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CGES *in review*

Update on the Eurocrisis: What is it really? Who done it and why? What might it mean to us?

CGES director emeritus **George Ross**, ad personam **Chaire Jean Monnet** at the Université de Montréal and **Morris Hillquit**, Professor Emeritus in Labor and Social Thought at Brandeis University returned to update students and faculty in European Studies about the situation in Europe. Ross began with a historical overview, focusing on the relationship between the financial crisis in the US and the crisis gripping the EU and threatening the global economy. He explained why Brussels and the EU are even more difficult to understand than Wall Street, and why the Europeans seem to

have so much trouble doing the right things. Ross did not mince words, accusing European officials of having knowingly ignored that “the Greeks were cooking their books for years” and holding German Chancellor Merkel’s slow response in part responsible for the severity of the crisis. Asked whether a “proper default” was an option for Greece, Ross pointed to the country’s symbolic significance for European

(Eurocrisis - continued on page 3)



Brandeis Students “do Deutsch”

To highlight the importance of the German language, CGES participated again in the campusweek activities co-sponsored by the German Embassy in Washington D.C. An entire ‘army’ of volunteers mounted daily activities on campus with music, discussion, and art celebrating the German language.

(do Deutsch - continued on page 3)

Euro in Crisis?

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

When **Lucas Papademos**, former Vice-President of the European Central Bank, agreed to join **Jeffrey Frieden**, Harvard University Professor in the Department of Government and **Catherine Mann**, Barbara and Richard M. Rosenberg Professor of Global Finance at Brandeis University's International Business School to discuss the Euro crisis in early April of 2011, he did not let on that he might soon be in charge of steering the Greek economy

himself. Instead, he joined the other finance experts to provide an overview of the Euro crisis and to attempt to translate the complex web of challenges and options Europe faced. While Papademos continued to be moderately optimistic that a simple debt restructuring would be sufficient, Professor Mann compared the European situation to what had happened in South America in the 1980s and 90s and saw little alternative

to a significant 'haircut'. Moderator **Chandler Rosenberger**, Assistant Professor of International and Global Studies and Sociology at Brandeis University fielded questions from a mixed audience of economics students and those worried about the impact of the crisis on the American recovery. The event was co-sponsored by The Rosenberg Institute of Global Finance and The International and Global Studies Program.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

My Perestroika

Monday, April 11, 2011

What was it like growing up in the cold war? What do people who grew up in the Soviet Union or East and West Germany remember of their childhood? What remains? **Robin Hessman** explored these questions in her documentary *My Perestroika*, a film that includes interviews with a number of young Russians who take an unflinching look at their years under communist rule. Hessman's work was discussed by graduate student **Feruz Aripova**, and Professors **Irina Dubinina** and **Sabine von Mering**, who each contributed their own memories of the time before and after Perestroika and the fall of the Berlin wall.

Babi Yar in History and Memory

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Babi Yar is a ravine in Kiev, Ukraine, where the largest mass murder of Soviet Jews during World War II took place from Sept. 29 to 30, 1941. In addition to commemorating the 70th anniversary of the massacre, this symposium was organized to bring together scholars to "begin a conversation" about the event and to honor the victims' memory, existence and suffering. For the Jews, Babi Yar became a symbol of "the reawakening of Jewish identities and collective mourning" (**ChaeRan Freeze**) and for the Soviet intelligentsia, a "rejection of anti-Semitism and protest against Soviet repression."

Speakers included Freeze; Karel C. Berkhoff, senior researcher at the NIOD Institute for War,

Holocaust and Genocide Studies; **Gennady Estraiikh**, associate professor of Yiddish Studies at New York University; **Alice Nakhimovsky**, professor of Russian and Jewish Studies at Colgate University; and **Olga Litvak**, who holds the Leffell Chair in Modern Jewish History at Clark University.

On the massacre itself, Berkhoff said that the Jews would have had little doubt that they were about to be killed. "The Germans demanded [the Jews] documents and burned them before their own eyes," he explained. "The shooting began at 10 in the morning and lasted until 5 or 6 pm," and continued again the following morning.

According to Berkhoff, killings at the site continued until late October. Due

primarily to censorship in the Soviet Union, "before 1961, Babi Yar simply couldn't enter the domain of public knowledge," Estraiikh explained. Unlike most mass murders during the Holocaust, young men were not separated from women, children and elders.

The lectures were interspersed with student performances, including poems "1 (Untitled)" by Ilya Ehrenburg, read by David Bengler '14 and Daniel Shpolyansky '14, and "Babi Yar" by Yevgeni Yevtushenko, read by Karina Gaft '14 and Nera Lerner '12. Sponsored by the Tauber Institute for European Jewry, the Sarnat Center for the Study of Anti-Jewishness, the Brandeis-Genesis Institute for Russian Jewry, and the Brandeis Russian Club.

Geopolitics of Energy

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Klaus Barbknecht, Executive Board Member, Verbundnetz Gas, returned to Brandeis for a stimulating luncheon conversation with business students and faculty at the Brandeis International Business School. Participants discussed recent developments in the European energy sector, focusing on emergency management, and considered the implications of the German government's decision to phase out nuclear power. Co-sponsored by: Perlmutter Institute for Global Business Leadership and the Brandeis International Business School.

Workshop on Europe, Energy, and the Environment

Monday, April 11, 2011

This 3-week graduate workshop with **Klaus Barbknecht**, Executive Board Member, Verbundnetz Gas, grew out of Barbknecht's initial visit to Brandeis in 2010. In this workshop, students learned about the international gas markets and their role in addressing environmental concerns. Co-sponsors: Perlmutter Institute for Global Business Leadership and the Brandeis International Business School.

German Jewish Aspirations in Music and Culture in 19th and 20th Century Germany

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Michael Leavitt, President, American Society of Jewish Music, introduced a multi-panel symposium devoted to the question of how German Jews navigated music and culture in the 19th and 20th century. The first panel focused on German Jewish Synagogue Music. Speakers included **Dr. Mark L. Kligman**, **Dr. Tina Frühauf**, **Dr. Michael Zank**. The second panel was devoted to Jewish Music in the 20th Century. Speakers included **Eugene Sheppard**, **Dr. Pamela Potter**, and **Dr. Anthony Polonsky**. Co-sponsored by The American Society of Jewish Music, the Jewish Music Forum, Brandeis University's Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry, and Brandeis Library and Technology Services.

Eurocrisis: What now?

Friday, October 28, 2011

(Eurocrisis - from page 1)

unity and also emphasized that many Greeks are suffering tremendously as a consequence of the current situation.

Many young Europeans in the audience felt encouraged by Ross' talk. "He knows a lot about the history of the EU, and so he can put things in perspective" on student remarked.

'do Deutsch' – Info Panel Series

November 14-18, 2011

(do Deutsch - from page 1)

Student Panels presented German food, videos, impromptu German lessons, and shared information about study and research in Germany in the Shapiro Campus Center and Usdan Student Center every day of the week. Many

enjoyed participating in a quiz about Germany that included such questions as "Who is Angela Merkel or "What do 'Kinder' and 'Garten' originally mean?" in the hope of winning one of the popular "do Deutsch"-T-Shirts.



From Chernobyl to Fukushima: Nuclear Energy and Its Alternatives

Thursday, April 28, 2011

On the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, CGES experimented for the first time with the option of videoconferencing a panelist from Germany. The result was a stimulating conversation across the “pond” that allowed participants to hear first-hand from **Dr. Harry Lehmann** from the Umweltbundesamt [federal environmental office—an organization comparable to the EPA] in Bonn. **Dr. Roland**

Schindler, then Director of the Fraunhofer Institut in Cambridge, MA was able to join the panel in person. Lehmann outlined how Europe can dramatically reduce its carbon footprint by coordinating efficiency measures and investment in alternative energy across the continent. In reference to the recent nuclear catastrophe in Japan, Lehmann also highlighted the enormous untapped resources in alternative energy that the Japanese

have so far neglected in favor of nuclear power. Dr. Schindler focused his talk on ways in which New England could benefit from advances in technology developed by German and European partners. Both panelists saw a great future for alternative energy not only as a way to promote sustainability but also to stimulate the economy through innovation. Presented in cooperation with the Goethe Institut Boston.

Photography and Climate Change

Monday, September 19, 2011

Ulrike Heine from the Research Group Transnational Media Events at the Justus-Liebig-Universitaet Gießen/ Germany represents a new interdisciplinary generation of scholars. In her talk, Heine explored how photographs are used to communicate different aspects of climate change. Heine, who completed her studies in art history and cultural studies in Leipzig and St. Petersburg/Russia, is currently working on her Ph.D. on the topic of Photography and Climate Change as a visiting fellow at Boston University's Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-

Range Future. Her research focuses on projects originating in the fields of photojournalism and art and commercial photography.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

TXT BCK? On the Art of Text Messaging

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Professor **Lutz Koepnick** tackled a very timely question in his lecture: Does the age of electronic networks, global transactions, and rapid transportation technologies cause people to suffer from too much speed in their lives? Contrary to expectation, Koepnick discovered the potential of electronic writing and text messaging to reframe the speed of our present, and develop a viable art of slowness. Koepnick also highlighted the role of writing in the Humanities in general as a means to probe the different speeds, itineraries, and visions of progress that define our contemporary moment. Co-sponsored by the European Cultural Studies Program.

European Perspectives on Renewable Energy

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Juergen Eschment, Head of Corporate Development & Strategy for GASAG AG, talked to students in the International Business School about the current development and realities of renewable energy in

(*Renewables* - continued on page 5)

(*Renewables* - from page 4)

Germany and Europe, and he provided a global perspective on its future. Eschment's gave an overview of subsidy mechanisms and their implications for the energy industry, energy intensive industries and society, as well as an outlook of where renewables might go and what other measures might influence new energy thinking. This event was co-sponsored by Net Impact, a Brandeis graduate student club.

Climate Change Luncheon

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

CGES invited faculty in Environmental Studies, students organized in 'Students for Environmental Action' (SEA), as well as other interested community members for a conversation about how we can best promote knowledge about climate change at Brandeis. SEA brought a guest speaker who highlighted the experience of people living in areas of heavy mountaintop removal, bringing home the notion that climate change is having real-life consequences for communities everywhere. Faculty described various international research projects they are involved in, and also expressed frustration at the lack of media interest and the amount of misinformation. CGES Director von Mering promised to continue to promote conversation about climate change on campus and explore cooperation with German and European universities.

The Legend of the Berlin Wall - As Presented by a Mole

Wednesday, April 13, 2011



It was a very special treat for CGES Brandeis to host author **Slavenka Drakulić** in April of 2011. In her highly comical collection of short stories—*The Legend of the Berlin Wall - As Presented by a Mole*—Drakulić satirized the experience of GDR bureaucracy resorting to fabled animals and bringing their problems to light in a way reminiscent of the movie *Ratatouille*. This event was co-sponsored by the Brandeis Program in European Cultural Studies.

Earth Day Panel Discussion: Philosophy, Ethics & the Arts, Sustainability Across Disciplines

Thursday, April 14, 2011

At a CGES co-sponsored panel in celebration of Earth Day, CGES Director Professor **Sabine von Mering**, Philosophy Professor **Kate Moran**, and **Marci McPhee**, Associate Director of the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life, discussed the ways in which their disciplines had been transformed in recent years by attempts to address issues of sustainability.

Professor von Mering referred to a new course she was in the process of creating, entitled "Human/Nature—European Perspectives on Climate Change". In it she aims to address how Germans and Europeans have tackled climate change and how/why their approach differs from what is happening in the US. She explained that as a major supporter of Green politics, alternative energy, and energy efficiency Germany has not only found economic success, but also garnered international praise especially from young people in search of a sustainable future. The issue has also seen prominent reflection in German literature, film, and culture.

Architecture, Life, and Death

A Conversation with Nina Libeskind and Shulamit Reinharz

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

When architect **Daniel Libeskind** unfortunately fell ill and was unable to come to Brandeis, his wife and partner at Daniel Libeskind Studio, **Nina Libeskind**, decided to take his place. **Gretchen Schneider**, Associate Editor of the magazine *Architecture Boston* delivered introductory remarks about Daniel Libeskind's works and influence on world architecture. Then, Ms. Libeskind, speaking from her own perspective about her husband's work, mesmerized her audience.

During the conversation, Nina Libeskind spoke about the influence of Daniel Libeskind's early life experiences on his commitments, vision and work. Some of Daniel Libeskind's buildings include the Jewish Museum in Berlin, Germany, the extension to the Denver Art Museum in the United States, the Grand Canal Theatre in Dublin, and the Wohl Centre at the Bar-Ilan University in Ramat-Gan, Israel. This event was co-sponsored by the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute's Project on Families, Children and the Holocaust, and Boston Association of Architects.

Rehearsal in Theresienstadt, 1944

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Boston Lyric Opera commissioned the one-act opera *The After-Image* from Brandeis alumnus **Richard Beaudoin** (now Lecturer in the department of music at Harvard University) to complement its February 2011 production of Victor Ullmann's opera *The Emperor of Atlantis, or Death Quits*, (originally written in Theresianstadt in 1944, but only performed for the first time in Amsterdam in 1975). CGES sponsored a panel discussion with the composer and the director, including excerpts performed by the singers.



Photo by Jeffery Dunn for Boston Lyric Opera, 2011

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

BEAMS concert Saturday, April 30, 2011

The **Brandeis-Electro-Acoustic-Music-Studio** concert this year included the Phoenix ensemble from Basel, Switzerland. The concert won the IBM Innovation Award for the best performance event at the Boston CyberArts Festival 2011. Co-sponsored with the Arts Council, The Poses Awards, the Theodore and Jane Norman Fund, Parsons Audio, and the Computer Music Studio at Boston University.

Jewish Film 2011 March 5-13, 2011

CGES was proud to again sponsor parts of the Jewish Film festival with North American premiere screenings of *Cabaret Berlin: The Wild Scene* [Cabaret Berlin: La Scène Sauvage] and *Mahler on the Couch* [Mahler auf der Couch]. Co-sponsored by the National Center for Jewish Film, the Goethe Institut Boston, the Consulate General of France and the Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry.

The Comedian Harmonists - Popular Music, and the Transference of Race at the end of Weimar Germany

Friday, January 28, 2011

CGES was proud to host **Stephan Pennington**, Assistant Professor of Music at Tufts University with his work on the German-Jewish cappella group *The Comedian Harmonists*. Pennington highlighted the way in which Harry Frommermann transformed the work of the American quintet *The Revelers* and how race played a role in both the American and the German context. Co-sponsored by the Department of Music.



Author reading with Martin Walser

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Introduced by Brandeis alum **Susanne Klingenstein**, German author **Martin Walser** addressed a packed Faculty Club Lounge in German. The author also read from his most recent book. Several attendees commented on the joy of hearing "such impeccable German". This event was co-sponsored by the Goethe Institut Boston, Center for European Studies at Harvard University, and the German Consulate General.

The 2011 Chocolate Cake Lecture: "Stefan George and Lyric Modernism"

Monday, November 7, 2011

Professor **Christophe Fricker** from Rutgers University, also an award-winning German poet, highlighted the role of sound and rhythm and form in George's concept of lyric poetry—a contrast to more free-form conventions or received modernism.

Presented in cooperation with the Dean of Arts and Sciences, European Cultural Studies, and Comparative Literature.

"Kebab Connection"

Thursday, March 31, 2011

As part of the "Shakespeare in World Cinema Film Series" CGES sponsored a discussion or "Kebab Connection" with film expert **Lutz Koepnick**. Co-sponsored by: The Department of German, Russian and Asian Languages and Literature, the European Cultural Studies program, and the Mandel Center for the Humanities.

Film series "WWII in World Cinema"

*Monday, October 17 and
Thursday, December 8,*

In recognition of the 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor CGES co-sponsored a series of international films about World War II. Including Japanese film *Caterpillar* about the seriously wounded soldier Kurokawa who returns home after the war deeply traumatized and the controversial blockbuster film *Der Untergang*.

On Kafka

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Professor **Vivian Liska** from the University of Antwerp, Belgium came to Brandeis to discuss her new book about Kafka. With the help of a very careful close reading, Liska actively engaged students in reading short excerpts from

Kafka's texts. In doing so she turned their attention to the detective work required of anyone trying to understand Kafka's intricate prose. Liska also highlighted the difficulties faced by those who attempt to translate Kafka's works.

The Art of Klezmer and Yiddish Song

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

The fall CGES highlight was a concert, lecture, and dance featuring world-renowned Klezmer experts **Hankus Netsky** and **Michael Alpert**, virtuoso klezmer clarinetist **Zoe Christiansen**, as well as several members of the Klezmer Conservatory Band, and students from the New England Conservatory. Michael Alpert, a founding member of the klezmer super-group, *Brave Old World* and Hankus Netsky, founder and director of the **Klezmer Conservatory Band** and Music Director for **Itzhak Perlman's "In the Fiddler's House"** and **"Soul of**

Jewish Music" projects, are probably the most famous Klezmer musicians in the world. Co-sponsored in cooperation with the Brandeis program in Yiddish and Eastern European Studies and the Department of Music, The Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry, the Brandeis Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, the National Center for Jewish Film at Brandeis University, The Goethe Institut Boston, The Yiddish Committee of Boston Workmen's Circle, and The German Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Grant Recipient Seminar

Monday, October 3, 2011



This year we invited our grant recipients to showcase their experience in the context of the CGES Welcome reception, which we held on the day of German Unification in the beautiful new Reading Room on the top level of the Mandel Center for the Humanities. We were fortunate to have **MdB Harald Leibrecht** with us on this occasion, the new coordinator for transatlantic relations in the German Foreign Office.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration

Monday, May 2, 2011

In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, CGES and the Holocaust Remembrance Committee together with other local Jewish-German Dialogue groups presented a screening of the film *Defiance*, hosted by **Leora Tec**, whose mother wrote the book on which the film is based. Co-sponsored by the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life.

The failed prosecution of Holocaust perpetrators in Austria

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Dr. Winfried R. Garscha (PhD, University of Vienna), co-director of the Austrian Research Centre for Post-War Trials and archivist at the Documentation Center of Austrian Resistance, discussed his research into the question why Austria had failed to prosecute Nazis successfully. His work is published in *Strafverfolgung und verweigerte Gerechtigkeit: Polen, Deutschland und Österreich in Vergleich* (Graz, 2011).

Kristallnacht Commemoration

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

In Commemoration of the 1938 "Kristallnacht," CGES screened "About Face," a feature-length documentary that tells the story of thousands of young Jewish immigrants who fled Germany and Austria in the early days of Hitler's regime, only to perform an "about face" and return to Europe as American and British soldiers to confront their oppressors in WWII. Co-sponsored by the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation.

Life and Loss in the Shadow of the Holocaust:

Jewish-German Dialogue with Author Uta Larkey

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Professor **Uta Larkey** read from her new book, *Life and Loss In the Shadow of the Holocaust: A Jewish Family's Untold Story*. (2011; Cambridge University

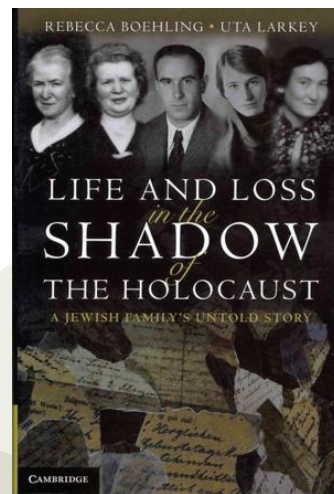


Press) The book is based on correspondence between members of a Jewish family before, during, and after the Holocaust. Larkey and her co-author Rebecca Boehling reveal how the Kaufmann-Steinberg family was pulled apart under the Nazi regime

and left divided between Germany, the United States, and Palestine. The family's unique eight-way correspondence across two generations brings into sharp focus the dilemma of Jews who faced the painful decision of when and if they should leave Nazi Germany.

The book captures the family members' fluctuating emotions of hope, resignation, and despair, as well as the day-to-day concerns, experiences, and dynamics of family life despite increasing persecution and impending deportation. Headed by two sisters who were among the first female business owners in Essen, the family was far from conventional, and their story contributes a new

dimension to the understanding of life in Germany during these dark years. Cosponsored by the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute and the Jewish-German Dialogue groups of the Boston area.



The Vilna Ghetto Theater: Yiddish Poetry Set to Music (1941-1943)

Thursday, September 8, 2011

On Sept 6, 1941, the Germans established a ghetto in Vilna (then the occupied Republic of Poland--today Vilnius, Lithuania) where they killed about 40,000 Jews to forcing them to work 10-hour shifts on starvation diets. In January 1942, a theater opened in the **Vilna Ghetto**. Though some were initially hesitant to embrace the undertaking, the theater performances were a huge success with ghetto inmates, who were enduring great hardships. For a few hours, these performances offered the relief of laughter and tears. In commemoration of the ghetto's establishment 70 years ago, this event presented moving and witty excerpts from four revue shows composed by gifted composers and lyricists. With **Sophie Michaux** (voice), **Eugenia Gerstein** (piano), and lecturer **Susanne Klingenstein**.

Screening of Nathan the Wise with Coolidge Corner, Goethe, NCJF

Sunday, September 11, 2011

What better way to commemorate the victims of September 11, 2001 than with **Gotthold Ephraim Lessing's** passionate plea for tolerance in *Nathan the Wise*. **Manfred Noa's** 1922 silent film version was thought to have been lost until it was rediscovered in 1996 in a Russian archive. CGES worked with the Goethe Institut Boston, and the National Center for Jewish Film to bring this unusual film to an enthusiastic Boston audience.