Directors’ Letter

The 2014 Academic Ranking of World Universities, also known as the “Shanghai Ranking,” recently confirmed the position of the University of California, Berkeley as one of the world’s top five universities. The continued involvement and investment by the Daimler Foundation in 2014 allowed Berkeley’s Institute of European Studies (IES) to ensure that Germany and Europe would remain of central importance to the cutting edge research by Berkeley’s distinguished faculty and top-ranked students. In fact, the support by the Daimler Foundation made it possible that young scholars who in the next decades will achieve leading positions in both American and international companies and governmental agencies continue to see Europe as a partner of strategic commercial, political and cultural interest.

The Daimler Foundation funds have allowed IES to further improve and broaden the scope of transatlantic relations on the Berkeley campus. They have made a crucial contribution to the Institute’s aim of fostering education and research on European Studies in general and German Studies in particular. The funds allowed us to discuss political, historical, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual issues surrounding topics related to Germany, the EU and transatlantic relations. The Daimler Graduate Fellowship program sponsored Ph.D. dissertation research on a variety of German and European topics. In addition to direct funding of student research, Daimler Foundation funds were also used for the organization of high profile events and allowed IES to deliver crucial administrative support to these programs.

Under the leadership of the Institute’s new director Jeroen Dewulf, IES will spearhead the creation of a new degree in European Studies at the highest academic level, that of Ph.D. students. This new degree in European Studies has recently been approved by the University and will solidify the position of the IES on the Berkeley campus and enrich it with a multiplicity of visions on European Studies. In fact, UC Berkeley is now the only university in the US to offer a Ph.D. degree in European Studies. The faculty board for this new degree will not only be composed by distinguished faculty from the Humanities and Social Sciences but also from professional schools such as the Berkeley Law School, Business School, the School of Journalism, and the School of Public Health. In accordance with the IES’ mission to foster cooperation between EU and US institutions, the degree will be conceived as a joint degree with other European Studies programs at a selective group of top-ranked European universities.

This approach coincides with our goal to broaden the focus on European Studies on the Berkeley campus as part of our “Global Europe” project. This development of this project corresponds to the urgent need to expand the field of European Studies beyond Europe’s traditional borders and to reach out to faculty and student communities who in past decades have not or only rarely been involved in this area of study. The ultimate goal of the project is to diversify both the student/ faculty population and the areas of research within the field of European Studies in order to make the IES more compatible with twenty-first academic standards and to remain attractive for new generations.

The need to attract new generations of students to IES also requires the use of the most up-to-date technology. IES is therefore pleased to report that its plans for the Daimler Media Center in its largest meeting room 201 Moses Hall have been approved by the faculty board and that work will be completed by the summer of 2015.

We are honored to submit this report on behalf of IES with immense gratitude for your sponsorship.

Jeroen Dewulf, DIRECTOR
Beverly Crawford, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
IES Advisory Board

Barbara Osher, Consul General of Sweden in San Francisco; philanthropist and President of the Bernard Osher Foundation

Armin Wulf, President and founder of ICEM-CFD Engineering

Christine Schoefer, German-American writer whose work has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, Utne Reader, the San Francisco Chronicle and other US and German Publications

Evelies Mayer, former Professor of Sociology, Technical University of Darmstadt; former Minister of Science and Culture, State of Hesse, Germany

Gesine Schwan, German Political Science Professor

Emerita and President, Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance

Ferdinand Lacina, former Austrian Federal Minister of Finance; consultant to Bank Austria Creditanstalt AG

Diane Johnson, bestselling author of many novels, including Le Divorce, Persian Nights, and Lulu in Marrakech, Professor emeritus, UC Davis, two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and three-time finalist for the National Book Award.

Prof. Larry Hyman, Director France-Berkeley Fund, Swiss Consul-General Hans-Ulrich Tanner, and IES Director Jeroen Dewulf
Daimler Fellowships

The Daimler Graduate Dissertation Research and Writing Fellowships were awarded to UC Berkeley graduate students whose dissertations focus on political, historical, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual issues or public policy surrounding topics related to German Politics, Economics, Culture, and History, Sustainable Transportation, the European Debt Crisis, Western Europe and the EU. Recipients must be advanced to candidacy and preference is given to applicants who have finished the bulk of their fieldwork.

The following students received the awards:

**Nicholas Baer** (Dept. of Film and Media Studies): Weimar Cinema and the crisis of Historicism

**Herbert Docena** (Dept. of Sociology): The EU, the US, and the Global South in the Making of the Global Carbon Market

**Laura Driscoll** (Dept. of Environmental Design, Policy and Management): Assessing and comparing the social and environmental impacts of two voluntary food safety standards in the United States and the European Union: The Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (LGMA) and GlobalGAP.

**Shannon Ikebe** (Dept. of Sociology): Comparative Political Economy of the Transformations of European Social Democracy and Left from the Fordist to the Neoliberal Period

**Elsa Massoc** (Dept. of Political Science): The Great Transformation(s) of European Finance

**Luis Valladares** (Dept. of Italian Studies): Picturing the Other in European Cinema
Daimler Lectures at Berkeley

January 2014
Exhibit opening of “Saved by the Bay” Magnes Museum

Ever since the University of California-Berkeley opened its doors and hearts to the first refugee scholars fleeing the Third Reich, the campus has had a special relationship with Germany. A 2014 exhibit at Berkeley’s Magnes Museum entitled, “Saved by the Bay” documents this fascinating, important, and indeed noble chapter in the history of the university. As a haven, UC Berkeley provided security and safety for those academics fortunate enough to escape their persecutors. Berkeley’s relationship to Germany, however, goes far deeper than this one chapter, for UC Berkeley is home to a very long-standing scholarly tradition, one which sees it as a world leader in the field of German Studies. Across campus, historians, literary scholars, film critics, music scholars, language instructors, political scientists, philosophers, sociologists, legal scholars, and economists have produced field-defining scholarship on all aspects of German history, politics, economics, culture, and society.

March 13, 2014
Ukraine: A Panel Discussion

**M. Steven Fish**, Professor of Political Science, UC Berkeley;

**Yuriy Gorodnichenko**, Associate Professor of Economics, UC Berkeley;

**Andrei Tsygankov**, Professor of Political Science, San Francisco State University;

**Edward Walker**, Associate Adjunct Professor of Political Science and Executive Director of the Berkeley Program in East European and Eurasian Studies, UC Berkeley

Moderator: **Jason Wittenberg**, Associate Professor of Political Science, UC Berkeley

The dramatic uprising in Ukraine that culminated in the flight and impeachment of then President Viktor Yanukovich and the instauration of an interim Ukrainian government has brought a long simmering dispute and the United States and its NATO and EU allies over Ukraine’s external orientation to a head. What was initially a dramatic domestic crisis has become the most dangerous geopolitical confrontation since the end of the Cold War. The panel, organized by the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, will address domestic politics and internal cleavages within Ukraine, Ukraine’s economic prospects, Russia’s interests and objectives, and the policy options for the US and its Western allies.

March 13, 2014
Global and Local Negotiations on Climate Mitigation with Hugo von Meijenfeldt, Consul General, the Netherlands: Speaker Series

**Hugo von Meijenfeldt**, Consul-General of the Netherlands in California.

At the very heart of the response to climate change is the need to reduce emissions. Without action, emissions of greenhouse gases...
are projected to rise by 25-90% by 2030. Both developed and developing nations must take measurable, reportable and verifiable mitigation action.

April 3, 2014
European Presidency Speaker: The European Economic Crisis and the Greek EU Presidency

Nicholas Economides, Professor, Leonard Stern School of Business

The world-wide economic crisis that followed the collapse of Lehman Brothers underscored the weaknesses of the European economic and political integration processes. In many ways, the EU became more unified in dealing with the crisis, but in others, it has been weakened, by not implementing EU-wide solutions and creating ad-hoc rules on a case-by-case basis.

April 11, 2014
Socialist Internationalism: Cold War Legacies

This April workshop was organized by UC Berkeley History professor Stefan-Ludwig Hoffmann. It explored the social and cultural legacies of Cold War Socialist internationalism. Recent scholarship has focused on the ties between so-called Second and Third World countries since the 1950s and their prominence in international organizations, but little attention had been paid to its effects on the everyday life of people(s) around the globe. The Workshop explored questions like “What intimate connections evolved out of development projects, cultural exchanges, political or labor migrations, international co-operations and economic aid programs during the Cold War? How did internationalism influence the social history of State Socialism and vice versa? What has the impact of the ideology and practice of Socialist global solidarity been in Africa, Latin America or Asia?

April 24, 2014
Workshop on European Regulation: Comparative and International Dimensions

David Vogel, Professor of Business and Political Science, UC Berkeley

This workshop explored the comparative and international dimensions of government regulation, with a specific focus on the regulatory policies and global impact of the European Union.

April 28, 2014
Will the Eurosceptics Topple Europe?: The Rise of the Right and the European Parliament Election

Jason Wittenberg, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, UC Berkeley;
Jeroen Dewulf, Associate Professor, Department of German, UC Berkeley;
Laura Fantone, Affiliated Scholar, Beatrice Bain Research Group for Critical Feminist Research;
April 30, 2014
A Sense of the Enemy
Zachary Shore, Senior Fellow, IES
In his new book, A Sense of the Enemy: The High Stakes History of Reading Your Rival’s Mind, the historian Zachary Shore demonstrates that leaders can best understand an opponent not simply from his pattern of past behavior, but from his behavior pattern breaks occur during dramatic deviations from the routine, when the enemy imposes costs upon himself. It’s at these unexpected moments, Shore explains, that successful leaders can learn what makes their rivals truly tick. Drawing on research from the cognitive sciences, and tapping multilingual, multinational sources, Shore has crafted an innovative history of the last century’s most pivotal moments, when lives and nations were on the line. Through this curious study of strategic empathy, we gain surprising insights into how great leaders think.

May 2, 2014
The Euro Crisis: The Gift that Never Stops Giving
Barry Eichengreen, Professor of Economics and Political Science, UC Berkeley
In this talk, Professor Eichengreen provided an update on the Eurozone crisis and the prospect for European economic growth and the integration process going forward.

May 7, 2014
Iceland in an Era of Shadow Banking: A Model for Crash and Recovery?
Hilmar Hilmarsson, University of Akureyri, Iceland

June 10, 2014
Intra-EU Migration and Integration Integration: EU Issues and Experience
Philip Martin, Professor of Agriculture and Resource Economics; Chair, UC Comparative Immigration and Integration Program.
This conference explored two of the major issues in EU migration today: intra-EU migration and migrant integration. There are over 50 million migrants in the EU-28 member states, including a third who moved from one EU member state to another. Far more Central Europeans than expected migrated west after 2004, and there is debate in 2014 about how many Bulgarians and Romanians may migrate to other EU countries and seek welfare. Meanwhile, Germany and other EU countries with stronger economies that attract migrants are developing a “welcome culture” to accompany “integration contracts” and speed the integration of immigrants. Conference participants explored the successes and failures of integration of immigrants in various EU member countries.

**Adam Hochschild**, Distinguished Author, Journalist and Lecturer, UCB School of Journalism; **Andrea Sinn**, DAAD Professor for German History, UCB Departments of History and German; **Eva Knopf**, Film Director of “Majub’s Journey” (2013)

The event was co-sponsored by the Goethe Institute and moderated by Monika Bäuerlein, award-winning editor-in-chief of the magazine Mother Jones, brought together three noted experts on the period to consider the war’s continuing effects at the centenary of its start. Each guest, drawing from their personal research, contributed a unique insight on a minority perspective often ignored in conventional wartime narratives.

Ms. Bäuerlein opened the evening to an appropriately martial background of drumming from outside as she introduced the topic and the speakers. The first panelist to present, Adam Hochschild, emphasized on the paradoxical way we remember WWI today, split between adoration of heroes and mourning the victims. He questioned whether if we are to remember the war in its entirety we should only emphasize the heroism and sacrifice, or instead engage in discussion about the problems caused by war itself. He further noted that post-war society tends to forget war’s atrocities, citing museums that curate exhibits with an array of...
advanced weaponry and ‘cans of beans’ rather than testaments to the evils and unresolved tensions resulting from conflict.

Andrea Sinn spoke on how the war affected the German Jewish community, inflaming anti-Semitic tensions among society in general while offering the Jews an opportunity to show their loyalty to their nation many eagerly accepted. She highlighted the importance of drawing from personal narratives in historical research, such as her current work exploring how German Jewish women specifically experienced the war which draws on intensely personal sources like diaries. This understanding laid the groundwork for the final speaker of the evening, Eva Knopf, whose recent documentary “Majub’s Journey” shines light on one of the more obscure acts of the period. The film chronicles the life of Majub bin Adam Mohamed, an African veteran of the German colonial Askari corps during WWI, his struggle for recognition by the German government in the interwar period, and his surprise career as a film extra in the 1930s. Her presentation was accompanied by rare images of Askari soldiers and Majub himself. Ms. Knopf conveyed of her passion for creating films that attempt to fairly depict history and lend attention to the oft-ignored, in the face of the dearth of minority sources from which all three suffered.

The panel was enthusiastically received by the nearly 70 people in attendance, who eagerly took advantage of the question-and-answer portion of the event to probe deeper into each panelist’s work and have their individual questions answered.

The Digital Agenda for Europe is one of the seven flagship initiatives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, set out to define the key enabling role that the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) will have to play if Europe wants to succeed in its ambitions for 2020.

The European Commission launched in March 2010 the Europe 2020 Strategy to exit the crisis and prepare the EU economy for the challenges of the next decade. Europe 2020 sets out a vision to achieve high levels of employment, a low carbon economy, productivity and social cohesion, to be implemented through concrete actions at EU and national levels. This battle for growth and jobs requires ownership at top political level and mobilisation from all actors across Europe.
Writers and scholars from around the world gathered in Berkeley for a two-day conference on the Austrian Jewish writer Stefan Zweig on September 24 and 25th. The event, organized by the Institute of European studies in collaboration with the Stefan Zweig Centre in Salzburg, brought together leading experts on Stefan Zweig's life and work to discuss its message for today, particularly given that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the First World War - a catastrophic event which Zweig called the end of the “World of Yesterday” and the advent of modernity. The subjects covered in the various lectures presented ranged from Zweig’s relations with Freud, the Bible, and the idea of Utopia to the influence of his work in China and India and his suicide in Brazil.

October 6, 2014
Europe: Player or Loser?

Hans-Gert Pöttering, Former President of the European Parliament and Chairman of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

Dr. Pöttering, the longest-serving member of the European Parliament, has represented the Christian Democrats continuously since the first European elections.
in 1979. His talk was part of a broader visit to the United States on behalf of that foundation, which promotes civic participation and good transatlantic relations. Pöttering spoke frankly and sincerely about his opinions on the current issues which the European Union faces. He emphasized this trait has always been his personal philosophy: “If one speaks respectfully, then one may be completely honest on all things.” He affirmed of his commitment to maintaining a European union that is “not just a geographic union,” but importantly “a union of values”, with a commitment to the rule of law, the respect of the freedoms and rights of the people, and most importantly the fundamental dignity of the individual. Dr. Pöttering spoke frankly and sincerely about his opinions on the current issues which the European Union faces. He emphasized this trait has always been his personal philosophy: “If one speaks respectfully, then one may be completely honest on all things.” He affirmed of his commitment to maintaining a European union like a family, “and if this guides your thinking, this would never occur to you. Would someone kick out a member of their family because of financial difficulties?” Instead, he emphasized his commitment to growing the European Union responsibly. He hailed the EU ascension of the Baltic States, calling it an important step to preserving their integrity in the face of Russian activity in the region, and noting that while some felt that the admission of Romania and Bulgaria was made in haste, today it has proved a strong bulwark against Russian interference in those countries. Nevertheless, while emphasizing that Turkey is and should be a valued partner of the European Union, culturally, financially, and geographically,
its admission would at this point be too problematic. Dr. Pöttering also impressed the need for Europe to expand its defensive capabilities, rather than leaving all their problems to the United States to solve: NATO, he said, should be a “partnership of equals.” He also asserted the need for strong condemnation of Russian activity in the Ukraine and Crimea, and that while dialogue must be maintained with Russia, President Putin must be shown with “absolute clarity” that his actions are “unacceptable” in the twenty-first century.

October 7, 2014
Germany's Demographic Challenges

Martin Klaffke, Professor at Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft, Berlin

Professor Martin Klaffke, a visiting scholar in Fall 2014, to discuss the complex challenges posed by Germany’s shifting demographics to that country’s economic future. Klaffke began his discussion by questioning his audience: “Why are you here?” The answers varied, but the majority of the audience members were driven by curiosity about Germany’s economic state and the future of the German work force. Klaffke answered this curiosity with a provocative presentation about the demographic shock that his research suggests the German work force is about to experience. With the birth rate down, Germany faces a potential drop in employable citizens that will leave it undermanned by millions. In order to counteract this phenomenon, the German government has increased the retirement age to 67 and stimulated students to graduate earlier, causing employees to work longer and start work earlier, but creating an unusually heterogeneous age range in the German work force. This broad variety, though possessing the potential for success, seems on the surface daunting and problematic because of the unique differences that arise between generations. Klaffke proposed several stages of resolution in order to construct a level of understanding and teamwork among the varying methods of business and communication of the different ages. Through this mutual understanding, companies could be able to increase their opportunity for growth and limit workplace hostility, a point which he illustrated by referring to the success of Daimler and Deutsche Bahn in this field.

October 9, 2014
IES Fall Reception

Friends, benefactors, and other interested persons flocked to Moses Hall October 9 for the Institute of European Studies’ annual Fall Reception. The event, which was open to the public, was intended to promote closer ties between the institute and its members and supporters and to provide a sociable opportunity for each to get to better know the other. Professor Jeroen Dewulf, the institute’s current director, used the opportunity to deliver a short speech announcing several new grants for the institute and to thanks its donors, benefactors, and visiting scholars, noting that without their cooperation the institute’s work would not be possible.

The reception drew exceptional interest from both within the university community and farther afield, with a number of highly distinguished persons participating. Guests included members of the diplomatic corps of several countries, among them four consul-generals: Mr. Hans-Ulrich Tanner of Switzerland, Mr. Hugo von Maijenfeldt of the Netherlands, Mr. Nuno Mathias...
of Portugal, and Ms. Hilde Janne Skorpen of Norway; the academic community was represented by a number of distinguished Berkeley scholars, including Professor Larry Hyman from the Dept. of Linguistics and Director of the France-Berkeley Fund, political science professor J. Nicholas Ziegler, Professor Thomas Brady of the Department of History, Professor Emeritus Johan Snapper of the Dutch Studies Program, Professor Deniz Gokturk from the Department of German, Professor Marion Fourcade from the Department of Sociology, Professor Emeritus Frederic Tubach of the Department of German, Professor Gerard Roland from the Department of Economics and Political Science, and Professor David Zilberman from the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Also in attendance was Mrs. Norma Feldman, whose generous contribution to IES in honor of her belated husband preserve the memory of late history professor and former IES director Gerald D. Feldman.

October 15, 2014
Analyzing European Far-Right Rhetoric

Mehmet Gökay Özerim, Dokuz Eylül University, Turkey

Mehmet Gökay Özerim delivered the first of a series of lectures on immigration in Europe on October 15. In a presentation based on his doctoral research, Özerim analyzed the recent rise of anti-immigrant rhetoric from far-right nationalist and populist parties in Europe. Drawing from party leader's statements, speeches, and campaign propaganda, he argued that the current forceful anti-immigrant rhetoric these parties display has multiple, often uniquely local, causes and larger-reaching effects than often realized. Rather than being solely a result of increased immigration, Özerim asserted that the increased focus on immigration was partially due to a de-emphasis of other traditional party platforms frequently coupled with xenophobia and Islamophobia. Locally, this is filtered through and presented couched in region-specific concerns, such as the Freedom Party of Austria’s emphasis on “Heimat” and preserving regional culture or the Swedish Democrat’s caution over the cohesiveness of Swedish Society; the sustainability of the social state and immigrant’s use of government services is also a frequent and popular appeal. For this reason, Özerim argued, although no far-right group currently has the necessary support to form a government, they do possess the ability to shift discourses to the right as mainstream parties struggling in elections look to co-opt their strategies and policies. Most crucially, he stressed the importance of the Middle Eastern origin of these immigrants and its role in a growing fear of Muslim terrorism in Europe, especially with concerns of unassimilated, radicalized immigrants and returnees from the Syrian
conflict. Using the framework of the Copenhagen School of international relations, Özerim discussed how the “securitization” of society and the politicization of immigration issues affect political discourse in Europe.

By successfully labeling certain groups as “security issues”, such parties gain the ability to control discourse on the subject and push for various anti-immigrant measures; once labeled as such, immigration moves out of the sphere of politics and becomes much more difficult to discuss. The simple fact of the resurgence of these groups and their more blatantly anti-Islamic propaganda, Özerim argued, reflects their success in shaping these key issues according to their intentions.

October 17, 2014
Globalisation, European Integration and Regionalisation: The Ordeal of Border-Regions

Michiel Scheffer, member of the Gelderland Regional Parliament in the Netherlands

During his talk Mr. Scheffer offered his opinions on the current state of European economic integration. The focal point of his analysis was the widely-quoted characterization of the European Union as “a Europe of regions”. Using labor data, economic statistics and personal experience as a politician in a border region, Mr. Scheffer set out to examine to what extent this characterization is accurate. Primarily he examined international movement within “Euroregions”, officially promoted by the European union and various national governments as areas for specific economic cooperation. Using his own personal experience he commented on cross-border relations in his home region, such as a proliferation of recent projects conducted in cooperation with the neighboring German state of North Rhine-Westphalia. He also used the highly contested and symbolic region of Alsace as an example, charting the development of Franco-German cooperation from water regulation issues to economic development. Nevertheless, Mr. Scheffer cautioned against exaggerating the impact of such policies and asserted the need to recognize its limits. While the program has indeed benefited the flow of goods and products, its impact on the movement of people is often overestimated. Citing European statistics, he mentioned the number of intra-European migratory workers stands at only 1 million, a large portion of these commuting in the region of Luxembourg. Mr. Scheffer pointed out a number of impediments to more open immigration, such as differences in social security between countries and limited foreign language proficiency in many places. Furthermore, he noted that European regional funding is extremely limited, making up in his home region of Gelderland only 1% of the budget. With the continued fundamental role of nation-states as the primary unit of Europe, he claimed, the idea of a “Europe of regions” remains a myth. Fundamental reform, he asserted, is necessary to bring this idea closer to reality.

October 21, 2014
Europe’s New Chief Executive: Jean-Claude Juncker’s Journey from Prime Minister to President of the European Commission

Sonja Kmec, an associate professor of history at the University of Luxembourg

Using the model of the mythological “hero’s journey”, Sonja Kmec surveyed Juncker’s career from his beginnings in Luxembourgian politics, his journey to the post of Prime Minister, and finally his appointment as President of the
European Commission. Starting early in his political life, she noted his rapid rise in the Christian Social People's Party (CSV) and the importance of the mentorship of the then-Prime Minister Jacques Santer. Following this she analyzed Juncker's term of nearly two decades as Prime Minister of Luxembourg, and how his efforts to modernize his party, the CSV, kept it in power throughout that time and profoundly shaped the country. She explained that government's many achievements while not shying away from certain controversies that dogged its tail end.

Finally Kmec described the complex situation which led to Juncker's attainment of the European Commission presidency, which for the first time ever was decided by the election of the European Parliament. Throughout his entire political career Juncker had been decidedly pro-European; he was, in fact, highly involved in the drafting of the Maastricht Treaty which created the European Union and implemented the single-currency system. In the wake of controversies surrounding other candidates for the position, then, and taken into account his senior status in European politics, he seemed an obvious candidate. His moderate views and close relationships with many politicians led some to denounce him as a typical “Brussels Insider”, yet Kmec argued that instead they should be viewed as a reconciling figure; she noted, for instance, that he has taken a stand against strict austerity measures and during his time as prime minister formed alliances with both liberal and socialist parties. To conclude her lecture Kmec offered some opinions on the challenges facing Mr. Juncker in the coming months, including the residual effects of the European financial crisis, criticism of his home nation's tax policies, and the rising strength of far-right, anti-European parties in a number of member states. After finishing Kmec took questions from the audience, many of whom were members of the San Francisco Luxembourgian community.

November 13, 2014
Feldman Lecture: Imperial Germany's Peculiar War, 1914-18

Roger Chickering, Professor Emeritus of German History at Georgetown University

The Feldman Lecture is dedicated to the memory of the late Gerald D. Feldman, a professor of German history at UC Berkeley and director of the Institute of European Studies for nearly a decade, and features of the war he argued were frequently distorted in public discourse: the state of the German bureaucracy, militarism, which explored the various military and developmental consequences of the war on Germany, France, and Great Britain. He implemented these aspects of the aftermath of WWI to decipher whether or not the German experience differed from that of France and Great Britain in several key fields, such as politics, labor, military planning
and propaganda. In doing so is generously sponsored by his widow, Mrs. Norma Feldman. The lecture honors Professor Feldman’s memory and his many years of guidance to the institute.

The lecture was the culmination of a series hosted by the institute on the centenary of World War I.

He provided the outline for his talk, which examined to what extent WWI can be described as a “peculiar” war for Germany. Making a point to question the audience about preconceived notions of the war, Professor Chickering addressed several key features of the war he argued were frequently distorted in public discourse: the state of the German bureaucracy, militarism, which explored the various military and developmental consequences of the war on Germany, France, and Great Britain. He implemented these aspects of the aftermath of WWI to decipher whether or not the German experience differed from that of France and Great Britain in several key fields, such as politics, labor, military planning, affected all three countries, while the mutinies of the French Army in 1917, much less known than their German counterparts at the end of the war, illustrated similar frustrations in the two countries. Chickering argued that too often perspectives on the First World War are colored by knowledge of the Second, but that accurate evaluation requires a more detached evaluation and that the central premise of the Sonderweg, using France and Britain as a model for normal development, is fundamentally flawed.

IES Director Jeroen Dewulf, speaker Roger Chickering and Mrs. Norma Feldman