

The Center for German and European Studies at Brandeis University

CGES *In Review*
2008 - 2009



1989-2009 Twenty Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall



March 2008 Symposium *"Forget 1968: It was wonderful, but now it's over"*

The 1960s seem to have gained almost mythical status among the younger generations. Students today view the sixties with some envy. To them, the sixties represent a time of opportunity, when social and political change seemed very possible. At the time young people were united across the world against war and aggression through music, protest, and social experimentation. Yet the circumstances and expressions differed greatly from those in the United States.



Daniel Cohn-Bendit in Paris in 1968 and at Brandeis in March 2008

With its symposium, CGES attempted to demystify the 1960s and to help assess the successes and failures of the revolutionary movements on both sides of the Atlantic. This event featured Daniel Cohn-Bendit, a publicist and politician who became famous in the Sixties as "Dany The Red". Today Cohn-Bendit is the co-president of the European Greens in the European parliament.

In her presentation, Birthler spoke about the challenges facing her organization as it tries to make the details of the Stasi's activities available to the public. Many victims, she pointed out, still suffer mentally and also economically from the consequences of persecution, while the majority of perpetrators have never been brought to justice. On the contrary, she said, they are happily collecting substantial government pensions. Wolf Biermann, whose forced exile in 1978 had fueled a wave of protest in East Germany, entertained the audience with some of his most famous songs, including "Ermutigung" [encouragement]. Biermann, who described how he discovered the Stasi's listening devices under the wallpaper in every single room of his home, also talked about his father, a Communist Jew, who was murdered in Auschwitz. On a small cardboard 'replica' of the Berlin Wall, the CGES student assistants and the UDRs of the German Program had posted famous slogans and images from the Cold War period.

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall Melanie Steiner Sherwood (born in East Germany) and Sabine von Mering (born in West Germany), both Professors in the German Program at Brandeis, welcomed two very special guests to the Brandeis campus: Marianne Birthler, the head of the archive of the Stasi files in Berlin, and German singer and songwriter Wolf Biermann.



Greetings from the Director

Dear Friends,

When CGES turned ten just two years ago, the world was a different place. Germany was just about to begin its six-month EU Presidency, Barack Obama was still a relatively little-known Senator from Illinois, and although rumors of a “housing bubble” had been spread for some time, no one could foresee the extent to which the burst of the bubble would turn into a global economic crisis. It is a very different world that this newsletter goes out to now. The first African-American has completed a year as president of the United States. He joined the first female (and East-German) Chancellor Angela Merkel in Copenhagen, Denmark at the UN Climate Conference to help bring about a post-Kyoto treaty. And, following years of negotiations, the Treaty of Lisbon, a compromise after the failure to ratify an EU Constitution, entered into force on December 1st 2009.

CGES Brandeis, too, has seen big changes. It is with gratitude that the Center for German and European Studies at Brandeis acknowledges the continued and generous support from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), which in the summer of 2008 agreed to support the Center’s work with a five-year matching grant. The grant will support faculty research, student travel to Germany and Europe, as well as several initiatives around four main thematic areas: climate change, social justice and the process of European Unification, socially-critical artistic production, and Jewish-German Dialogue. CGES is also launching a major fundraising initiative to help meet the requirements of this challenge grant. We ask you to support our programs and activities in any amount that seems reasonable to you. If every one of you sends us \$15 we will meet our goal! Go visit our website at <http://brandeis.edu/cges> to contribute any amount you can afford! You can designate your donation towards a particular program, or simply support CGES activities as a whole. We will thank you with a lot more exciting

programming! Thanks a lot to Peter Diepold, '59 for leading the way with his generous support for student fellowships! Many special CGES events took place at Brandeis in the last two years, including the visit of former German Secretary of State Joschka Fischer in May 2007, the tenth anniversary celebration in October 2007, and the event to commemorate, or rather “Forget” 1968, with Daniel Cohn-Bendit in March of 2008, among many others. In August of 2008 our longtime CGES Director, George Ross, was awarded an ad-hominem Jean Monnet Chair at the University of Montréal, a very prestigious award given by the European Union for his work on EU integration, one of less than 600 such chairs worldwide. In October 2008, CGES hosted the US premiere of the music of Edwin Geist, a German-Jewish composer murdered by the Nazis in Lithuania. As Kate Winslet garnered a Golden Globe and an Oscar for her performance in *The Reader*, CGES was proud to host author Bernhard Schlink, on whose 1995 novel *Der Vorleser* the film is based, in February of 2009. In March 2009 we said farewell to our long-time director, George Ross, and celebrated him at a conference on the situation of Left political movements. Most recently CGES has spearheaded an initiative to increase awareness on campus about climate change. We have partnered with a number of on-campus groups in creating the Forum on Environmental Crisis, and its new website:

<http://www.brandeis.edu/brandeisforum/>. A number of exciting programs leading up to the Copenhagen Conference this December focused on the importance of reducing CO2 emissions worldwide.

The coming year is filled with lots more exciting activities. Deputy Consul General Claudia Schütt from the German Consulate in Boston will come to Brandeis to talk about her experience at the embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. We also look forward to the visit of Joshua Rubenstein, author of *The Unknown*

Black Book: The Holocaust in the German-occupied Soviet Territories (2008). Together with the National Center for Jewish Film, CGES will again host award-winning German filmmaker Michael Verhoeven in April of 2010 with his new documentary *Menschliches Versagen* [Human Failure]. We will also continue to build a larger network for the Forum on Environmental Crisis. Feel free to be in touch with us by e-mail or phone if you have any questions or suggestions. I look forward to seeing you soon!

2

Sabine von Mering



Thanks,
Peter !

Peter Diepold, Brandeis class of 1959

Inside *In Review* 2008-2009

Greetings from the Director	2
People in the News	3
Farewell to George Ross	4
Jewish German Dialogue	5
The Rescued Music of Edwin Geist	6
New Brandeis Forum on Environmental Crisis	7 - 8
German Women Filmmakers at Brandeis	9
Events Highlights	10-12
Upcoming Events in 2010	13

DAAD Visiting Scholar



Marloes Janson was the DAAD Short-Term Visiting Lecturer at Brandeis University for the spring semester of 2009. Janson, who holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from the university of Leiden in the Netherlands, is a scholar at the Zentrum für Modernen Orient [Center for Modern Orient] in Berlin. While at Brandeis she was teaching courses on Muslim women. Janson also gave a public talk about her research about youthful participation in the Tabligh Jama'at, a transnational Islamic missionary movement originating from India, in The Gambia. She showed how the Gambian branch of the Jama'at represents a new expression of Islam among young Muslims – young Muslim women in particular – which can be seen as a form of rebellion against the traditional sources of religious authority, residing in the traditional religious specialists and the older generation. Interestingly, as a consequence of their wives' religious activities, young men now tend to absorb the traditionally female household duties, she explained.

New CGES Assistant Director

Can Erbil is the new Assistant Director at the Center for German and European Studies. He is Assistant Professor of Economics at Brandeis University and holds a Ph.D. from Boston College. He specializes in international trade and development economics with a focus on trade liberalization, tax reforms, and macroeconomic policy recommendations. Among many other subjects Erbil teaches courses in international trade and globalization, development economics, econometrics - at Brandeis and Harvard,



microeconomics, macroeconomics, and political economy. Can Erbil is also a Research Fellow at EcoMod, Global Economic Modeling Network. He is involved with research workshops with EcoMod in Brussels, Ottawa, Istanbul, Caracas, Abu Dhabi and Quito. Erbil is also a Research Associate at the ERF, Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey. After having worked as a consultant at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Erbil became a full-time faculty member at Brandeis in 2002. CGES is happy to have someone join our team with a European background (Erbil is fluent in German, having attended the German high school in Istanbul, Turkey) and strong ties to European research groups in economics and finance.

The Cartoons that Shook the World

Jytte Klausen

"Deeply researched and sensitively written, this tells a story that has to be told."—Business Kidpower Falckner, Member of the House of Lords

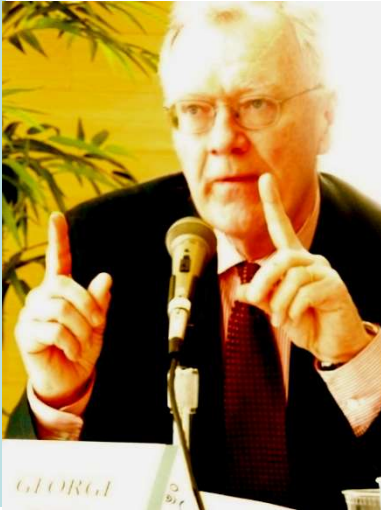
CGES is proud to announce that in November of 2009 Professor Jytte Klausen became the Lawrence A. Wien Professor of International Cooperation in recognition of her scholarly accomplishments, her teaching and contributions to the Brandeis community as well as to her profession. Based on Klausen's recent book *The Cartoons that Shook the World* (2009) CGES co-sponsored a panel discussion (on October 27, 2009) about the book, and the controversy over Yale University Press' decision to remove the cartoons from the publication. Klausen was joined on the panel by Joseph E.B. Lombard, Assistant Professor of Classical Islam, and Eileen McNamara, Professor of the Practice of Journalism.



Futures of the Left in an Age of Globalization

co-sponsored by the Departments of Sociology and Politics at Brandeis University

March 21, 2009



George Ross, Morris Hillquit Professor of Labor and Social Thought



George Ross's colleagues and some of his former students convened in the Heller School's Zinner Forum for a chance to celebrate his academic achievements, and join in a discussion of the 'Futures of the Left in an Age of Globalization'. Karen V. Hansen, Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology welcomed the audience. George Ross himself then opened the discussion with an overview of what he saw as the crises, changes, and new contexts in a "post-Keynesian, post-Cold War, globalized political world" that saw the emergence of the "Center-Left". Louis Ferleger, Historian at Boston University, Jim Cronin, Professor of History at Boston College, and Andrew Martin, of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard shared the first panel that was concerned with a comparison of European and American developments--"Comparing Spaces and Cases: Successful Center-Lefts in Europe and the U.S." After Lunch the question whether there are "New Policy Frontiers for the Center-Left" was taken up by Jane Jenson, Vice Dean for Graduate Studies and External Affairs at the University of Montreal, and Sarah Halpern-Meekin, Brandeis class of 2001, now a Doctoral Candidate in Sociology and Social Policy at Harvard University, whose take on "Reclaiming a Family Agenda" spurred a heated debate about the role of what does or does not constitute conservative leanings within the Center Left. The last panel, chaired by Laura Miller, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Brandeis, discussed how "Playing in New Global Arenas" poses strategic problems for the Center Left. Nils Ringe '01, now Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, spoke about "Regional Blocs, the Case of the European Union",



Sarah C Halpern-Meekin '01

Arthur Goldhammer, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard discussed the French situation, and Rianne Mahon, Director of the Institute of Political Economy at Carleton, Canada, spoke about "The Perils of a Small Center-Left in Hard Times" from a Canadian perspective. Throughout the day, the panelists acknowledged the strong influence George had had on their work and way of thinking. They praised George Ross as a true Europeanist, with a vision and deep concern for the system of the welfare state and the people it served.



Nils Ringe '01



Returning from Berlin

September 23, 2009

A terrible Splendor

November 3, 2009



Ursula Mahlendorf

October 12, 2009

To a packed room of Brandeis community members and visitors, Ursula Mahlendorf read from her newly published memoir *The Shame of Survival: Working Through a Nazi Childhood* (2009). Interrupting herself occasionally to give more background and answer questions, Mahlendorf shared the story from how she became an enthusiastic young Nazi to her final disillusionment with the Third Reich. The audience was spell-bound as the author recounted in unflattering terms how her love of nature and the strong desire for a meaningful career had spurred her into embracing the belief in German superiority and the greatness of the Führer.

For over a decade now, the German government has generously funded seminars in Berlin, Germany, for the Boston-area Jewish German Dialogue group members. This year's group included two Brandeis members—undergraduate student Zack Zorfas, '10, and graduate student Elizabeth Perten (Musicology). They were joined by four members of the Newton and Belmont Dialogue groups at the first meeting of the academic year. Each participant gave a short presentation, highlighting what had been most memorable for them—from what they learned about Holocaust education in German schools, to the new Jewish life in Berlin, to the painful experience of visiting the concentration camps in Sachsenhausen and Ravensbrueck. Jim Saret's beautiful pictures gave the audience a chance to "visit" Berlin vicariously. Larry Lowenthal, the former director of the Boston chapter of the American Jewish Committee, articulated the conflicted impressions of the group—being on the one hand well-cared for guests of the German government, and on the other hand forced to wonder throughout how such a sophisticated, civilized nation was able to perpetrate such horrible crimes. The participants expressed their gratitude to German Consul General Friedrich Loehr, who attended the event. Lowenthal (bottom left) emphasized the importance of the trip for the Jewish community and said he hopes that many others will have a chance to participate in the seminar in the future.

Brandeis alumn Marshall Jon Fisher, '85 came to discuss his newest book *A Terrible Splendor: Three Extraordinary Men, A World Poised for War, and the Greatest Tennis Match Ever Played*. (Crown 2009) Fisher, who had been a member of the Brandeis varsity tennis team, told the story of the deciding 1937 Davis Cup match between Germany's top



player Gottfried von Cramm, and the U.S.'s Don Budge. The game itself was a thrilling event, but Cramm, who knew that the Nazis would persecute him for his homosexuality if he lost, was also literally playing for his life. Cramm's coach was U.S. tennis star Bill Tilden, the Nazis' unlikely choice of a coach for their Davis Cup team, as Tilden, too, was known to be homosexual. To the audience's delight, Fisher brought lots of original photographs along. CGES was proud to co-sponsor this event with the Brandeis Tennis Club, and Triskelion, the GLBT/Queer Alliance at Brandeis University.



The Rescued Music of Edwin Geist (1902-1942)



Sabine von Mering, Klaus Harer, Reinhard Kaiser



Celebrating with Geist's niece Rosian Zerner

6

To revive the music of her uncle, Edwin Geist, had been a dream of Rosian Zerner's ever since she escaped the murderous Nazis who killed him. A member of the Brandeis Jewish-German dialogue group for many years, Zerner worked tirelessly to make connections between those who had known Geist and his music in Lithuania, those who were eager to rediscover him in Germany, and those who were willing to organize a performance of his works in the US. Finally, in the fall of 2008, the dream became reality. Brandeis University hosted the US premiere of a number of Edwin Geist's compositions. Brandeis students, Boston-area musicians, and German experts on Geist's music, convened in Slosberg Auditorium for this special event. The Consul General of Germany and the German Academic Exchange Service as well as the Berlin-based Kulturforum östliches Europa helped make it possible.

<http://www.kulturforum-ome.de/>

Prior to the concert, Zerner joined experts on a panel about her uncle's life and work. Geist biographer Reinhard Kaiser gave a brief overview of the composer's short life.

Klaus Harer from the Kulturforum östliches Europa described how Geist had been rediscovered in Germany, and Brett Werb from the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. gave a broader perspective on the difficulty of rediscovering the works of composers whose music reemerged after decades. The evening ended with a powerful performance by the Irving Fine Society Singers, led by Brandeis student Nicholas A. Brown, '10.

1. "Der seltsame Abend" for soprano and string trio
Sharan Leventhal, violin
Verena Rein, soprano
David Russell, cello
Nathaniel Farny, viola

2. "Tanzpantomime" for piano solo (and solo dancer)
Jae Han '10, piano
Anna Kharaz, '09, dance
Choreography: Anna Kharaz.

3. Choral excerpts from opera score 'Faust'
Irving Fine Society Singers
Nicholas A. Brown, '10, conductor



Klimakriege

- Climate Wars

March 6, 2009

If it hadn't been for the visit of Harald Welzer to Boston in March of 2009, Brandeis would not now have a Forum on Environmental Crisis (<http://brandeis.edu/environment>) which he inspired. Welzer, whose latest book *Klimakriege* (2008) discusses the social implications of global warming. He pointed out how there is a growing gap between our knowledge about the dangers of climate change and our willingness to change the way we live. Behavioral change, thus Welzer's conclusion, is much more difficult to achieve than education.



Especially the developed world would have to dramatically change its individual mobility. The focus on electric cars as the 'non-plus-ultra' was only a distraction: After all, electric cars do require electricity that must be generated by power plants of some sort.

Turn Up the Pressure Turn Down the Heat: UN effort requires new global order

October 19, 2009



Claus Leggewie, Moritz Hartmann, Bernd Sommer, Charles Chester

What would it take to get the nations of the world to commit to stopping Global Warming at two degrees Celsius? Professor Charles Chester, a lecturer in environmental studies at Brandeis University; explained what scientists know today about the consequences of a rise in global temperatures, and what negotiations about the reduction of CO2 emissions attempt to achieve. Claus Leggewie, professor of political science at Justus-Liebig-University Gießen and member of the German Advisory Council on Global Change; highlighted the differences between the American and the European perspective. Leggewie was joined by two of his graduate students, Bernd Sommer, also a member of German Advisory Council on Global Change; and Moritz Hartmann from the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, Essen, Germany and the European University Institute. Based on the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change, the experts discussed three steps that are considered fundamental in dealing with climate change: regulation through international legislation, technological

advances, and civic participation. Leggewie asserted that Europeans had made a great deal of advances in civic participation, and that individuals and nations had taken steps to reduce their carbon footprints. In contrast, Americans tended to focus on a technological solution, and, in the eyes of the Europeans, are trying to continue their current lifestyle of consumption. Mr. Hartman expressed his conviction that, in order to find a successful sustainable solution to climate change, there needed to be a decisive shift in cultural and societal priorities, especially in the US. Chester agreed, but also pointed out that many European countries had not actually fulfilled their commitments to the Kyoto protocol. The event provided interesting insights into the difficulties faced by negotiators in the United Nations' struggle against climate change.

Copenhagen Climate-Change Conference: What's the Deal?

December 2, 2009

8

One week before the conference in Copenhagen, CGES and the Forum on Environmental Crisis invited experts to talk about the chances and challenges for the climate summit. Michael Mehling from the Ecologic Institute in Washington, D.C. gave a brief overview of the history of climate change agreements.



He then outlined the developments that led from the first conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 to the upcoming conference in Copenhagen. Mehling pointed out that the US had initially been fully supportive of the process in a bipartisan way. It was only in the wake of the decision to make special concessions to developing countries prior to the Kyoto protocol that the issue became a partisan one. Mehling reminded the audience that the US "although it did not ratify the Kyoto protocol, has always been part of the Kyoto framework". While Kyoto was about getting international cooperation started, Copenhagen, he said, is about finally getting developing nations on board. He said it was a great step forward that after ten years of silence on the issue the US was back in the game, and that President Obama's visit in Copenhagen should be viewed as a promising signal.

Professor Gary Jefferson from the Brandeis International Business School, a specialist on the Chinese economy, explained the Chinese perspective on climate change.



Jefferson emphasized that China had indeed become the world's biggest polluter in recent years. However, he also showed graphs that indicate that the bulk of Chinese production is geared towards export. Thus, it should be an important question as to how far the importing countries (like the US and Germany), should partly be held accountable for the emissions generated by the production of their imports. Since the Chinese Communist Party depends heavily on economic success to stabilize its power, China would be reluctant to agree to anything that could endanger the party's reign, Jefferson explained. Eloi Laurent, currently a visiting fellow at the Center for European Studies at Harvard University, showed a number of graphs that clearly demonstrate how China alone must be held

responsible for the dramatic increase in CO2 emissions over the past five years. Still, Laurent emphasized the European position that held that the US has a major role to play in committing other countries to reduced emissions targets. The promises made up to now were simply not enough. The screening of the recent British movie *The Age of Stupid* (2009) followed the panel discussion. The film uses a fictional scenario of a 2055 documentation center in a post-climate-change world to highlight how previous generations had ample opportunity to see the warnings. With powerful imagery and humor it was a painful reminder of the gap between knowledge and action. Many participants enthusiastically thanked the organizers for the timely event. They expressed their gratitude for the depth and clarity of the presentations. The Center for German and European Studies is grateful to the Heinrich Boell Foundation for its support of this important endeavor.



Screening of *Kirschblüten - Hanami* A film by Doris Dörrie

October 25, 2008



Doris Dörrie



There are still few women among the most renowned German filmmakers, and CGES is proud to have hosted the three most famous women in German film in recent years. It began with a retrospective of the work of Margarethe von Trotta in 2004.

In 2008, CGES hosted Doris Dörrie, who had made a name for herself on the international scene with her comedy *Maenner* [Men] in 1987. Dörrie came to present her newest film at Brandeis, *Kirschblüten - Hanami*. [Cherry Blossoms] The film chronicles the elderly Rudi, who ventures on a journey of discovery after his wife dies unexpectedly. Rudi eventually goes to Japan, the country his wife had always longed to visit, where their oldest son is working as a businessman. Rudi even takes classes in butoh, a style of Japanese dance his wife loved, and, wearing his wife's dress underneath his coat, discovers the beauty of Japan in her stead. In this film, as in many of her earlier works, Dörrie emphasizes the lack of understanding that is often found between generations of a family, and our ability to reach beyond our barriers of cultural and social norms. Dörrie also held a workshop with students during which she discussed her work as a teacher of film writing at the *Filmhochschule* of the University of Munich, Germany. Asked whether she had incorporated any of her own experience into her films, she told the students: "In my view, all writing is autobiographical. The challenge is to make a good story out of it."

Screening of *Exil Shanghai* A film by Ulrike Ottinger

October 14, 2009

This past fall, German filmmaker, documentarian and photographer Ulrike Ottinger came to Brandeis to discuss her 1997 film *Exil Shanghai*. With fascinating details and rich with dry humor, the 4-hour documentary tells six stories of German, Austrian and Russian Jews whose lives intersect in exile in Shanghai during the Second World War. The film is an extraordinary cultural odyssey that affectionately conjures up the lost Jewish world of Shanghai, and gives a glimpse into the rich social fabric of the most fabulous city of the Far East. Versed in the medium of photography, Ottinger often makes unusual use of her camera--with extremely long shots and minimum commentary, to capture the very essence of daily life.



Ulrike Ottinger

October 6, 2008

Reading with Antje Rávic Strubel



Author Antje Rávic Strubel and her translator Zaia Alexander came to Brandeis for a reading of Strubel's 2001 novel *Unterm Schnee* [Snowed Under]. Strubel's novel describes the experience of two young women, who find themselves in a small Hungarian village for a skiing vacation shortly after German unification. Their relationship is threatened not only by their misunderstanding of each other (one coming from West, one from East Germany), but also by the world around them that, although generally open-minded, cannot really accept the lesbian couple in its midst. Zaia Alexander highlighted the difficulties for the translator posed by Strubel's remarkably dense narrative.

October 16, 2008

A Personal Face in Berlin's "Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe"

Joel Alpert told the captivating story how his family ended up being portrayed in Berlin's new Holocaust Memorial. Alpert shared the journey of his personal genealogy research with the help of pictures and short movie excerpts. By posting his findings about his small ancestral town in Lithuania on the Internet, he caught the attention of the head researchers for Berlin's new Holocaust memorial. The internet also helped him re-connect with family members in Mexico, Germany, Lithuania and all over the United States.



The European Union and Party Politics in Central Eastern Europe

Tim Haughton, a visiting scholar at The Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University, came to Brandeis to talk about his studies of the politics of East-Central Europe. He focused on the role of parties, institutions and political actors in Slovakia. Haughton also shared insights into the latest expansion of the European Union, and the threats and opportunities it poses for European stability overall.

December 8, 2008

Putin's Authoritarianism: Implications for a new U.S. President's Russia Policy

In collaboration with the student-run Global Affairs Table, Joerg Himmelreich, a Senior Transatlantic Fellow of the German Marshall Fund at Berlin, who was a Visiting Associate Professor at University of California, San Diego for the semester, came to the Faculty Lounge at Brandeis University to talk about Putin's Russia and the challenges it posed for the new US administration.



February 3, 2009

Author of *The Reader* talks about Collective Guilt

After a discussion in German with students and faculty about his novel *Der Vorleser*, bestselling German author Bernhard Schlink held a public lecture about the question of Collective Guilt in Rapaport Treasure Hall (Goldfarb library). The author, who is also a judge and a professor of law, claimed that although children of German perpetrators should feel guilty for the crimes their parents' generation had committed, such guilt could no longer be expected of the generation of grandchildren, just as they could no longer ask for forgiveness from the grandchildren of Holocaust victims. Schlink used historical models of punishments, from the European tribal eras to the present, to defend his claim. A heated debate ensued about whether his clear cut distinction of victims and perpetrators could be upheld in the face of the complexities that many historians had revealed, especially those who studied the behavior of Nazi followers who were not necessarily categorized as perpetrators by the denazification authorities, but whose support for Hitler's regime nevertheless ensured its prolonged existence.

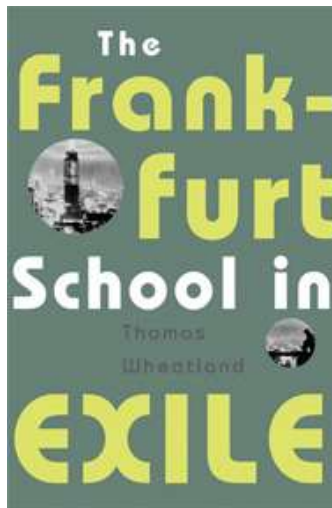
March 6, 2009

Ariane Huml from Freiburg University and Karen Frankenstein from Berlin spoke in the context of the Jewish-German Dialogue series. They analyzed recent German and Israeli films, more precisely they were interested in the way in which Jewish-German relations are portrayed in the films. Based on concrete examples from Dani Levy's *Go for Zucker* and Eytan Fox's *Walk on Water*, Huml and Frankenstein presented ten points of comparison that showed how young German and Israeli filmmakers are using a similar mix of humor and satire to overcome the silenced aspects of Jewish-German history.

March 17, 2009

Theodor W. Adorno and Herbert Marcuse hold a very special place in Brandeis history, and so it made sense for Thomas Wheatland and Detlev Claussen to make a stop here during their book tour in the spring of 2009. Thomas P. Wheatland is the author of the new book *The Frankfurt School in Exile* (Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2009). This is the first book to closely examine the relationship between members of the Frankfurt School and their American contemporaries. *The Frankfurt School in Exile* uncovers an important but neglected dimension of the history of the Frankfurt School and adds immeasurably to our understanding of the contributions made by its émigrés to postwar intellectual life. Wheatland specifically highlighted the role Brandeis played among the Frankfurt School émigrés. Detlev Claussen, Professor for Sociology and Theory of Culture at Hannover University, studied with Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer at Frankfurt's famous Institute for Social Research. Most recently

Claussen published a best selling monograph on Theodor W. Adorno as philosopher of the 20th century which has been translated into five languages and will be published by Harvard University Press this year. Wheatland and Claussen discussed the role of the émigré scholars in the American university system of the 1960s and their impact that could still be felt today.



March, 16 2009

Saul Friedländer, Professor of History at UCLA is one of the most well-known Holocaust scholars of our times. Friedländer was invited to give this year's Rawidowicz Memorial lecture, organized by the Tauber Institute for European Jewry, and co-sponsored by CGES. Friedländer talked about the importance of including the voice of the victims in Holocaust research. The personal experience of the individual victims must be at the center of our investigation or else we are in danger of missing the historical significance entirely. Friedländer pointed out how historians had refused to acknowledge the importance of the



victims' voices for many decades, but were now, owing largely to his own work, slowly beginning to listen.

March 26, 2009



Donatella di Cesare, full professor of philosophy at the university in Rome, inaugurated the CGES Interdisciplinary Humanities Lecture series with a talk about the difficulty of translating Walter Benjamin and Franz Rosenzweig. She explained how the link between translation and redemption is not unusual in the Jewish tradition – after the catastrophe at Babel and the endless commentary this myth has generated: In a teaching of Rabbi Tzadokk Hacoheh from Lublin she read: “The King Mashiach will bring the recovery [refu’ah] in the past and in the future at the same time.” And Ouaknin, a modern interpreter, suggests: “Recovering is the passage from one language to the other.... To recover is to translate.” She concludes: If to recover is to translate, then also the “recovery” of the past and the future is also a matter of translation: translation of times which is translation of languages, so that every history and every time can be re-narrated.

April 1, 2009

Every now and then CGES is able to hold an event in German. Turkish-German poet Zafer Senocak came to Brandeis, Elizabeth Oehlkers-Wright, who translated his poetry into English. During his reading, Zenocak, who is also a major public intellectual and important voice in the Turkish-German community in Germany today, focused on the ephemeral nature of language--as one who migrates between the two languages, German and Turkish, at all times. During the discussion they talked about the coexistence of the two languages in the poet's mind, and the difficulty to render poetry in translation at all.



book *Als Wir Traeumten* [As we were dreaming]. Attila Bartis (below) also read from the Hungarian original and then was assisted by Steve Dowden in a reading some excerpts in English from his award-winning novel *Tranquility*.



human beings from treating other humans inhumanely and murdering innocent victims. On the contrary, there have been many genocides since 1945 in our civilized highly educated times. At the same time Bauer insists that the Holocaust, in its systematic use of a murdering machinery of death camps, and in pursuing the one single goal of eliminating an entire people, was indeed unique. Such uniqueness should not, however, prevent us from making comparisons wherever they are important. During the discussion, Bauer added that although genocidal warfare continued to spread, education and international cooperation were the most effective antidote.

April 6, 2009

Brandeis was proud to host two of the most prolific young European authors, Attila Bartis and Clemens Meyer (photo top center), for a poetry reading. Despite the rainy day, students and faculty came to hear the two young authors who had grown up behind the iron curtain and written about their experience. German author Clemens Meyer read a couple of pages from his newest novel in German and then continued to read the first chapter of a new translation from his new

April 21, 2009

Yehuda Bauer entertained his audience with a careful assessment of what does and does not make the Holocaust unique. Bauer, who has studied genocides, and most importantly the Holocaust, for many decades, basically agrees with both sides of the argument: On the one hand he said that the Holocaust is not unique: Our knowledge of its gruesome inhumanity has, unfortunately, not stopped

CGES will begin the year 2010 with a timely event about Afghanistan: On Thursday, January 28 Deputy Consul General Claudia Schuett from the German Consulate General in New England, who was stationed in Kabul until 2004, will be joined by Asbed kotchikian, Lecturer of Global Studies at Bentley University, to shed light on the situation on the ground in Afghanistan and help provide more nuanced perspectives on the complex problems the country is facing. On February 3rd, CGES will host a Jewish-German Dialogue together with the Program in Russian at Brandeis with guest speaker and author Joshua Rubenstein, who will discuss his book *The Unknown Black Book: The Holocaust in the German-Occupied Soviet Territories* (2008). In March 2010 CGES plans to host a reading with Bosnian-German writer Saša Stanišić, who will be the seventh Max Kade Writer-in-Residence at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology this spring. At its Jewishfilm2010 festival in April 2010, the National Center for Jewish Film will host award-winning German filmmaker Michael Verhoeven, who is going to show his newest documentary, *Menschliches Versagen* [Human Failure]. Together with the program in European Cultural Studies CGES will also co-sponsor a guest lecture in April by Alice Kuzniar, Professor at the University of Waterloo, Canada, and an expert on German cinema. A number of events are also being planned under the auspices of the Forum on Environmental Crisis. For updated information, please visit our website at <http://www.brandeis.edu/cges> regularly, and stay tuned!



Asbed kotchikian



Joshua Rubenstein



Saša Stanišić



Michael Verhoeven



Alice Kuzniar

Research and Travel Awards

13

As in many previous years, CGES thanks the Max Kade Foundation for its continued support of student travel to Germany in 2008/09. In the fall of 2008 the students who returned from Germany held a public event at which they presented beautiful slides and shared fun anecdotes from their experience abroad. Brandeis faculty, too, received CGES funds to work on their research projects. At an awards reception, held appropriately on German-American day, October 6, 2009, recipients shared anecdotes and insights from their experience researching and studying in Germany, Norway, and Switzerland. CGES congratulates all award recipients and encourages all Brandeis faculty and students to conceive of projects related to German and European Studies and apply for CGES funding to study German culture and society in the future.

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