



UMass Amherst

German and Scandinavian Studies
 University of Massachusetts Amherst
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German and Scandinavian Studies - Newsletter

Changing Program Offerings

For two years we have been working on revising offerings in light of new faculty and scholarly trends, here and abroad. Our program continues to expand on interdisciplinary offerings and will henceforth be called **German and Scandinavian Studies**.

Faculty Scholarship and Outreach

Skyler Arndt-Briggs is currently Acting Director of the DEFA Film Library, while Barton Byg is on sabbatical. In July 2005 Sky was Associate Director and Faculty for the NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities) Summer Institute, "German and European Studies in the US: Changing World, Shifting Narratives." She moderated and commented on panels at the German Studies Association conference in both fall 2005 and fall 2006 and, at the latter, gave a paper on "Biography and the Practice of Place in Weimar Republic Berlin." Sky is currently wrapping up work on an edited translation of the memoir of anti-Nazi youth organizer Erich Schmidt. As part of the Scandinavian Studies Work Group she worked on outreach and events designed to reinvigorate Scandinavian Studies, obtaining a matching grant from the Roth Endowment to help pay for program assistance and was instrumental in developing the project design and obtaining funding for the new Ibsen Translation Project. We owe Sky great thanks for her energetic *Einsatz*.

Barton Byg continued a three-year term as Graduate Program Director on September 1st and as Five College Fortieth Anniversary Professor. His 2005 NEH Summer Institute on German and European Studies in the United States: Changing Worlds, Shifting Narratives brought more than 40 European and American 40 scholars representing nine academic disciplines together from July 6 to Aug. 2 focusing on the creation of the European Union, the end of the Cold War and events since 9/11, which have transformed Europe and Germany and their relation to the U.S. with four primary areas of focus: Transatlantic relations and European history; film and history; feminism and German studies; and black Germans and multicultural Germany in a globalizing world. The project was funded by a \$175,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, with additional support from the program in Germanic and Scandinavian Studies and the DEFA Film Library at UMass Amherst; the DEFA Stiftung, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); Smith College; Academy of Music; the Vice Provost for Research and the Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at UMass Amherst. When he returns from his sabbatical, Barton will begin implementing a self-study and development project for German & Scandinavian Studies, funded by the Max Kade Foundation.

James E. Cathey has ended his term as interim Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC). (This new Department subsumes the former departments of Asian Languages and Literatures, Comparative Literature, French and Italian, Germanic Languages and Literatures, and Spanish and Portuguese. A new Chair of the LLC, Professor Julie Hayes, has been hired away from the College of Richmond with tenure in French.) J. Cathey continues as director of German and Scandinavian Studies and this year he finished the translation and editing of a volume *Survey of Proto-Indo-European* in cooperation with its author Professor Eva Tichy of Freiburg University. (Her book first appeared as *Indogermanistisches Grundwissen*.)

Susan Cocalis continues to teach large lecture courses (Witches, Grimms to Disney). She has written a play "Iphigenie in Berlin: Ein Stationen- und Haltestellendrama" (English version: "Iphigenia in West Berlin. In No Sense A Broad") and is near completion of a second play: "Mama Drama." She is also proud to have discovered two hitherto unknown German authors, Waldi Gump and Claude Import (performance artist), information about whom is available on her website. She is also very proud of the achievements of her doctoral students Maria Stehle, Kerstin Müller, Florence Feiereisen, Anne Hector, Kyle Frackman, and Allie Merley, while

congratulating Susanne Wagner and Beverly Weber on their recent Ph.D.s.

Andrew Donson, our Assistant Professor of German Cultural History has submitted a manuscript for a monograph *Youth in the Fatherless Land: War Pedagogy, Nationalism, and Authority, 1914-1918*, for which he spent the summer in Berlin doing research in German archives. Andy teaches courses on Modern German History, the Holocaust, and the Weimar Republic.

Sherrill Harbison offered courses in the Icelandic Saga, Scandinavian Mythology, The Nordic Ideal, and Scandinavian Authors. Sherrill was key in bringing a large new project on the translation of the works of Henrik Ibsen. Adjunct Professor **Rune Engebretsen** will lead the Ibsen Project that will begin with translations of four volume of Ibsen's letters with four matching volumes of commentaries. This is a large project for which funding will come from the NEH, the Norwegian government and other sources.

Sara Lennox will become President of the German Studies Association in January and remains Director of the Social Thought and Political Economy Program (STPEC). In cooperation with Prof. Randolph Ochsman at the University of Mainz, she is co-principal investigator of a grant to study Black Germans, funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation with matching funds from UMass Amherst's Provost's Office) and a grant to study Black Europeans, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. In recent months she has delivered papers in the U.S., Germany, Austria, Poland, and Slovenia. She has recently published an article on African writers in Germany in the journal *text + kritik* and a foreword and a chapter in the collection *Re-acting to Ingeborg Bachmann*. Her book *Cemetery of the Murdered Daughters: Feminism, History, and Ingeborg Bachmann* has just been published by the University of Massachusetts Press.

Sarah McGaughey has completed a renovation of the first-year language sequence and is working with graduate student Laurie Taylor on the incorporation of Black German Studies material into the curriculum. She is also working with an LLC committee on technology to ensure that our classrooms, and subsequently our curriculum, will be updated with state-of-the-art equipment in Herter Hall. This fall, Sarah has given papers at conferences on the intersections of 20th-century literature, architecture, and fashion at conferences in the U.S. and Hungary. Her current article project is on the Viennese fashion critic and personality Ea von Allesch and her inter-war critique of European culture.

Tobias Nagl, a film historian focusing on race in Weimar cinema, is with us as a post-doctoral fellow. He received his Dr. Phil. degree with highest honors from Hamburg University this year and has been very active in teaching with us and at Amherst College, doing research, and giving talks at conferences and at other colleges. Tobias has also taught an honors course on "Race and Representation in American and European Cinemas" in the program of Social Thought and Political Economy (STPEC) and will teach in the Communications Department at UMass Amherst this spring.

Harry Seelig was on a one-year sabbatical leave in 2005-2006, during which he revised his paper (presented earlier at a UC-Santa Barbara WMA Conference) on six Lied-settings from Goethe's *West-östlicher Divan* composed by Hermann Reutter for publication this winter. While working on his almost completed Goethe-Hugo Wolf *Divan*-study, he also spoke at a 'Lyric Song Salon' research workshop in London's Royal Academy of Music on March 30th, following which he attended numerous theater and concert performances in Berlin (and did research in Weimar) during April and May. He has also organized and written extensive program notes for a Lieder recital of Goethe's "Suleika"-Settings at Amherst College on November 16, 2006

Robert Sullivan was Undergraduate Advisor last year, while Harry Seelig was on sabbatical, and is now acting Graduate

Program Director during Barton Byg's sabbatical leave. He delivered a paper on melancholy and Minnesaenger Reinmar at the 41st International Medieval Studies Congress in Kalamazoo this past spring.

Graduate Student News

We again have an outstanding group of graduate students who, beyond being academically excellent, foster a culture of helpfulness and initiative in our program. **Melissa Gazo** and **Laurie Taylor** organize our monthly *Kaffeepause* for students and faculty to socialize in German over lunch. Our other graduate students are equally engaged while at the same time carrying their full academic loads. **Kyle Frackman** is our webmaster and

general facilitator, who was also one of the key organizers, along with **Rachael Salyer**, **Allie Merley-Hill** and the other graduate students, of the "Experimentations" graduate conference (see above).

Juliette Brungs had a Dorot Fellowship doing research on German Jews at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, this past summer.

Timothy Dail has joined us as an incoming M.A. candidate after a year's teaching on a Fulbright the Privatschule Altmark in Stendal (Germany).

Florence Feiereisen received a University Fellowship for the academic year 2005-2006 and spent the latter part of the summer as a Research Fellow at the Max Kade Center for Contemporary German Literature at Washington University in St. Louis, doing work toward her dissertation. This year she is coordinating the Max Kade German Suite in Thatcher House. After having taught a conversation and composition class at Smith College last semester, Florence was asked to teach a year-long Elementary German class there as a visiting lecturer. She and Kyle Frackman are editing the proceedings from the Graduate Student Conference to be entitled "From Weimar to Christiania: German and Scandinavian Studies in Context" and published with Cambridge Scholars Press.

Melissa Gazo spent last spring in Germany with UMass Amherst's European Studies Program studying German graffiti art and its relation to German hip hop music.

Kyle Frackman is now responsible for teaching Swedish in the department, with 25 students in the beginning Swedish course and 2 students in an advanced Swedish course this semester; he looks forward to teaching the continuation of these courses in the spring 2007 semester. With Florence Feiereisen he is editing a volume of essays in German and Scandinavian Studies, which resulted from our graduate student conference of spring 2006 ("Experimentations: German and Scandinavian Studies"), which will have a foreword by Prof. James Cathey and will be published by Cambridge Scholars Press. He presented at the 2006 Women in German conference and, with Laurie Taylor and Brenda Bethman, will be co-organizing the poster session at the 2007 Women in German conference in Snowbird, Utah. He will also present a paper on a Turkish-German film at the 2007 NeMLA conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Anke Heusinkveld has returned after marriage, two children, and a long stay in Germany to finish her Ph.D.

Allie Merley is now **Allie Merley-Hill** and is co-teaching "German Art 1890-Present" with Susan Cocalis. She co-chaired a panel "Gendered Cities" at the 2006 Women in German conference, where she was elected to the Steering Committee of Women in German, to serve from 2006-2009. In the spring, she will participate in a symposium on contemporary literature at Williams College (with Florence Feiereisen, Anne Hector, Maria Stehle, and Axel Hildebrandt). Allie also has three forthcoming publications: a book review in the art history journal *Centropa*, the article "The Art of Conspiracy: Magnus von Plessen and the Frustrated Gaze" in the proceedings of the graduate student Experimentations conference, and an entry on Soviet and Post-Soviet art in a forthcoming edition of the ABC-Clio World History Encyclopedia.

Victoria Lenshyn returned in September 2006 from a year of M.A. work at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität in Freiburg.

Michael Moynihan is pursuing historical and current languages from Sanskrit and Old High German to Swedish. His article "'The Third Time's the Charm': Mythic Operative Magic in the Merseburger Zaubersprüche" will be published in the forthcoming issue of the British Journal for the Academic Study of Magic (vol. 4, winter 2006). He will present a version of this paper at the New England Medieval Studies Consortium's 24th Annual Graduate Student Conference at the University of Connecticut in February, 2007. He will also be presenting his paper "A Modern *Minnesänger*: Roland Kroell's Musical Adaptations of the Middle High German *Parzival* and *Tristan* Poems" at the 42nd annual International Congress of Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan in May, 2007.

Rachael Salyer is continuing work towards her qualifying examinations and is looking forward to beginning work on her dissertation on an aspect of Medieval Literature.

Marzanna Szeraszewicz earned her B.A. in German at Mount Holyoke College and is working toward the M.A. degree.

Laurie Taylor passed her qualifying examinations and is working on her dissertation.

Evan Torner is taking courses and continuing work with the DEFA Film Library. He gave a paper entitled "A

Future History Out of Time: The Historical Context of Alfred Doeblin's Dystopian Novel *Berge, Meere und Giganten*" at the Focus on German Literature conference at University of Cincinnati.

PhD recipients

Our new PhDs have been at the forefront of developments in the discipline and have produced scholarship of exceptional quality. We are very pleased that our PhD recipients continue to get good jobs.

Amanda Boyd (PhD 2005), now at Sam Houston State University, wrote on *Demonizing Esotericism: The Treatment of Spirituality and Popular Culture in the Works of Gustav Meyrink*. Her advisor was Barton Byg.

Kerstin Mueller (PhD 2005), now at The Ohio State University, wrote on *Brother Eichmann and other Relations: Representations of Nazis on the German State*. Her advisor was Susan Cocalis.

Maria Stehle (PhD 2005), now at Connecticut College, wrote on *Discourses of Crisis in West German Texts and Films of the 1970s: A 'Transnational Psychogeography' of Gender, Race, and Violence*. Susan Cocalis was her advisor.

Axel Hildebrandt (PhD 2006), now at Mount Holyoke College, wrote on *Engagierte Literatur – Christoph Hein's Texte der achtziger und neunziger Jahre*. Sara Lennox was his advisor.

Susanne Wagner (PhD 2006), now at The Citadel, wrote on *Der 20. Juli 1944 auf der Bühne*. Her advisor was Sigrid Bauschinger.

Lauren Enzie defended her dissertation in October 2006, writing on *Re-visiting the Holocaust through a New Lens: Memory, Language, and identity in the Autobiographical Texts of Cordelia Evardson, Ruth Klüger, and Elizabeth Trahan*.

The DEFA Film Library

The DEFA Film Library (www.umass.edu/defa) had a really big year. We are pleased to announce the release of **Verdict on Auschwitz: the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial, 1963-1965**, a project which **Sigrid Bauschinger** has been trying to bring to fruition since she first saw the German documentary in 1993. Equally momentous, after years of work, a three-week retrospective of DEFA films was held in October 2005 at The Museum of Modern Art. Entitled "Rebels with a Cause – the Cinema of East Germany." The series was co-curated by Jytte Jensen at MoMA and Juliane Wankel at the Goethe Institut New York, along with the DEFA Film Library's **Hiltrud Schulz**. In addition to these three organizations, supporters included the Max Kade Foundation, the DEFA Foundation, Progress Film Verleih, and ICESTORM. The film series is now touring the US and Canada and was duplicated to tour venues in Germany as well. In November 2005 the Film Library was awarded a € 5,000 **Program Prize** by the DEFA Foundation. The DEFA Film Library's "**Filmmakers' Tour**" series continued with speaking/screening tours by directors Andreas Dresen (2005) and Egon Günther (2006).

Remapping Black Germany: New Perspectives on Afro-German History, Politics, and Culture, April 21-23, 2006

Funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and many other departments at UMass Amherst and in the Five Colleges, this highly acclaimed academic symposium and series of cultural events brought academic and artistic perspectives on the Black German past and present into productive dialogue via a series of events included lectures, concerts, art exhibits, film screenings, poetry, and performance art. According to one of Germany's leading newspapers, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, the three day symposium was "path-breaking" and "unrolled the history of Black Germany in its full complexity." Scholars from Germany and the U.S. presented papers on panels addressing "Race, Colonialism, and Modernity," "The Black Presence in Weimar and Nazi Germany," "Blackness in Two Germanies," "Aesthetic Production and the Visual Archive", and "Black Diasporic Thought and Contemporary Germany." Cultural productions by Black German artists accompanied the conference, including paintings by Daniel Kojo Schrade (*Afronaut, Brother Beethoven*), stills from Ingrid Mwangi's video installations (*Neger - Don't Call Me, Static Drift*), the feature films and documentaries of Branwen Okpako (*Dirt for Dinner, Valley of the Innocents*), spoken-word poetry by Olumide Popoola, and an acoustic performance by Chima. Conference organizers included Tobias Nagl, Beverly Weber, Sara Lennox, and many helpful German and Scandinavian Studies graduate students.