL JANKOWSKI, Chair of the History department drew comparisons between the current demonstrators and their parents in 1968. JANE HALE, Professor of French in ROCL, presented a slideshow with reactions from the American press, highlighting the different views of globalization in Europe and the US. And finally SABINE LEVET, Lecturer of French in ROCL gave a personal French perspective on the debate. The discussion focused on the question why much more dramatic inequalities in the US would hardly ever spark the kind of reaction seen in France.



Sabine Levet, Holly Harder, Esther Ratner

April 25, 2006

Being Jewish in the New Germany



The Jewish community in Germany continues to be the fastest-growing in all of Europe. Professor JEFFREY PECK from the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies in Washington, D.C. came to Brandeis to present his new book *Being Jewish in the New Germany*, which had just come out a few months earlier. Peck noted the disparity between the rapid changes in German-Jewish life, and the little notice this life receives in the US. Speaking on Holocaust Remembrance Day Peck described how he had come to love the multifaceted culture that new Russian-Jewish immigrants have brought to German cities, especially Berlin. In his view, the need to integrate these immigrants provides an unusual opportunity for cross-cultural dialogue among different immigrant groups, who collectively experience alienation and discrimination from the Christian German majority. Turks and Jews must work together to address neo-Nazism and xenophobia, Peck concluded.

April 28–30, 2006

First Conscience and Courage award for Michael Verhoeven
CGES proudly awarded its first **Conscience and Courage Award** to renowned German filmmaker MICHAEL VERHOEVEN, who came to Brandeis to present his



newest film, *Unknown Soldier*. A retrospective of his work included the famous *Nasty Girl*, *The White Rose*, as well as a screening (in German) of a documentary about the Verhoeven family, at the Goethe Institute. Verhoeven, who was born in Berlin in 1938, enthusiastically accepted the honor, and engaged in a lively discussion with students about his work. Professor SABINE VON MERING praised Verhoeven's films as she handed him the award: "Your films have broken ground in moral standards. By focusing on individuals, often women, who dare speak truth to power, you have shown Germans of all ages what *Zivilcourage* [civil courage] can do. Your films empower young generations to challenge a culture of silence, indifference, and denial."



September 13, 2006
Berlin Today: German Hosts: Jewish Visitors

For many years the German government has generously sponsored trips to Berlin for the Jewish members of the Jewish-German Dialogue groups in the Boston area. At this

joint meeting of the groups, entitled "Berlin Today: German Hosts, Jewish Visitors" all six members who traveled to Berlin in August presented their impressions to a crowded room. Each presenter took a slightly different approach, but all showed pictures highlighting the intensity of the ten-day seminar, with visits to former concentration camps, Holocaust memorials, but also institutions such as the office that holds the Stasi files, and an educator in charge of Turkish-German relations. The discussion centered around the question whether the visitors felt that they received a faithful impression, given that the trip was sponsored by the German government, who obviously has an interest in a positive outcome. All visitors denied having felt restricted in any way to ask critical questions or visit places of their choice, as the program also provides independent spare time.

October 10, 2006
Günter Grass and His Confession

After revealing his SS-membership, German author and nobel laureate Günter Grass came under sharp criticism from all over the world. Together with the Goethe Institute Boston CGES organized a panel discussion entitled *Günter Grass and His Confession: A Panel Discussion about the Presence of the Past*, with KARL KAISER from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, STEVE DOWDEN from the Department of German,

Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures at Brandeis University, Auschwitz-survivor and author of *Auswanderung vorläufig nicht möglich* [Emigration Impossible for Now] RUTH GUTMANN, and INGRID KISLIUK, Literary Scholar and author of *Unveiled Shadows, the Witness of a Child*. The session, which was moderated by journalist SUSANNE KLINGENSTEIN, showed the controversial sides of an author who had been "Germany's conscience" for decades. After Susanne Klingenstein laid out the unfolding of events that led to the outcry of critique, each panel member talked about a different aspect of the person Günter Grass: the political figure, the literary figure, and the contemporary witness. Under close debate was the "staging" of his book's release and the ensuing discussion with the audience focused on the issue of accountability. Karl Kaiser pointed out that the importance of Grass for Germany as a political person in the decades after WWII cannot be discounted despite his involvement in the SS and late confession. However, it was clear from other comments of the panel and the audience that for many it is impossible not to see all of Grass' actions over the years in a different light now. Literary critics surely will have reason to analyze *The Tin Drum* (1959) again, taking into account the new information about Grass' past.



October 23, 2006
Concentration Camp Souvenirs

In her presentation "Concentration camp souvenirs: pieces of memory or objects of commercial mass production?" young German scholar ULRIKE DITTRICH presented the results of her investigation into the kinds of objects souvenir stores are selling at the concentration camp memorial sites around Berlin with the help of an incredibly compelling slide-show of pictures of the souvenirs.



Dittrich, who studied Media and Communication, Art History, and Theatre at the Freie Universität Berlin and graduated with an analysis of the German-Jewish exile press in Palestine explained that she is primarily interested in places that are memorials to the Holocaust as well as to the time of the Communist regime.



November 7, 2006

Commemorating Alma Rosé on her 100th Birthday

During the same week that the Boston University theater put up a production of Arthur Miller's *Playing for Time*, the play that chronicles her death in Auschwitz, CGES also commemorated violinist ALMA ROSÉ (Gustav Mahler's niece) on her 100th Birthday. Journalist RICHARD NEWMAN, author of *Alma Rosé: Vienna to Auschwitz* (2000) first got the



idea for the book about Alma Rosé's life after speaking to her brother, Alfred, who mentioned that Alma had saved many Jewish girls in her camp orchestra. Newman felt compelled to find out how Alma had accomplished such a feat. "Everyone is unique," says Newman, "but Alma, though dead now 62 years, became singled out from those prominent prisoners who perished in the grotesque Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. A darling of Viennese society, a musician of considerable accomplishment, she was a natural leader motivated by an unerring sense of the 'right thing' to do. Her forceful personality and her capacity to overcome adversity for



Auschwitz to Srebrenice: War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity, and the Possibility of Justice

"Is it possible to render justice on Auschwitz?" This question stood at the beginning of a one-day CGES symposium held on March 21, 2006 in Hassenfeld Conference Center. DEVIN PENDAS, historian at Boston College and author of *The Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial, 1963–1965: Genocide, History and the Limits of the Law* (2006) explained how the Auschwitz trial that was held in Germany 1963–1965 had to fail to address the enormity of the crime due to the specificities of the German legal system. Pendas first sketched the different kinds of justice that could possibly be applied in any criminal case, although problematic in a case of this magnitude. The fact that those sentenced received in total only one minute jail time per victim clearly showed, so Pendas, that the German legal system was ill-equipped to begin with. In contrast to the Eichmann Trial held in Jerusalem, which focused much more on the "big picture" of the Holocaust, the German trials were hindered by a German law that branded the defendants as 'accomplices', who acted out of loyalty rather than internalized criminal motives, and were therefore not perpetrators. PAUL JANKOWSKI, Raymond Ginger

the sake of her father made her a heroic figure to me even though she sometimes showed a streak of arrogance and even folly in her decisions."

December 4, 2006

Justice Brandeis in Germany

In a year full of celebrations in honor of LOUIS DEMBITZ BRANDEIS' 150th birthday, CGES invited Professor DANIEL BREEN from the Department of American Studies at Brandeis to talk about Brandeis' experience as a young student in Germany. During the years 1873–1875 Brandeis' parents, who had originally immigrated to the United States from Germany, after having been profoundly disappointed in the failure of the 1848 revolution, brought their son (who was fully bilingual) to a high school in Dresden, where he attended regular classes for over a year. Breen reviewed the impact this experience must have had on the young Brandeis, who apparently greatly enjoyed the experience. Breen pointed out Brandeis' strong belief in education, and his commitment to social justice, which could have been spurred by witnessing the outrageous inequalities in newly industrialized Europe. Throughout his life, Breen claimed, Brandeis was profoundly impacted by this experience.



Daniel Terris

discussion with an assessment of the International Criminal Court (ICC). As Slobodan Milosevic had just died that week, thus ending the three-year process to bring him to justice, Terris explained how his trial, with its more than 300 witnesses who testified, could be viewed as emblematic of the successes and failures involved in international criminal cases. The fact that leaders can be held responsible for their actions must certainly be regarded as a major achievement, Terris said. A conviction could have a deterrent effect on such warlords as Liberian Charles Taylor. 43 defendants were convicted in the trial against former Yugoslavian leaders, 20 in the case of Ruanda. Potentially the ad-hoc

tribunals that pre-date the actual International Criminal Court (ICC) have already had a significant impact, as they struck a blow against impunity, establish historical record by collecting evidence, advance the law so that judges will no longer have to work in a vacuum, and finally deal with rape as a war crime. According to Terris, the problems that continue to haunt the process are not small, though. As trials drag on for too long, run up enormous bills, work inefficiently due to linguistic barriers and seemingly ignore some nations' crimes while prosecuting others', and because they are seen as interfering with political processes, thus endangering the important division of judicial and executive power. As long as only smaller nations are held accountable, larger nations may give the impression that they are above the law, Terris concluded.

Faculty Profile

STEVE DOWDEN is a professor of German Language and Literature in the Department of German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures at Brandeis University. He was educated at Texas Tech and at the University of California at Berkeley, with long stints of study and research in Austria at the universities of Graz and Vienna, and in Germany at Tübingen and Konstanz. His teaching, research, and publications reach from the age of Enlightenment to the present day, with special emphasis on the novel as an aesthetic form. Currently on sabbatical leave, Dowden is at work on a book that seeks to integrate German fiction into the larger European context by focusing on the relationship between lived experience and the novel. Apart from his teaching in German, Dowden also co-ordinates a popular undergraduate major called European Cultural Studies. It allows talented Brandeis students to mold a humanities major to suit their particular interests and talents.



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class background. Rabasa also highlighted the differences between Muslim communities worldwide, emphasizing the need for better integration of Muslims especially in Europe. He praised European police efforts of recent months that had prevented a number of terrorist attacks by improving the collaboration among security agencies, challenging the US and Canada to follow suit. JYTTE KLAUSEN, Professor of Comparative Politics at Brandeis University, whose most recent book *The Challenge of Islam: Politics and Religion in Western Europe* (Oxford University Press, 2005) was just published in German last month, concurred with Rabasa's assessment of the terrorists' profile. Klausen emphasized the need to consider a wide spectrum of data in the analysis, pointing out the differences (of origin, ethnicity, religious affiliation, and social standing) between Muslim communities in Britain, France, and Germany. SEYOM BROWN, Wien Professor of International Cooperation at Brandeis University pondered what he would advise a new incoming US President to do, and highlighted the need to continue to ask new questions about the issues, urging sociologists and political scientists not to "hide behind the data" without drawing fresh conclusions that could truly help policymakers move forward in new directions. During the lively discussion that followed two Muslim students rejected the title of the program, saying that by putting Islam and terrorism together in the title the organizers had somehow implicated all Muslims in the criminal actions of a few. SABINE VON MERING, Associate Professor of German at Brandeis University and Executive Director of CGES, who moderated the discussion, responded that the title had been chosen after careful consideration, because "the terrorist acts are indeed committed in the name of Islam, not Christianity or Judaism." She admitted, however, that the title had been controversial among the organizers as well, and invited both students to join CGES in helping plan future events about this topic.



Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz and Henryk Broder



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humanities by organizing concerts and exhibits, and by bringing young European authors, artists and filmmakers to Brandeis, including such notable figures as Eva Hoffman, Daniel Ganzfried, Esther Dischereit, Yaacov Guterman, Lou Charnon Deutsch, Andrei S. Markovits, Susan Stern, Barbara Honigmann, José F.A. Olivier, Jakob Hein, Carmen Francesca Banciu, Mario Giordano, Jana Hensel, Savyon Liebrecht, Claudia Rusch, Björn Krondorfer, Luise Schottroff, Dadaist actor Bernd Seydel, composers George Perle and Gottfried Wagner, as well as filmmakers Jörg Daniel and Wolfram Hissen, Margarethe von Trotta, Volker Kuehne, and Michael Verhoeven.

In its tenth anniversary year CGES is poised to continue its mission. With global warming finally receiving international attention CGES is proud to host Helen Donoghue from the European Commission and Danyel Reiche from Freie Universität Berlin on March 12, who will speak about “Oil Change: Towards New Energy Policy in Europe and the US” at 5pm in Napoli Room, Gosman Sports Center. The event will be co-sponsored by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Environmental Studies Program at Brandeis, as well as SEA-Students for

Environmental Action. In the past, CGES has successfully hosted and organized events together with such institutions as the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University, the Institute for Human Sciences at Boston University, the Goethe Institut Boston, the Departments of German at Wellesley College, MIT, and Tufts University, the Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry and the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life at Brandeis University. CGES looks forward to more such collaborations in the coming years.

All the work of the past ten years would have been unthinkable without the generous support from the European Recovery Program (ERP) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The Max Kade Foundation in New York has generously supported student travel to Germany for many years. We hope to further develop relations with these and other organizations in support of transatlantic dialogue as CGES moves into its second decade.

REFLECTIONS ON SUMMER IN BERLIN

I have traveled to many places around the world due to having a travel agent as a mother, but none have compared to my experience in Berlin last summer. I had no idea what to expect of life in Germany except for the well-known stereotypes of everything being very organized and efficient, lots of bratwurst and sauerkraut, and of course, the fabulous German beer which Germans were supposedly very fond and proud of. All of these proved to be true — I have never traveled on such an organized and efficient public transportation system as *Die Bahn*, have never seen so many different kinds of sausages in my life nor drank so much good German beer! Berlin was a fascinating city full of life and diversity. The stark contrast between east and west Berlin was amazing. The countless restaurants offering foods of various ethnicities were fantastic, yet affordable, and for those on a very tight budget, there were always *döners* available anytime, anyplace.

Although after visiting Berlin I now consider it to be a “must-see” city whether or not they are hosting the World Cup, to be completely honest, this “football bonus” was very influential in my decision, especially since my own homeland, Trinidad and Tobago, were playing in it for the first time ever! I was very fortunate to get tickets to a couple of the games, including the final, which were probably the most incredible experiences of my life, especially die *Fußballweltmeisterschaft!* Practically every restaurant and bar had several, new flat screen televisions on which all the games were aired so that you never had to miss one! All-in-all my summer in Berlin was an unforgettable and life-changing experience and I would give anything to be able to do it again! — *Lindsay Deslauriers*

Deciding to go to Berlin was almost a spur-of-the moment decision. I had never taken any German, and I had never really thought seriously of visiting the country. But I knew I wanted to do a summer abroad, and after seeing the ads it seemed like a nice place to go. It was the best impulsive choice I’ve ever made! My summer in Berlin was unlike anything I had ever experienced. Between classes and my home-stay, I was immediately thrust into a German environment. And I was given the unique opportunity to learn about a new culture and live in it at the same time. Since Germany was hosting the World Cup (or *Weltmeisterschaft*) last summer, my friends on the program and I were finally able to understand the rest of the world’s obsession with soccer. And by traveling to Poland with the program, and to other countries with my friends, I was able to gain an entirely new perspective on Europe. My trip ended well over six months ago, but I still keep in touch with some of the people from my program — and I can’t wait to go back to Berlin for another visit. — *Nicole Salzman*



Preview of Upcoming Events in 2007

Mark your calendars for CGES' festive 10th anniversary celebration on October 9 and 10, 2007 in Rapaport Treasure Hall of Goldfarb Library. Several panels of experts will address issues in European history, art, and culture in the new millennium. The keynote address will be given by the new German Ambassador to the United States, KLAUS SCHARIOTH. More updated information will be available on our website.

A group of young Germans who study at Brandeis, some undergraduates, some graduate students, join the Jewish-German Dialogue group on Wednesday, March 7 at 6 pm to discuss their experience growing up in Germany. They talk about Holocaust education in German schools, the subject of Jews and Israel in the German media, and what they believe most young Americans should know about their home country.

On March 12, 2007 join HELEN DONOGHUE from the European Commission and DANYEL REICHE from the FU Berlin who will address *Oil Change: Towards New Energy Policy in Europe and the US*. The event will be held in Napoli Room, Gosman Sports Center at 5 pm.

On September 14, 2006 three young Rabbis were ordained in the city of Dresden. This marked a new beginning for the growing Jewish communities of Germany. One person who was instrumental in making this milestone possible will come to Brandeis on April 26: WALTHER HOMOLKA, Principal of the Abraham Geiger College at Potsdam University, Germany, the first rabbinical seminary in this country since the Shoa, will speak about *Rabbis for the Renaissance of German Jewish Life — The Abraham Geiger College*. Homolka is Chairman of the Leo Baeck Foundation and an Executive Board member of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. President Jacques Chirac admitted him to the French Legion of Honor in 2004. Dr. Homolka, who holds a PhD from King's College London, will speak at 6 pm in Rapaport Treasure Hall.



On April 22 filmmaker MALTE LUDIN will be present to discuss the documentary film *Two Or*

Three Things I Know About Him, in which he tells the story of living with his father's Nazi past. The film centers around the family of Hanns Ludin, who was executed as a war criminal in Bratislava in 1947. The director, Ludin's son Malte, the youngest of six, confronts the rest of his family with the known and uncomfortable facts of his father's Nazi career. A high-ranking SA-leader, Hanns Ludin, was German Ambassador to Slovakia from 1941 to 1945, where he was also involved in the organization of deportations. For more information, visit <http://www.brandeis.edu/jewishfilm>.



Former German Secretary of State JOSCHKA FISCHER is tentatively scheduled to speak at Brandeis on May 8th 2007. Confirmation of details will be announced shortly.

A special symposium on *Speaking Safety and Security* is planned for October 12, 2007. Safety and security are pressing issues in the contemporary world. In areas from the environment to food safety, from the threats, real and imagined, of terrorist attacks to safety in cities, public spaces, and at the borders, from the age of AIDS to Big Brother watching, overhearing, and recording our every move, the rhetoric of and about safety is ubiquitous. Astonishing to some, this is a shared rhetoric imposed on all of us, and usually, it is said, for our own good. How does this rhetoric call to individual subjects? What roles do political agencies of various sorts play in reshaping our lives? How does the post-modern subject interact with others in a world that often seems to have gone beyond the human, where we are always plugged in, where we can never turn off the machines? The papers in this program address issues of safety as diverse as the plumbing and metro systems of Mexico City, various terrorist attacks around the world, warning systems, responses, and public discourses, safe speech in a public space, and the rhetoric of "homeland security".

The theater department at Brandeis University under the direction of ERIC HILL will produce a performance of BERTOLT BRECHT's *Threepenny Opera* in the Fall semester of 2007. CGES is planning a number of events surrounding the performances, highlighting the works of Brecht and composer KURT WEILL.

All CGES events are free and open to the public. For details and the most updated information about upcoming events, please visit our website at <http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/cges>.