

Climatechange Campusweeks: Our Choices Matter



A funny-looking half-open African house with a home-made stove and a solar cell on the roof was the most visible sign that something was afoot: Brandeis was one of almost twenty campuses in the US invited by the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. to participate in 'Climatechange Campusweeks' in celebration of the 20th anniversary of German unification. Built with the help of Brandeis professor of ecology Eric Olson and African students in the Sustainable International Development program, the 'Maasai House' served as meeting point for a number of events organized in conjunction with the 17-day program. It show-cased the work of Brandeis professor emeritus of physics Robert Lange, whose work with the Maasai in Tanzania already spans more than three decades, and showcased the stove he designed for Maasai homes to dramatically reduce air pollution.

The campusweeks series of events began with the 'SEA coffeehouse' organized by Students for Environmental Action on November 15th and culminated in a festive Green Unity Gala with 200 guests in Levin Ballroom on December 3rd. Events included a conversation with Bob Lange and educator Joseph ole Tipanko from Kenya about the effects of climate change on rural communities in Africa, a panel discussion with German journalist Elisabeth von Thadden (DIE ZEIT), and Brandeis Dean of Arts and Sciences Adam Jaffe (Economics) about steps developed societies must take to successfully lower their carbon emissions, and the screening of the movie *A Sea Change* about the underreported problem of ocean acidification. A core group of students, staff, and faculty began conceptualizing the campusweeks some time in the spring semester. After everyone returned to campus in August the group continued to grow. (Continue on: P.6) →

Right Wing Radicalism: A Transatlantic Perspective

Since the end of the cold war right wing movements have seen a comeback in Germany and Europe. Xenophobic attacks on dark-skinned foreigners and desecrations of Jewish cemeteries regularly make headlines. Skinhead and neonazi movements, although deeply anti-international in their ideology, are organizing across borders in both Eastern and Western Europe, and even in the United States. The elections to the European



parliament in June of 2009 sent a blow to the party establishment across the continent, as right-wing extremist groups showed strong increases in voter support. Although small in relative numbers, the absolute number of right wing extremists is on the rise in many European countries. On April 28, 2010 CGES invited experts who study radical right wing political movements to discuss the motivation and organizational methods of the movements.

(Continue on: P.3) →

Greetings from the Director:

2010 was a year of transition at Brandeis, as Fred Lawrence was chosen as the university's next president. Lawrence succeeds president Jehuda Reinharz, who led the university for over 16 years, and under whose leadership the Center for German and European Studies was founded in 1997. In the summer of 2010 CGES also moved into its beautiful new office on the third floor of the new Mandel Humanities Center. Sebastian Fohrbeck, Director of the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) in New York,



enjoyed a tour of the construction site during his first visit to the Brandeis campus. The CGES office can be found on Level 2 of the new building, in what is called "pod 225". The new Mandel Center building offers not only adequate office space and a conference room for staff and executive committee meetings. It also has a beautiful reading room on the top floor adjacent to a small roof garden where CGES celebrated its *Welcome-Back-Reception* with Bretzels, music, and *Apfelschorle* on October 4th.

Other changes include transitions in our CGES team, as three of our experienced student assistants, including Miranda Neubauer, '10, Larissa Liebmann, '10, and graduate student assistant Tim Neunzig, MBA '10 left us to pursue new adventures.

Kilian Leibundgut, a graduate student in political science, became the new CGES graduate assistant in the fall of 2010. Sarah Klapisch, '12 joined Aaron Winckler, '10 and Jonathan Jecker, '12 on the undergraduate team. CGES was proud to participate in the German Embassy's Climatechange Campusweeks that brought exciting programming to campus from November 15 through December 3rd. It owed its success to a lot of people—including faculty—Eric Olson (Ecology; Heller School), Melanie Sherwood (German), Bob Lange (Physics, emeritus) Laura Goldin (Environmental Studies), students—Fiona Lockyer, Illona Yuhaev, and staff—Janna Cohen-Rosenthal, Heidi McAllister, and Charlie Radin. A big thank you to all for their tremendous support!

CGES executive committee member Sharon Pucker Rivo, '61 was featured prominently in the Brandeis Magazine's fall edition for her pioneering work at the National Center for Jewish Film. Go to <http://www.brandeis.edu/magazine/2010/fall> to read the complete article. Please note that the National Center for Jewish film will be hosting its annual film festival Jewishfilm2011 in March this year—a month earlier than in the past. Visit

www.brandeis.edu/jewishfilm/ for up-to-date information.

We are sorry to lose Nancy Angoff as a member of our executive committee. Nancy has been a steadfast supporter of CGES in the office of corporate and foundation relations for many years. She will be starting her new position at MIT in January, for which we wish her the best of luck! Nancy was instrumental in connecting Brandeis with the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, a foundation dedicated to improving German-American relations. An excerpt from the foundation's website highlights the synergies between

CGES and the foundation's interests: "Driven from his native Bavaria by Nazi hatred, Otto Walter became a powerful voice for German-American reconciliation in the decades following World War II. Disbarred by Hitler's anti-Jewish decrees from practicing as an attorney in Germany, he studied law again in the United States and became a renowned international jurist. Confronted by ugliness, he became a patron of the arts. Persecuted, he responded with charity."

[www.walterfoundation.org/History.html]. We are deeply grateful for the foundation's generous contribution of \$30,000 to our DAAD challenge grant.

There are already many exciting plans in the works for 2011. First and foremost, CGES is proud to be involved with Boston Lyric Opera's performance of Viktor Ullmann's *The Emperor of Atlantis or Death Quits* and Brandeis Ph.D. Richard Beaudoin's *The After-Image*. We hope all Brandeis faculty and students who are in the Boston area in early January will take advantage of free tickets to the Boston Lyric Opera's signature series event on January 9th at 2pm in the Museum of Fine Arts. For more details, see Upcoming Events on the last page of this newsletter. Here's to wishing you all a fun and successful 2011!

Sabine von Mering

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Right Wing Radicalism: A Transatlantic Perspective

Othmar Ploeckinger opened the conference with the question how to deal with Adolf Hitler's 1929 book *Mein Kampf* today. Ploeckinger is part of a team of experts at the university of Munich that are undertaking a critical edition of the text in the hope of circumventing its utilization by young extremist groups. Copies of *Mein Kampf* are currently not available for purchase in Germany, but the copyright, currently held by the Bavarian government, is due to expire in 2012. Historians in



Ploeckinger's group are urging the government to support their efforts. In his overview of right wing populism in Germany since WWII, Hans-Gerd Jaschke, Professor of Political Science at the Berlin School of Business and Law explained how the movement had regrouped at different times due to legal restrictions and a changing political landscape. Jaschke delineated how right wing radicals that clashed with student protestors in the 1960s became reenergized with the influx of disgruntled communists after the Berlin wall came down.

Joachim Kersten, University Professor at the German University for Police in Münster presented a comparative analysis of right-wing extremism, anti-Semitism, and hate crimes in Poland, the Ukraine, and Russia. Kersten, who is working with Kerstin Henkel on a larger study of the region, pointed out how the breakdown of

communism is still experienced as a major defeat in parts of the former Soviet Union, and in times of economic hardship and insecurity the traditional values of ethnic identity and solidarity espoused by the right wing extremists make for a particularly fertile breeding ground. Peter Niesen, Professor of Political Theory and History of Ideas at the Technical University of Darmstadt, who was a visiting fellow at the Center for European Studies at Harvard this year, described the controversies surrounding attempts to "ban the former ruling party" in countries digging out of dictatorships. Such bans, Niesen explained, can backfire when the movement is strong enough to reorganize. David Art, Assistant Professor in Political Science at Tufts

University, concluded the European panel with a comparison of successes and failures of different radical right movements in Europe. The groups' organizational skills seemed often the most important determining factor, Art said. Kathleen Blee,

Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh, opened the American panel with a careful look at personal stories of extremists in the US: "Which Comes First: Thinking Like a Racist or Acting Like a Racist?" Blee, whose books *Inside Organized Racism: Women in the Hate Movement and Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920s* are considered ground-breaking studies of right wing extremist women, highlighted the extremist women, highlighted the individual narratives in her talk. Like Blee, Pete Simi, Associate Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the

University of Nebraska, Omaha, has studied right wing extremist hate groups up close and personal. As in his book *American Swastika: Inside the White Power Movement's Hidden Spaces of Hate*, Simi gave a chilling account of the everyday life of white supremacist families. Finally, Chip Berlet, Senior Analyst at Political Research Associates in Boston, presented his assessment of the tea party's recent arrival on the right wing political spectrum in the US. Berlet, who made it clear that he did not intend to equate the tea party movement with neo-Nazi organizations, showed instead the boundaries between those who get mobilized to fight against what they perceive as "big government" and



those who join organized militias. Berlet's inclusion in the conference had drawn protests from tea party members, some of which attended the conference. The poster announcing the conference had also drawn criticism, as it initially depicted a swastika inside a negation sign. CGES subsequently removed the offending image and apologized. The event was co-sponsored by the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life, the Department of Sociology, the Program in Social Justice and Social Policy, and the History of Ideas Program.



Monika Renninger

Developing Christian-- Jewish-Muslim Dialogue in Stuttgart Germany

February 24, 2010

During the spring semester 2010, Monika Renninger was a visiting scholar in the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies department at Brandeis. In her regular life, Reverend Renninger is senior pastor at a large urban Protestant church in Stuttgart where, among many other things, she has been engaged in interfaith dialogue in a religiously, culturally and socio-economically diverse neighborhood for several years. Renninger, who completed her theological studies at the University of Tübingen, the University of Heidelberg, and Harvard's Divinity School, described the dialogues she had been able to arrange between members of Jewish, Muslim, and Christian congregations in her neighborhood: "We have to focus on our common humanity" Renninger concluded, "that also includes learning from our differences."

There Were Many Babi Yars

March 17, 2010

The Northeast Regional Director of Amnesty International, Joshua Rubenstein, came to Brandeis to talk about his latest research and the publication of the *Unknown Black Book* that chronicles the Nazi crimes in the former Soviet Union. "Between June of 1941 and January of 1942 ... the Germans had already murdered a million Jews in occupied Soviet territories," Rubenstein explained. Yet many of those in the *Einsatzgruppen* who perpetrated the crimes received minimal prison sentences, if any, during the various Nuremberg trials.

Letters From Chicago

March 24, 2010

Uta Larkey, Associate Professor of German and Holocaust Studies at Goucher College and visiting scholar at the Hadassah Brandeis Institute joined the dialogue group for a discussion of Sibylle Tiedemann's newest film *Letters from Chicago*.

Uta Larkey



The Life and Work of Marie Munk

April 8, 2010

A Jew, a lawyer, a champion for social justice. The perfect topic for a talk at Brandeis University. Marion Roewekamp, historian and lawyer by training and visiting fellow at Harvard University's Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, joined students and faculty for a talk about her ongoing research into the life of one of the first female judges in Weimar Germany, Marie Munk. Munk's pioneering work for women's and family rights was cut short when she lost her position as a family judge under the 'Aryanization' rules applied by the Nazi regime. Munk, who grew up in a Jewish household, emigrated to Massachusetts and continued her work on this side of the Atlantic. Roewekamp already published a dictionary of women lawyers in 2005. Her second book on German female lawyers is due out in spring of 2010.

Marion Roewekamp



Adolf Hitler, the Men of the List Regiment, and the First World War

October 12, 2010

Thomas Weber, Professor of European and International History at the University of Aberdeen, introduced his new book *Adolf Hitler, the Men of the List Regiment, and the First World War*. Weber explored the effect WWI had on the politicization and radicalization of Hitler and his closest associates. He showed that contrary to myths perpetuated by the Nazi party, neither Hitler himself nor his comrades in the list regiment can be considered particularly radicalized by their experience in WWI. Indeed, many still voted conservative mainstream parties in post-war elections. The event was co-sponsored by The Department of History, The Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and The Mandel Humanities Center.



Sergey Lagodinsky

October 18, 2010

Sergey Lagodinsky, a lawyer and author living in Berlin, was born in the former Soviet Union and came to Berlin, Germany with his parents as part of the 'contingent' of Jewish immigrants in the 1990s. During the fall of 2010 Lagodinsky spent a semester as a World Fellow at Yale University. In his address to the joint meeting of the Boston area Jewish-German

dialogue groups he laid out the situation of Jewish communities in Germany today. The event was co-sponsored by The Brandeis Genesis Institute for Russian Jewry and the Mandel Humanities Center.

On January 24, 2010 Sibylle Tiedemann will be honored with the Obermayer Jewish Community History Award at the Berlin parliament.

Kinderland Ist Abgebrannt

November 10, 2010

German filmmaker Sibylle Tiedemann brought her award-winning film *Kinderland ist Abgebrannt* to Brandeis in commemoration of the 1938 'Kristallnacht' pogrom night. In the documentary film, which received the German film prize in 1998, Tiedemann interviews women in their 70s who once attended high school together with Sophie Scholl (member of the resistance group *The White Rose*) in Ulm, Germany. The Jewish classmates emigrated to America, the others, with varying enthusiasm for the Nazi regime, stayed behind. All were preparing for their first-ever reunion. In individual and group interviews, Tiedemann opens up a difficult conversation about the past.



Thomas Weber in the new Mandel Center Reading Room

Climatechange Campusweeks: Our Choices Matter

Continued from front page:

Students in Melanie Sherwood's German conversation class researched Green issues in Germany and produced posters highlighting issues such as transportation and political agendas.



The Brandeis debate team dazzled guests at the green unity gala with a spirited debate about whether or not Germany (and other countries) should expand or discontinue the use of nuclear energy. The events succeeded in bringing together many different people on campus who want to move Brandeis' environmental initiatives forward. The Center for German and European Studies is grateful for the support from the German Embassy and hopes to participate in the campusweeks again next year—when the topic will be "The German Language".



Green Unity Gala MCs Tara Loeber and Jonathan Jecker

Illona Yuhaev coordinated students from the Brandeis film club who produced documentary films about the events, and students in Laura Goldin's *Greening the Ivory Tower* class tackled a number of innovative projects to bring "change to your neighborhood", beautifully documented in the film by Yifan Wang that won first prize in the campusweeks' "Green Shot" competition.



Judith Juliet Njoka (Heller School)



President Fred Lawrence chatting with students at the Green Unity Gala

Professor Eric Olson explains the bike for light



Green Unity Gala photographer: Ingrid Schulte, '13

More information about Professor Lange's work in Tanzania:
<http://www.brandeis.edu/now/2010/november/boblange.html>

Chances and Challenges of Becoming Low-Carbon Societies

November 30, 2010

“How do modern democracies become low-carbon societies?” was the question of an interdisciplinary conversation between a humanist-- Elisabeth von Thadden (DIE ZEIT) and an economist—Adam Jaffe (Brandeis Dean of Arts and Sciences and Fred C. Hecht Professor of Economics). Von Thadden began the conversation by referring to the invention of the Junkers water heater over 100 years ago that revolutionized “energy consuming habits” in Germany. In her view, in order for such transformation to be successful it had to allow for self-determination and democratic consent.

“Transformation is possible if technical invention helps a society and gives it what it wants” von Thadden explained. Autonomy, equality, and modernity were important ingredients for success. The most recent example that she mentioned are ‘Zuhausekraftwerk’ powerstations that provide households with independent sources of heating and electricity, a new product from the German company Lichtblick. “We have known for 40 years that we need to reduce carbon emissions, but we haven’t really done anything” von Thadden observed.

“People purchase goods for their social meaning”. We want to be original, want novelty, want to find a place in the world and be the owner of the most advanced technology. The force of habit is very strong, far stronger than a modern society wants to admit. We need “choice architects”, including legislation that supports wise frameworks and makes you more reasonable than you would be by yourself. But we also need trailblazers, because history shows that “convincing practice of minorities finds imitators. Small groups are

drivers of progress”. Von Thadden concluded by highlighting the Danish capital Copenhagen that has become the first carbon-neutral capital in the Western world where 55% of residents travel only by bike.

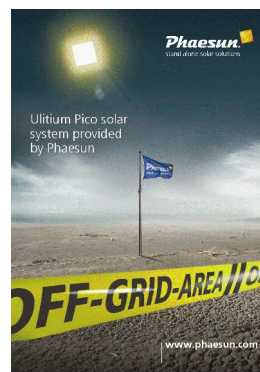
Adam Jaffe began by suggesting that his perspective would perhaps be a bit less optimistic. Instead of studying human behavior, economists focused on new technologies and policies: “What



economists talk about is: What policies about ‘the price of carbon’ do we need?” However, it is also clear that raising the price of carbon alone would not achieve the reductions needed. Even to stabilize world emissions, the US would have to reduce its own emissions significantly: “We need ‘transformative technological change’”. The problem was that “radical transformative change is hard to control or plan for.”

Jaffe then presented some lessons from the past: The Manhattan and Apollo projects, which took a decade and cost about \$140 billion. Both had very specific, narrow objectives. Their purpose was not to change the way society operates. His second example was the war on cancer, which drew billions of Dollars into the NIH budget, a large part of which was spent on training

new scientists and created a human capital infrastructure. One lesson from this was that “rapid build-up is a bad idea”. The third example was probably the most applicable here: the invention of semiconductors, computers, software: “If you think about what we need to change in the next 40 years, this is the most comparable transformation in how we do things.” For this to succeed, the government had spent a lot of money over decades, purchasing new digital technology, creating new markets. “It wasn’t their goal to create a new society, but in the process of doing so they did”, Jaffe observed. He concluded suggesting that a gradual increase of government scientific support for energy research with the inclusion of training grants should be the most promising approach. Given that currently more than half of publicly funded research was spent in the field of health sciences, there certainly seems to be room for improvement. Still, Jaffe cautioned: “We should view these policies as experiments and include evaluations. We must use the time we have wisely.”



Sponsor of Solar Cell

October 18, 2010

Communicating Climate Change: Problems and Strategies

The question how the reality of climate change can be successfully communicated was the subject of Franz Mauelshagen's presentation. A historian by training and a research fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities in Essen, Mauelshagen described how much easier it is for climate change denialists to reject complex scientific explanations in part because the periods in question are too large to observe. "We can handle a month, a year, ten years. Even a generation. Anything beyond 100 years becomes blurred." What was needed, Mauelshagen suggested, was a multi-disciplinary approach. Climate change must be studied not only by scientists, but also by humanists and social scientists. Artists, too, had an important role to play in making the invisible dangers of climate change visible.



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February 22, 2010

Copenhagen and the Challenges for International Collaboration on Climate Change



Arne Jungjohann from the Heinrich Boell Foundation in Washington, D.C. joined campus environmentalists to discuss his experience at the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen. Jungjohann began his presentation by asking whether people thought the Copenhagen meeting had been a success. The majority of his listeners shook their heads. Jungjohann went on to point out what the summit had achieved. Although he agreed that it only represented "limited success", Jungjohann said the fact that the Copenhagen Accord represented a compromise between European environmentalists, developing nations, and climate change critics in the US should not be underestimated. At least there was agreement reached that global temperatures must not increase more than 2 degrees Celsius compared to 1990 levels. That was a start.

April 15, 2010

International Energy Security and Climate Change

Klaus Dieter Barbknecht, CEO of Verbundnetz Gas and visiting lecturer at Tufts University's Fletcher School, spoke about the issue of Energy security and the world's continued reliance on fossil fuels. Introduced by Arpad van Lazar, himself a distinguished Professor Emeritus from the Fletcher School, Barbknecht explained the rapid expansion of the use of natural gas in the German economy and highlighted its environmental benefits. The event was co-sponsored with the Perlmutter Institute for Global Business Leadership.



January 2, 2010

AFGHANISTAN—the “NECESSARY” War



As president Obama concluded his first year in office, CGES Brandeis hosted a panel of experts to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. We invited Claudia Schuett, Deputy Consul General at the Consulate General of Germany in New England who had been stationed at the German Embassy in Kabul in 2003/04, and Asbed Kotchikian, Associate Professor of Politics at Bentley University, a specialist on the Soviet period in the region. The two were joined by Asadullah Passoon, graduate student from Afghanistan at the International Business School at Brandeis. Kotchikian began with



a brief historical overview of the conflict and an introduction to the multifaceted structure of Afghan politics and society. Many have tried, he concluded, to bring peace

to Afghanistan, but so far none succeeded. Claudia Schuett explained the German government’s strategy in Afghanistan and spoke about her own experience working with women in rural areas around Kabul. She highlighted the need to support local efforts, improve infrastructure, schooling, and restart economic growth. Asadullah Passoon seconded Schuett’s words, emphasizing the desire on the part of many Afghans for peace, and the need to strengthen Afghan security forces first and foremost. During the discussion a number of Afghani students in the audience shared their perspective onto the conflict and asked how the international community will address growing corruption in the government and the Taliban control throughout the country.

October 20, 2010

German Austerity vs US Stimulus?

While the US keeps struggling to prevent unemployment figures from escalating, Germany has been experiencing a sustained economic boom in 2010 despite the growing financial insecurity in a struggling Euro zone. At a meeting of the G-20 in the summer of 2010, German and European representatives advocated austerity measures and rejected President Obama’s plea for a joint economic stimulus program. Klaus F. Zimmermann, economist at the

University of Bonn, and Catherine L.Mann from Brandeis’ International Business school, faced off to discuss the disparity. Mann challenged Zimmermann by presenting statistics that suggested that Germans had experienced sustained economic growth over a period of several years but German consumers did not go out and buy German products. Instead, Germany continued to rely heavily on its exports. “Why don’t the Germans spend their money? Why do they rely on us buying their products?” Mann asked pointedly. Zimmermann suggested that the explanation would have to be found in a historical analysis going farther into the past than just ten years. The ‘belt-tightening’ undertaken by the Schroeder-government in terms of reduction of benefits was largely to be credited for today’s growth, he explained. But most importantly there had of course been a tremendous stimulus package at the height of the crisis. Listeners suggested that cultural differences must be taken into consideration as well. Contrary to people in the US, “Germans tend to be a lot more risk-averse” one woman noted. The use of credit cards is still relatively rare in Germany, while personal savings accounts are full. The event was co-sponsored by the Rosenberg Institute of Global Finance and the International and Global Studies Program.



November 2, 2010

Does Austrian Literature Exist—and if so, why not? Notes on an Obstinate Myth

In her tongue-in-cheek assessment of Germans' relationship to Austrian literature, Sigrid Löffler shared



insights into her work as one of Germany's most highly-reputed literary critics. While Austrian literature clearly served a specific function in the German market, which is economically essential to its very survival, its function within Austrian society is much more controversial. Löffler highlighted how works by Thomas Bernhard, Elfriede Jelinek, Peter Handke, and Ingeborg Bachmann, among others, had served to unearth and confront the country's silences.

November 3, 2010

German Ambassador Scharioth at Brandeis

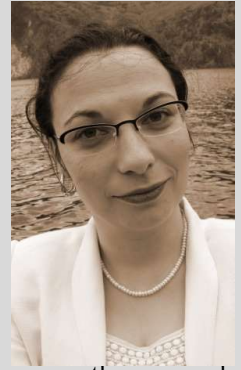
On November 3rd, CGES co-hosted German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth together with the Perlmutter Institute for Global Business Leadership. Scharioth, who remembered playing soccer against Brandeis International Business School Dean Bruce Magid during their student years at Tufts, highlighted the urgent need for global cooperation on a number of issues, from financial regulations to nuclear disarmament to climate change. Scharioth praised the Obama administration for moving forward on a number of foreign-policy issues. Speaking at Brandeis on the day after the midterm elections, Scharioth said he does not expect major changes in US foreign policy in the next two years, given that, contrary to domestic issues, the White House has a lot of independence from Congress when it comes to foreign affairs. You can also read about the visit in the Global Brandeis BLOG: <http://blogs.brandeis.edu/global-brandeis/2010/11/04/lunch-with-the-german-ambassador-to-the-u-s/>.



November 12, 2010

10

The Building of a Muslim Community and Germany's Multicultural Society



Riem Spielhaus, currently a research fellow at the Centre for European Islamic Thought in Copenhagen discussed the international reaction to German chancellor Angela Merkel's comment that integration had failed in Germany. She described the context of Merkel's speech and claimed that Merkel was largely misrepresented by the press. Compared to other chancellors before her, Merkel, having raised the power of the integration commissioner and created the "integration summit", had actually quite a good track record with Muslim communities in Germany, Spielhaus said: "I don't see the anger having any legitimacy". However, immigrants were "becoming Muslims through the debate." Being Muslim should allow for more diversity: "I want Islam not only to be represented by the religious orthodox. We have very different ideas about what a Muslim should look like." Asked whether the soccer player Oezil could serve as a positive role model, Riemhaus noted that in the past Turkish-German soccer players had been denied access to the German team and were forced to play for other countries instead. Today, however, there was even "reverse migration"—university graduates going back to Turkey.



CGES is proud to co-sponsor a very special event this spring. Richard Beaudoin, who received his Ph.D. from Brandeis in music composition in 2007 and is now Lecturer of Music at Harvard University was commissioned by Boston Lyric Opera to write a chamber opera to be performed in conjunction with Viktor Ullmann's *The Emperor of Atlantis, or Death Quits*. Ullmann wrote the opera during his time of incarceration at the Theresienstadt concentration camp before he was killed in Auschwitz. The Boston Lyric Opera performances of Beaudoin's *The After Image* and Ullmann's work are scheduled for February 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 (2pm matinee), 2011 at the Calderwood Pavilion at the BCA, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. CGES will be sponsoring "Rehearsal at Theresienstadt, 1944" with composer Beaudoin and several other artists involved in the production on January 9, 2011 from 2 to 3pm in the Remis Auditorium at the Museum of Fine Arts. For more information, please visit http://www.blo.org/2010-2011_annex.html (the January 9 event is free for Brandeis faculty and students).



Richard Beaudoin



Vivian Liska

On January 28th CGES will co-host a symposium with Stephan Pennington from Tufts University's Music program about the 1930s a capella group The Comedian Harmonists. The group is still considered the most famous a capella group in Germany today. It was only through the popular film by Joseph Vilsmaier (1997) that the story of the group's experience under the Nazi became more widely known. Students interested in a capella music are especially encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Mark Kagan in the music department at kagan@brandeis.edu.

Vivian Liska, Professor of German Literature and Director of the Institute of Jewish Studies at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. Author of a number of books about European Modernism, including *When Kafka says We. Uncommon Communities in German-Jewish Literature* (2009). On April 6 she will be speaking at Brandeis about her ongoing work on Franz Kafka and Philosophy.



On April 13, CGES will be hosting noted Croatian writer and publicist Slavenka Drakulic who will talk about *The Legend of the Berlin Wall – As Presented by a Mole*. Born 1949 in Croatia, Drakulic represents the post-war generation of writers who grew up in what was then Yugoslavia. She graduated in comparative literature and sociology from the University in Zagreb in

1976. Her books include *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*. Drakulic now lives in Sweden, having had to flee Croatia in the 1990s.

Save the date for a vibrant program of new films and classic cinematic treasures from around the world that he Boston Phoenix calls "one of the season's cinematic highlights." Jewishfilm.2011 premiere screenings will include *Cabaret Berlin: The Wild Scene*, a sumptuous new French documentary on the Weimer Berlin cabaret scene; *Mahler on the Couch*, a witty and sexy new German feature film examination Gustav Mahler's relationship with his tempestuous wife, Alma, whose affair with Walter Gropius sent Mahler to Sigmund Freud's couch; and *Singing in the Dark*, a quirky combination of 1950s movie conventions—the musical, gangster movie—and one of the first American films to dramatize the Holocaust, newly restored in 35mm by The National Center For Jewish Film. For more information: www.jewishfilm.org or 781.736.8600.

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