It is with great pleasure that I am sending you our Fall 2015 newsletter, made with the assistance of our team of undergraduate reporters led by Laura Dooley. When a meeting with students eager to make this world a better place was overshadowed by horrifying images from our beloved Europe.

The many challenges Europe is facing today underline how important it is for our University to have a place for the critical analysis of contemporary European society. During the past semester, no less than six IES events were selected as “the critic’s choice,” with a special announcement on the University’s homepage. The absolute highlight of the semester was the visit of Ireland’s president, Michael D. Higgins. Following the tragic accident involving Irish students earlier this year, the president came to personally thank the first responders.

Yet, rather than allowing the past to overshadow his visit, President Higgins also turned his gaze towards the future. We are proud that IES was given the honor of welcoming President Higgins to the Berkeley campus and introducing him to our students. Another prominent visitor was the German MP Matthias Zimmer, who came to IES in the context of the 25th anniversary celebration of our German Center.

Starting in September 2015, IES and UC Berkeley’s Social Science Matrix have brought together several dozen graduate students, visiting scholars, and faculty members in the interdisciplinary seminar “A Polarizing Europe.” The seminar aims broadly to analyze the different sources of polarization in Europe today: at the local, national, and European levels; in politics, economic policy, and cultural policies; and in response to the various crises—persisting and sudden—that Europe has experienced, including a conference on “Divided Nations and their Neighbors” that compared the German reunification process with still divided North and South Korea and hosted a keynote address by Lily Gardner Feldman, Harry and Helen Gray Senior Fellow at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University. I would also like to express my gratitude to the American Council on Germany for bringing Bruce Lemond, who teaches European asylum law at Cal/Florac University, Venice, to IES.

The Fall 2015 semester also saw the revival of our EU Center of Excellence. Thanks to two new grants from the EU, the Center was able to present a broad range of events that were skillfully coordinated by IES’s new Associate Director Akasemi Adia, IES Associate Director Akasemi Newsome, Center for British Studies Assistant Director Nathan Poppenberg (from left to right).
the European Court of Human Rights cases on religious diversity, the radicalization of European Muslims, and contemporary debates over historical injustices. On April 22, IES and the Matrix will sponsor a graduate conference to further explore these questions. IES also formalized inaugural support for the European Politics Working Group in the Fall 2015 semester, giving graduate students working on political topics a forum for workshops and discussing proposals, dissertation chapters and other work. The EPWG’s membership currently includes about twelve graduate students and visiting scholars, who meet several times a semester. As the group becomes more established, we hope to expand its reach to students working on political topics in related disciplines and perhaps extend our focus beyond workshops to include talks, discussions and other activities.

This fall, the Center for British Studies welcomed visiting scholars and student researchers from Germany, Brazil, and Spain; co-sponsored events on Romantic and contemporary literature, the British general elections, and a major new novel set during the Opium Wars; and held two daylong workshops bringing together groups of British scholars to Berkeley. The CBS Social Policy workshop in November examined topics including welfare, social housing, pensions, and child protection in contemporary UK governance. In December 2015, the CBS Urban Governance workshop brought together scholars studying housing policy, social work, homelessness, and urban planning. Each set of papers will ultimately be published as a collection.

The BENELUX Program started the semester with the signing of a cooperation agreement between UC Berkeley and the University of Luxembourg, represented by its chancellor Rainer Klump. With the support of the Luxembourg National Research Fund, this agreement will pave the way for joint research projects between both universities. The program also welcomed Ronald Leopold, Director of the Anne Frank Museum in Amsterdam, who gave a talk on The Power of the Anne Frank House’s Empty Rooms.

In cooperation with the Luso-American Foundation, the Camões Institute, the Consulate General of Portugal in San Francisco and UC Berkeley’s Department of Spanish and Portuguese, IES’ Portuguese Studies Program (PSP) organized an “Azorean Short Film Festival” and an exhibit on Portuguese modernism, entitled We Orpheu/Almada Untold, that was accompanied by a conference celebrating the centennial of Orpheu, Portugal’s most significant modernist magazine. In cooperation with the Institute of African Studies, PSP also organized a lecture by Laura Pawson about Angola’s civil war.

The Nordic Studies Program organized a film night and discussion with the Turkish-Norwegian documentary filmmaker Nefise Özkal Lorentzen. Her film Manislam was shown, followed by a lively discussion. Norwegian author Unni Turrettini discussed her book The Mystery of the Lone Wolf Killer: Anders Behring Breivik and the Threat of Terror in Plain Sight that drew a large audience of over fifty people to the Institute. The program also hosted an event to get-together for students studying Nordic languages. Former IES grant recipients and study abroad participants shared their experiences. Viking food and drinks helped us get into the Nordic spirit.

Finally, I want to use this letter to express my gratitude to a number of people who allowed us to make this semester such a success. Without the tireless efforts of my colleagues Gia White, Noga Wizansky, Deolinda Adão, Beverly Crawford, Akasemi Wizansky, Katie Lattman, Nathan Pippenger, Sirpa Tuomainen and Derek O’Leary, none of this would have been possible. My thanks also go to our senior fellows, Zachary Stone, David Clay Large, Martin Nettesheim and Carla Shapreau, with special congratulations to Large for his new book The Grand Spas of Central Europe: A History of Intrigue, Politics, Art, and Healing in the 19th Century that is to be published by Shore for his new book Grad School Essentials: A Crash Course in Scholarly Skills and to Shapreau for winning the 2015 Claude V. Palisca Prize in musicology. I am also very grateful to our student ambassadors Madeline Zimring, Laura Turrettini, Ernesto Arinagia, Anton Wideroth, Jenny Lu, Jake Collins, Elisabeth Lara Koffeman, Pu Jin, Naino Zhang, Oscar Peraza, Nik van Sprang, Yasmin Bou Harzie and Jack Choi for their help during the semester.

We are looking forward to the spring semester, which will bring new visitors and events to IES. We are proud to have been able to offer all these events at no charge. As always, we appreciate any support you can give to help us sustain our high quality interdisciplinary programming on Europe. To donate, please visit our website or contact me personally. I will be pleased to tell you more about our ambitions, challenges and funding opportunities.

I wish you all a happy New Year and hope to welcome you again to one of our events at IES in the Spring 2016 semester.

With kind regards,
Jeroen

IES students with IES Director Jeroen Dewulf (middle)
The Institute of European Studies’ Benelux Program is pleased to announce a cooperation agreement between UC Berkeley and the University of Luxembourg. Goal of the agreement is to foster cooperation at the Ph.D. and faculty level between both institutions. As the seat of the European Court of Justice and the European Investment Bank, Luxembourg offers interesting research opportunities to Berkeley scholars. Luxembourg is also Europe’s most international country, 45% of the population is composed of non-Luxembourgers. It is the country with the highest GDP per capita worldwide. The cooperation agreement between UC Berkeley and Luxembourg will be supported by the Luxembourg National Research Fund FNR.

Rainer Klump, President of the University of Luxembourg, IES Director Jeroen Dewulf and UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks
September 2, 2015: The Political Power of the European Court of Justice

The Institute of European Studies opened its fall program on September 2 with a talk given by Professor William Phelan, who teaches at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. Phelan presented his latest book *In Place of Inter-State Retaliation* (OUP, 2015) about the Political Power of the European Court of Justice. In his presentation, Phelan put forth a new explanation of the European Court of Justice’s (ECJ) political power. He proposes that the political power of the European Court of Justice must be understood as a consequence of the EU’s break with the inter-state retaliation mechanisms common to ordinary international law, and that it has been facilitated by intra-industry trade, parliamentary forms of national government, and the generous welfare states of post-war Europe.

By discussing the scholarly literature and by drawing a careful portrait of Robert Lecourt, Phelan worked outwards from the Benelux states as a core representation of European trade towards a broader picture of Europe’s past and future in the areas of trade and law. His careful reading of Robert Lecourt’s career suggested legal antecedents that foreshadowed the end of inter-state retaliation. Furthermore, in this vein, Phelan noted a general political environment favorable to binding trade laws by citing four general conditions of trade in the European Union: interdependence of states, the problem of states trading similar goods, the role of welfare state and its share in national GDP and the adjustments costs and economic management of political institutions. Finally, having asserted the need to focus more scholarly attention on the historical antecedents of trade dispute settlement, he noted the Benelux states’ exemplary role in arbitration mechanisms.
On Thursday, September 3, the Institute of European Studies was pleased to welcome Konrad H. Jarausch, Lurcy Professor of European Civilization at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Professor Jarausch came to Berkeley to present his new book, *Out of Ashes: A New History of Europe in the Twentieth Century*. According to Jarausch, his project of writing a history of twentieth-century Europe differs from that of past narratives because of the way in which he reconstructs Europe intellectually. His book includes both inside and outside perspectives and discusses the twentieth century in full, starting in 1900 and finishing in 1999. He also stated that his book draws attention to both disaster and success stories, emphasizing the ways in which these good and bad sides are intertwined and equally influence Europe’s history during the period.

Examining the modernization of Europe starting in the nineteenth century, Jarausch structured his book and lecture by breaking the twentieth century down into four main periods, each of which highlights the defining characteristics of the century: Promise of Progress (1900-1929), Turn to Self-Destruction (1930-1948), Surprising Recovery (1945-1973), and Confronting Globalization (1974-2000). Within each of these periods, Jarausch described some of the most important events and attitudes prevalent in different countries all over the continent. Ultimately, he concluded that the twentieth century teaches today’s society three major lessons: 1) Modernity has dynamism that must be controlled; 2) Europeans have learned from the first half of the twentieth century and have changed their ways of dealing with problems; and 3) There is a need for a new transatlantic regime.

Prof. Konrad H. Jarausch (Univ. of North Carolina)
Michael Schuering, who is DAAD Professor at the University of Florida and has previously worked in the Departments of German and History at the University of California, Berkeley, gave a lecture at the Institute of European Studies on September 14 covering nuclear politics in Germany. In his presentation, Schuering addressed the role the Protestant church had in the anti-nuclear movement in Germany, arguing that the church saw the promise of the nuclear age as a refusal of the people to see and accept human limitations. In order to take an active role in the debate, the church took an unusually politicized stance, one defined by the adoption of a public standpoint and by an unusually active level of participation in discourse surrounding the topic. For example, the church organized conferences that brought together theological leaders, scientists, corporate figures and politicians. In the question and answer session at the end of the lecture, several attendees asked questions relating to why this was the case and how West Germany’s behavior would compare to countries like France, Britain, or even East Germany. The general consensus was that the protest against nuclear energy is culturally encoded and closely related to Germany’s history.
September 17, 2015: Does the Multicultural Model Help or Hinder Integration Policies of Immigrants?

As part of the „Getting to Know Europe with Berkeley Faculty” lecture series, Irene Bloemraad, a professor from Berkeley’s Sociology Department and Chair of the Canadian Studies Program, gave a talk in Moses Hall on September 17. During her lecture, Bloemraad synthesized the findings of several of her research papers on multiculturalism and integration in front of an audience of scholars, students and community members. She informed the audience about the different claims relating to multiculturalism that have been made by academics and politicians. Political critiques from both the traditional left (how the multicultural model could potentially reaffirm racial differences and undermine social and civic cohesion) and the right (how the multicultural model could lead to a fragmented national allegiance) were presented. She then asked the audience her central question: Does multicultural policy help or hinder immigrants’ civic and political integration into society? To answer that question, Bloemraad defined her independent variable (the multiculturalism index, developed by Banting and Kymlicka at Queen’s University) and her dependent variable (naturalization, such as the rate at which an immigrant becomes a citizen) and showed how the demonstrated relationship between the two undermines various arguments against this integration. Her study specifically involved a comparison of the multiculturalism index scores of various European countries as well as of Australia, the United States, and Canada. After presenting the evidence she obtained from her research, Bloemraad concluded that a positive, causational correlation exists between her two variables. As her research also shows, other dependent variables related to political integration demonstrate either a slightly positive correlation or no correlation whatsoever with the multiculturalism index. According to Bloemraad, this finding undermines the political arguments against multiculturalism that are based on the grounds of social fragmentation. Before concluding her talk, Bloemraad talked about the effects of multicultural policies on the majority population and mentioned some of the lessons that can be taken away from comparing the situations in North America and Europe. Following the presentation, Bloemraad and the enthusiastic audience further examined the limitations, possible implications, and other potential applications of her findings.
September 18, 2015: Lecture on EU Data Protection

The Berkeley Center for Law & Technology and the Institute of European Studies co-organized a dialogue on September 18 between EU Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) Giovanni Buttarelli and Berkeley Law Professor Paul Schwartz, who is a noted expert in information privacy law. The newly appointed EDPS started out by explaining the legal framework of the European Union that governs the function and enforcement of the new European data protection policy. Schwartz asked several questions regarding the new policy and its scope. Throughout the talk, Buttarelli emphasized the importance of promoting and protecting human dignity. According to Buttarelli, this protection of human dignity is a core tenant of the European Union acquis and of any related European Union privacy laws and regulations. After Schwartz’s questions, the floor was opened for questions. The main concern that was raised by faculty and students attending the event was the international effects of the EDPS’ new policy. Buttarelli explained that it would be pointless to only enforce the European data protection regulations within Europe because: “while individuals are national, data is not.” Buttarelli also explained that during his term, he would implement an ethics board to ensure that the balance between the right to privacy and data protection would be maintained in the EU. External oversight by this ethics board will, according to Buttarelli, prove to be the best way to maintain the balance.
On Friday, September 25, the Institute of European Studies hosted a panel discussion entitled “Turkey: Facing Challenges in Multiple Contexts (Domestic, Regional, European, and Global).” The panel consisted of professors from Turkey’s leading universities, namely the Middle Eastern Technical University (METU) and Yasar University. Each panelist presented upcoming research in their specific topic, which primarily focused on Turkey’s modern political situation, both domestically and internationally. Important emphasis was placed on the role of Turkey as an emerging economic and political power, particularly in its immediate neighborhood. In his talk “Turkey’s Changing Foreign Policy Orientation in the Context of Global Trends,” Atila Eralp explained how Turkey was a frontier state during the Cold War, with a foreign policy determined by the US, but that Turkey is now more active and more autonomous in a unilateral way. He argued that the limits of unilateralism have been reached and stressed the need to establish partnerships so that the new powers in the region can have more effective policies and create stability. In his talk “Changing Character of Turkey’s Foreign and Security Policies as a Regional Actor: Factors Challenges in the Middle East and the Mediterranean” Dilaver Arikan Açar expanded on this analysis by emphasizing Turkey’s important role in the ongoing crises in the Ukraine, Syria, and the refugee crisis affecting Europe. He stressed a deficit between Turkey’s capabilities and its policies in three issues: 1) Turkey’s effort to bridge the gap between the West and Iran; 2) the Ukraine Crisis and 3) Syria. Açar suggested that Turkey’s domestic and foreign policy would not only have serious consequences within Turkey’s internal political system, but that these policies also bring a transformative power to its immediate neighborhood and Europe. In her talk “Debating and Evaluating the Phenomenon of Foreign Fighters and Its Implications on Turkey-EU Relations” Sengül Yildiz emphasized the growing number of European foreign fighters flowing to Syria due to Europe’s failing integration policies. Turkey, because of its proximity, has become a transnational country for terrorists, which creates problems between EU and Turkey in the area of counterterrorism cooperation. In his talk Looking at the Political Map of Turkey through the Prism of Europe” Ilhan Can Özen analyzed the recent elections in Turkey. He explained the decrease in support for the ruling party. This result means that the Turkish Democratic system will be entering a new and unheralded period of political centralization. Lastly, Özgehan Senyuva focused in his talk “Ankara Disengaged Public of an Engaged State: Turkish Public Opinion and Foreign Policy” on the institutional decay in Turkey, the explosion of public debt and the lack of trust in the rule of law. He concluded that an institutional degeneration in Turkey also impacts foreign policy formation in a sense that the Turkish foreign policy is increasingly being used as domestic policy issue.
September 29, 2015: The Financial Crisis in Greece

Members of the Berkeley community were excited to gather in Moses Hall on September 29 for a lecture given by Professor Eleni Dendrinou-Louri, who teaches at the Athens University of Economics and Business and is a research associate at the London School of Economics. From June 2008 to June 2014 she served as Deputy Governor of the Bank of Greece. This visit was made possible thanks to the support of the Onassis Foundation. During her talk entitled “Greece: Taking Stock; Economic and Financial Changes Since the Onset of the Global and Euro Area Crisis,” Louri gave an overview of the causes for Greece’s various debt crises and discussed the ways in which different bailout plans have both succeeded and failed. First, she detailed the roots of crisis, which she traced back to the existence of large and growing fiscal imbalances. Then, she moved into a discussion of the state of the banking system both before and during the crisis. In her analysis, she mentioned the different stressors that negatively affected Greece’s economy. Such stressors included the restructuring of debts and the substantial loss of depositors. She concluded by expressing her optimism towards the outcome of this latest bailout plan because of the better conditions for stability that currently exist in Greece. Following the talk, the audience asked questions relating to the state of the Eurozone in general and the potential for a Grexit. With regards to a possible Grexit, Louri stressed that the Euro’s role as the anchor for political stability in the Greece makes leaving the Eurozone an unviable option.
On October 1, the Institute of European Studies was pleased to welcome Emily Pugh for a lecture entitled “Understanding Architecture in East Germany: from the Palace of the Republic to ‘Black Dwelling.’” Pugh is a digital humanities specialist at the Getty Research Institute and recently published the groundbreaking study *Architecture, Politics, and Identity in Divided Berlin* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2014). Throughout her talk, Pugh referenced two examples of East German architecture: the Palace of Republic, which was rebuilt as a GDR government building between 1973 and 1976; and the phenomenon of schwarzwohnen (“black dwelling”), the illegal occupation of abandoned apartments. With both examples, Pugh sought to examine and explain the important role architecture played in the politics of the GDR and in the daily lives of East German citizens. In general, she argued that architecture served as a means of unification and a symbol of innovation and progress. She also emphasized the importance of avoiding the application of Western standards of evaluation in non-Western contexts. During the question and answer portion at the end, the recent demolition in 2007 and rebuilding of the Palace of the Republic was a hot topic of discussion. Audience members also had the opportunity to partake in a discussion of the possible parallels that exist between the former GDR and other countries in architectural history.
October 1, 2015: Germany’s Response to the Migration Crisis

With the support of the American Council on Germany, Professor Bruce Leimisdor, who teaches European asylum law at Ca’Foscari University, Venice, and is an expert in refugee resettlement, visited the Institute of European Studies on October 1. During his lecture entitled “Germany’s Response to the Current European Migration Crisis,” Leimisdor gave an overview of the current situation in Germany, describing the ways in which the country has handled this most recent wave of migrants and refugees. Leimisdor briefly clarified who these migrants are, emphasizing that, while the crisis certainly revolves around migrants coming from war-stricken Syria, they are not solely limited to Syrians. He then moved into a discussion of Germany’s existing asylum laws and procedures, highlighting the ways in which the current situation puts strains on the preexisting practices. Ultimately, he proposed the de-escalation of the conflict in Syria as the most promising solution to the problem. He also emphasized that, if something is not done soon, the future of European democracy as a whole might become a major concern. After the talk, those in attendance had the opportunity to engage in a passionate debate on the future of German asylum law and on the future of the EU as a whole.
October 7, 2015: Hans Asperger and the Nazi Origins of Autism

On October 7, the Institute of European Studies welcomed Edith Sheffer, Assistant Professor of History at Stanford University, to the Berkeley campus. Her lecture, entitled “‘No Soul’: Hans Asperger and the Nazi Origins of Autism,” was part of the CGES lecture series in German history. Sheffer’s presentation highlighted the ways in which the present-day definition of autism relates to the evolution of the diagnosis during Germany’s Third Reich. Focusing on three different areas of influence, Sheffer detailed the work of Hans Asperger and discussed the ways in which he both helped and hindered autistic children’s access to proper care. The first area of influence, fascist psychiatry, countered the Nazi eliminationist psychiatry through its emphasis on reintegration of autistic children into the collective. In Asperger’s clinic, this meant advocating for “redeemable” children through new, progressive treatment options, such as special playgroups and classroom aids. Nazi eugenics also influenced Asperger’s work, however, as manifested through his different diagnoses of children with similar symptoms solely based on gender. To him, most girls were incurable and needed to be locked away, while most boys had the potential for reintegration into the community. The final area of influence discussed was child euthanasia, a fate Asperger prescribed to his most severe cases regardless of his lack of membership in the Nazi Party. Sheffer concluded by stating that Asperger’s idea of autism was deeply imbedded in Third Reich mentality. She claims that umbrella labels such as “autism” make it difficult to treat children as individuals and questioned whether “autism” will still exist as a label in ten or twenty years. During the lengthy question and answer session that followed, attendees posed questions regarding Asperger’s work after the war, the ratio of boys and girls sent by Asperger to the euthanasia center, and the practical applications of Sheffer’s research in today’s society.

Prof. Edith Sheffer (Stanford University)
David Zilberman gave a presentation in Moses Hall on October 8 as part of the "Getting to Know Europe with Berkeley Faculty" lecture series. Zilberman is the Robinson Chair holder of Berkeley’s Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and is a distinguished fellow with the American Agricultural Economics Association. During his lecture, Zilberman gave an overview to the economics of sustainable development in the EU and the US. First, he talked about his own personal perspective on the concept of sustainable development, drawing attention to the difficulties he first had trying to define the term. He also discussed the oxymoronic nature of the term "sustainable development," which implies a coexistence of moving forward and staying the same. With this observation, he introduced his definition of the term, stating that it involves progressive changes to meet the needs of the present while keeping in mind how this progress might affect the future availability of resources. He then moved into a discussion of some of the challenges facing sustainable development, including feeding more people, controlling climate change, reducing poverty, and developing alternative sources of energy. After delving deeper into the issues surrounding the increase of food supplies and crop yields, he discussed the connection between sustainable development and economics. Within this topic, he explained the different ways in which economic growth and preservation of the environment coexist. He also named different forces of change, such as scientific technologies and globalization, that can help solve problems related to this coexistence. Everyone in attendance was grateful for Zilberman’s detailed explanations and informative talk on the economic inner-workings related to sustainable development.
October 11, 2015: The Legacy of Anne Frank

In cooperation with the Netherlands America University League of California, the Institute of European Studies was pleased to welcome Ronald Leopold back to the Berkeley campus. Leopold, who was a Regents Lecturer at UC Berkeley in 2013, is the Executive Director of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. His lecture entitled “Remembering the Past, Facing the Future: The Power of the Anne Frank House’s Empty Rooms” gave an overview to the House’s rich history, its role in both the local and global communities, and some of the different public views towards the House and its significance. In fact, he showed how the gruesome realities associated with the House made the project of opening it to the public unattractive to many Dutch people in the 1950s, who saw it as an anchor to their undesirable past. One of the most important aspects of the Anne Frank House that Leopold discussed was its emptiness. In focusing on this feature, Leopold emphasized the ways in which this emptiness offers not only a place to remember the painful events of the past, but also an opportunity to learn from this past and apply its lessons in the present. For Otto Frank, Anne’s father and the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust, the reopening of the House served as a way to turn his personal tragedy into something positive for future generations. Leopold also discussed, however, the many dilemmas surrounding such a place, including whether or not it can be considered a Jewish organization and whether the symbol of Anne Frank should be used as widely as it is today. To conclude the talk, Leopold briefly discussed the ways in which Anne Frank’s story holds significance today, emphasizing the fact that this significance varies by location. Post-lecture activities included a truncated question and answer session as well as a reception. Both offered attendees the opportunity to discuss personal experiences at the House and to ask further questions about the Anne Frank’s history and importance.

Ronald Leopold, Executive Director of the Anne Frank House
On October 13, the Institute of European Studies cosponsored a panel discussion on the European migrant crisis with the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Under the moderation of IES Director Jeroen Dewulf, three panelists discussed and compared how the crisis has been handled in three different regions: the Middle East, the European Union, and Eastern Europe. Keith David Watenpaugh, Associate Professor of Modern Islam, Human Rights, and Peace at UC Davis, discussed the situation of Syrian refugees in countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey. Having traveled to refugee camps in these countries, Professor Watenpaugh talked about the different struggles refugees face to find work and to access education. He concluded through his observations that the lack of attention paid to assimilation in all three countries has contributed to the current state of the crisis.

Following Professor Watenpaugh’s talk, Beverly Crawford, Chair of the Center for German and European Studies at UC Berkeley, discussed the European Union’s response to this crisis. During her talk, she argued that the European Union’s failure to properly respond to the perilousness of refugees’ journeys and to the scale of the crisis has led to the problematic nature of this new wave of migrants. She also discussed the ways in which integration has exposed some of the European Union’s weaknesses in handling such problems. In her conclusion, she proposed the establishment of humanitarian borders and integration as possible solutions to the European Union’s shortcomings.

Finally, Jason Wittenberg, Associate Professor of Political Science at UC Berkeley, gave an overview of Eastern Europe’s attitudes towards the influx of refugees. According to Professor Wittenberg, these countries, especially Hungary, are closed to the idea of integration and multiculturalism. He stated that Eastern Europe is fearful of the outcome of such a change, particularly towards Muslim immigrants and the potential violence that could ensue. With regards to the European Union, he argued that it has ultimately failed to separate immediate humanitarian needs of refugees from the long-term dispensation of refugee status. To conclude, he stated that, unlike in the European Union, integration would be dangerous in Eastern Europe because of the region’s current political situation. Following the panelists’ individual talks came the question and answer session, during which the three panelists further discussed topics relating to the lessons Europe can learn, the situation in the Middle East, and the role of the United States in such a crisis.
October 16, 2015: Orpheu and the Avant-Garde Poetry

Cosponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the Townsend Center for the Humanities, the Instituto Camões, and the Fundação Luso-Americana, the Portuguese Studies Program hosted a conference entitled “Orpheu and the Avant-Garde Poetry” on October 16. In attendance were Portuguese scholars as well as Berkeley faculty, students, and community members enthusiastic about Portuguese literature and culture. To open the conference, Nuno Mathias, Consul of Portugal, welcomed attendees and gave an introduction to the day’s topics. A keynote address followed entitled “1915/Orpheu – Disturbing timings and improper expressions” given by Steffen Dix, a visitor from the Universidade Católica Portuguesa in Lisbon. Other conference presenters included Ricardo Vascocelos, Professor at San Diego State University, and Inês Pedrosa, a Portuguese writer. In the afternoon, Professor Vincent Barletta from Stanford University gave the final talk, which highlighted the sounds and images of modernism. This lecture, entitled “Rhythm and (Orphean) Modernism,” expanded on philosophical problems related to modernism and its connections with contemporary productions. Deolinda Adão, Executive Director of the Portuguese Studies Program, served as the moderator and began the discussion with a deep philosophical question: “Am I a God”? Barletta discussed key philosophical and poetic theorizations of rhythm and the modern era, among the poetic and philosophical accounts of flow (rêo), form, mimesis, ethics, and subjectivity. To conclude the day’s intellectually stimulating events, Duarte Pinheiro from UC Berkeley made some final remarks on the meaning of literature and modernism.
October 19-23: The Challenges Germany is Facing: the Euro Crisis and the Refugee Crisis

Matthias Zimmer, a member of the German Bundestag since 2009 (Christian Democratic Union) and former professor of political science at the University of Alberta and the University of Cologne, was a guest at the Institute of European Studies from Oct. 19-23. During his stay, he contributed his insights as a political scientist and politician to two major challenges Germany is currently facing: the refugee crisis and the Greek debt crisis. He did so in several presentations at IES, the Berkeley School of Law and the San Francisco World Affairs Council. Although the ongoing migrant crisis has largely shifted attention away from the Greek debt question, it remains of vital importance beyond the heightened anxiety of a "Grexit" this past summer. Responding in part to prominent U.S. voices harshly critical of EU austerity measures, Zimmer embedded the current crisis in a longer and more complex narrative of European institution-building, politics, economics, and culture. This provides no "magic bullet" to the immediate issues, but does help us understand them beyond the dichotomy of "austerity: yes or no?" He stressed that Europe is about far more than economics and commerce, which are the prevalent languages of political and media portrayals at the moment, which often misrepresent the nature of aid packages to Greece. Rather, to move Europe forward, a deeper sense of the union based on the rule of law is crucial. Zimmer also spoke with a select group of Berkeley graduate students and visiting scholars on the rise of anti-immigration movements in Germany and he participated at a panel on the Syrian refugee crisis organized by the Berkeley Journal of International Law, the Berkeley Law Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Law, the International Refugee Assistance Project, and the Middle Eastern Law Students Association. During his talk, Zimmer discussed Germany’s leading role in the handling of the crisis in the European Union. Addressing the misconception that all of these refugees came from Syria, he showed that only about a third of the refugees currently arriving in Germany are Syrian. For Germany, the challenge is deciding who will be allowed to stay and figuring out how to take care of those selected. Although the right of political asylum is, according to Zimmer, well protected by the German Constitution, it will still be necessary to implement new legislation that specifically caters to the circumstances of this crisis. Zimmer ended with a quote from German president Gauck, who said, “Our heart is wide but our possibilities are limited.”
This semester, the Center for German and European Studies held its 25th Anniversary Conference, which took place on October 19 and 20. The first evening started off with a three-person panel, which consisted of current IES Director Jeroen Dewulf, founding director of the University of California Center for German and European Studies Richard Burbaum, and director of the BMW Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University Jeff Anderson. During their discussion, the panel participants covered the history of our current institute and challenges it faces. Director Jeroen Dewulf discussed his goals for the institute and upcoming projects aimed at increasing awareness of IES on campus. To conclude the evening, several people took the opportunity to honor Gerry Feldman, former Professor of History at Berkeley and former director of IES, through a commemorative slideshow and discussion.

The second day opened with a welcome address given by Director Jeroen Dewulf. Chris Ansell, Professor of Political Science at UC Berkeley, moderated morning panels titled “Looking Back on 25 Years of CGES and 25 Years of German Unity: Where Have We Been? How Far Have We Come?” The first panel focused on some of Germany’s economic developments over the past twenty-five years. Participants included Jeffrey Anderson, Professor of Government and Director of the BMW Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University, and Mark Vail, Associate Professor of Political Science at Tulane University. Professor Anderson’s talk focused on transatlantic relations, while Professor Vail discussed German liberal ideas and the social market economy. In the next panel, the discussion focused on issues relating to multiculturalism. Beverly Crawford, Chair of the Center for German and European Studies at Berkeley, started off by discussing the European Union’s response to the current refugee crisis and concluded her talk by offering suggestions for how this crisis could be better handled. Then, Damani Partridge, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Michigan, discussed the ways in which “blackness” has become a way to approach memories of the holocaust in unified Germany. His talk centered around his experience of working with German youth theater groups on projects relating to the concept of black power and its conjunction with the larger idea of multiculturalism.

During the second half of the day, there were two more panel discussions relating to the topic “Looking Forward: Germany and the Future of German and European Studies.” Both panels were moderated by Andrea Sinn, Visiting DAAD Professor of German and History at Berkeley. The first panel started out with a talk given by Thorsten Benner, Director of the Global Public Policy Institute in Germany. In his talk, he focused on the concept of the “hegemon” and discussed the different roles Germany has played in the three main crises currently facing Europe: the Russian crisis, the euro crisis, and the refugee crisis. Next, Susanne Lothmann, Professor of Political Science at UCLA, gave a detailed overview of the importance of the German university system in the creation of the modern world. The final panel of the day started off with a talk given by IES Associate Director Akasemi Newsome. Her presentation centered on the mobilization of immigrants in German labor unions and on the different ways in which these unions support immigrants’ rights and concerns. Concluding the day’s panel discussions, Tobias Schulze-Cleven, Assistant Professor in the School of Management and Labor Relations at Rutgers University, highlighted the ways in which the labor market and labor relations have changed over the years. To wrap up the two days of thought-provoking presentations, Director Jeroen Dewulf and Deniz Göktürk, Chair of the Department of German at Berkeley, explored the future that the fields of German and European studies have in universities.
October 21, 2015: Gender Roles in Islam: Özkal Lorentzen’s Film Manislam

“I am a filmmaker with an accent, living in-betweeness: Europe, Asia – Asia, Europe. I live with images and dreams, which belong to two different continents, and I tell stories in several broken, hybrid languages.”

The above quote comes from Nefise Özkal Lorentzen, a Norwegian filmmaker with Turkish roots. Among Özkal Lorentzen’s many projects has been a trilogy about Islam, and we were privileged to see the last documentary of the series, Manislam (2014). In Manislam, Özkal Lorentzen introduces Muslim men, who see the necessity of a new understanding of Islam in the world, who see life in a different way from many of their fellow believers, and who dare to ask questions. The documentary is the story of four men from Indonesia, Kuwait, Bangladesh and Turkey: how they see Islam, what conflict they face while they attempt to change the dominant culture in their countries and how they disseminate their messages. According to Özkal Lorentzen, these four men, who are trying to shape a democratic and united Islam, also move toward their own freedom. The film inspired many questions, and a lively discussion between the director and the audience took place, touching many globally current topics regarding Islam. The Institute of European Studies’ Nordic Studies Program thanks the Norwegian Consulate General for bringing Nefise Özkal Lorentzen to the Bay Area and for the reception.
The Institute of European Studies, the Berkeley Journal of International Law, the Berkeley Law Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Law, the International Refugee Assistance Project, and the Middle Eastern Law Students Association co-organized a panel discussion on October 22 on the Syrian refugee crisis. The panel consisted of Berkeley Law Professor Kate Jastram, Executive Director of the International Rescue Committee Karen Ferguson, German parliament member Matthias Zimmer, co-founder of the Zaytuna College Hatem Bazian, and Maya Fallaha, who is Syrian and works for the Karam Foundation. Berkeley Law Professor Jamie O’Connell moderated the discussion. Each participant gave a short talk, during which they examined the refugee crisis from their own professional perspectives.

Kate Jastram started off by focusing on the legal obligations that the United States and the European Union have to take refugees. The big difference between the two is that the United States does not have Syrian refugees waiting directly beyond its borders and, therefore, has no obligation to take any of them. While there is an option to receive asylum in the United States through the United Nations’ resettlement program, this method has only benefited approximately 2000 refugees, which is only a small portion of the total number seeking asylum. Next, Karen Ferguson defined the term “refugee” and explained in further detail how the resettlement program to the United States works. Then, during his talk, Matthias Zimmer discussed Germany’s leading role in the handling of the crisis in the European Union. Addressing the misconception that all of these refugees came from Syria, he established that many of them actually came from Eastern Europe. For Germany, the challenge is deciding who will be allowed to stay and figuring out how to take care of those selected. The right of political asylum is, according to Zimmer, well protected by the German Constitution, but it will still be necessary to implement new legislation that specifically caters to the circumstances of this crisis.

Matthias Zimmer ended with a quote from German president Gauck, who said, “Our heart is wide but our possibilities are limited.” Following Zimmer came Hatem Bazian, who discussed the causes of this current crisis. In his view, it has resulted from post-colonial actions by countries in the Northern Hemisphere, which, through instruments such as the IMF and the Worldbank, have caused countries in the Southern Hemisphere to become dependent on them for economic support. This, in addition to wars such as the one in Iraq, has led to the question of who is responsible for the situation in North Africa and the Middle East. Bazian called for an increased focus on sustainable economic development to stabilize the countries in the region. To conclude, Maya Fallaha talked about the work she and the Karam Foundation have done by setting up sports and arts programs for children living in Turkish refugee camps. She also emphasized the fact that over ninety percent of the Syrians in these camps want to return to their country but have no other option as long as President Assad’s regime continues attacking civilians.

There was one subject that all panel members agreed on, and that was regarding how the public can help. Two possibilities were mentioned: donating to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which has done an enormous amount of work to help throughout this crisis; and spreading awareness towards the current situation.

Hatem Bazian, German MP Matthias Zimmer, Jamie O’Connell, Karen Ferguson, Kate Jastram, and Maya Fallaha (from left to right)
On October 26, the Institute of European Studies organized the visit of Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland, to the Berkeley campus. During his keynote address President Higgins encouraged students to take responsibility to share the lessons and skills they learn at one of the world’s top public research universities to tackle the worsening human rights problems of world hunger and poverty. “There is so much you can change,” Higgins encouraged his listeners at the Chevron Auditorium in I-House. He commended UC Berkeley public policy professor and economist Robert Reich’s work on income inequality, which Higgins said is integral to his own and others’ fight for economic, ethnic and environmental equality. In Higgins’ introduction, Anthony Cascardi, Berkeley’s dean of arts and humanities, noted that two earlier presidents of Ireland visited the campus over the years, and that Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet Seamus Heaney spent time as a visiting lecturer at Berkeley, “an institution that has a bit of Irish in its blood.”

Ireland is well represented in the collections at The Bancroft Library, where Higgins stopped by to inspect an exhibit containing a 1970 notebook of Heaney’s; a privately printed copy of W.B. Yeats’ poem Easter, as well as a letters from him to one of his mistresses; and a rare, signed, first-edition copy of James Joyce’s Ulysses. Also on display was the diary of Patrick Breen, a member of the ill-fated Donner Party that died crossing the Sierra; and a unique fragment of a satyr play by Sophocles from the Bancroft’s Center for the Tebtunis Papyri that underscored the long ties between Berkeley and papyrologists from Trinity College in Dublin. While at the Bancroft, Higgins and his wife, Sabina Coyne, signed the original guest book of Hubert Howe Bancroft, a bookseller, entrepreneur, publisher and historian whose collections were purchased by the University of California in 1906.

Higgins’ final campus stop was the Morrison Library, where he was welcomed by IES Director Jeroen Dewulf and Edward Stack, lecturer in Modern Irish at Berkeley’s prestigious Celtic Studies Program. During his speech, President Higgins announced that the Irish government is providing $40,000 in seed money for an Irish Studies program at IES that will become operational in the 2016-17 academic year. Higgins said he hopes the grant will enable students, faculty and alumni from the Berkeley campus to commit themselves to the investigation of society, culture, science and economic relations in and with Ireland. “Whether in the arts or in science, the goal of educators is to inspire in the next generation of minds the passion and discipline to study and to imagine, in an effort to make sense of the world around us,” he said. “Whether with the lyrical pen wielded by poets such as Seamus Heaney or equations and observations of a physicist,” Higgins continued, “their shared goal is to find a certain truth and gain a greater appreciation of the worlds we inhabit and to bring us closer to those we imagine.” He said the deepening ties between Berkeley and Ireland also will manifest in the program’s hosting of events and debates on contemporary issues of mutual concern and interest. Higgins’ remarks: “We intend to reach out to the large and active Irish-American community in the San Francisco Bay Area, and to devise programs and activities that attract attention to and beyond the campus as we bring together and foster an intellectual community around shared interests in Ireland and Irish-America.”
October 30, 2015: Sergio Fabbrini on Which European Union? Europe after the Euro Crisis

Utilizing a comparative approach, Sergio Fabbrini discussed the European Union’s integration in the context of other federal systems utilized around the world, specifically those of the United States and of Switzerland. Fabbrini drew from his new book, Which European Union? Europe After the Euro Crisis, to oppose the predominant view of European integration, in which integration is viewed as a means of “harmonization” across member states. Fabbrini contended instead that the existing inequities in political and economic development among member states threaten the viability and future of the European Union. Specifically, he asserted that the Euro Crisis highlights the economic differences between northern and southern member states, which generally support different solutions to economic challenges. As the European debt crisis has demonstrated, the European Union lacks mechanisms capable of managing and resolving fiscal and monetary crises at a supranational level. Professor Fabbrini drew attention the European Union’s heavy reliance on unanimity and compromise between member states, contrasting this model with that of the United States, where an independent federal regime impartial to the interests of individual states has been implemented. For Fabbrini, only when the problems of economic and political asymmetry and national differentiation are addressed will the European Union be able to resolve issues of viability and functionality.

Sergio Fabbrini, LUISS Guido Carli University of Rome and Akasemi Newsome, IES Associate Director
Hilde Coffé, a visiting professor from the Victoria University of Wellington, presented a lecture on November 2 at the Institute of European Studies in which she highlighted the problem of gender disparity between different parties within the political system in Germany, with a focus on parliamentary committees. She showed that women are generally underrepresented in such committees. However, groups that are more left-oriented have higher female representation and lower gender segregation, and they are more supportive of women-friendly policies than groups that are more right-oriented. Women would logically be assigned to more committees if they had more of a presence in parliament; if that were the case, there would also be less of a need to label certain issues “female oriented.” In fact, Coffé noted that socialization theory, which posits that there are gender differences dictating interests, has not yet been overcome. Women are primarily active in parliamentary committees dealing with “nurturing” issues, such as health and education. Men, on the other hand, are typically engaged in “instrumental” issues, which include economics and foreign affairs. Speculating on the outcome of a shift in representation, Coffé hypothesized that more women would be interested in politics if they felt that they were being equally represented. In conclusion, Coffé reiterated the urgent need to increase the overall representation of women in parliamentary proceedings.
November 6, 2015: Visit of the EU Delegation to IES

The EU Delegation lunch event of Nov 6th, 2015, organized in cooperation with the Embassy of Luxembourg, was a tremendous experience for a young college student who is captivated by admiration and interest for European affairs. Multiple members of the delegation attended a lunch and panel at the Faculty Club to talk about economic issues in their respective countries, trade policies, the roles of the EU countries in maintaining a global connection, the current refugee crisis, and much more. It was a first time experience for me to have been in such close proximity to so many individuals of the EU, and I was amazed by the ideas that many of these members shared. One person I had an extensive conversation with was Alan Gibbons, the Economic and Trade Counselor for the Embassy of Ireland in Washington, D.C. We spoke about the weather, life in the US, the difference in culture between our dissimilar countries, as well as the political system in the States. It turns out that while Americans complain about the lack of representation in government, with only two parties to choose from and a host of candidates who seem all too similar to one another, Europeans, like Gibbons, admire the straightforward politics here, as their political system revolves around countless parties, which come with a great difficulty in trying to get anything done. The Irish Counselor talked extensively about the different ways the European and American political systems can overlap and evolve, creating a better government for all. An idea that stuck with me after that day is that the best way for global growth is continued communication with and education from one another, and while that may be unrealistically idealistic to speak about, it is a positive step forward. In the panelists’ talks about the refugee crisis, I also discovered how serious of a situation Europe is facing right now, with the line between national identity and moral obligation being drawn so thin. Many of the panelists expressed a desire for their countries to take in the refugees, but I could sense an unease when they spoke; their voices sounded more timid, losing some of the confidence they had expressed when speaking about other matters. The difficulty in accepting those who wish to join one’s country is the effect that it may have on the inhabitants, and while many countries in Europe wish to accept these refugees, they also don’t want to risk angering the people, as anger leads to radicalism, a concept that Europe is all too familiar with. The unease of the panelists’ translates directly to the possible dangers of the circumstances, and I became more aware of this threat after the event.

-Jack Chai, Institute of European Studies Undergraduate Research Apprentice

EU Delegation at Twin Peaks, San Francisco, CA
Students and faculty interested in both German and East Asian Studies gathered in Doe Library for a unique opportunity for comparison at the “Divided Nations and their Neighbors: Paths to Reconciliation?” conference. This conference was cosponsored by the Institute of European Studies, the Institute of East Asian Studies and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Throughout the day, scholars from universities all over the world presented their research relating to divisions between East and West Germany, North and South Korea, and China and Taiwan. The keynote address was given by Lily Gardner Feldman, Harry and Helen Gray Senior Fellow at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Feldman’s lecture, entitled “Germany as Promising Lesson and Cautionary Tale: Division, Unification, and Reconciliation,” offered a comparative view of the past situation in Germany and the present situation of the divided countries in East Asia. Breaking Germany’s experience of division reunification, and reconciliation into three time periods, Feldman discussed how Germany’s prioritization of internal versus external reconciliation shifted over the course of time and how this prioritization helped Germany redefine its relationship with former enemies. She ultimately argued that, without division, there would have been no hope for Germany’s reconciliation with Poland and other neighboring “victim countries.” Throughout her talk, she frequently called attention to the ways in which the German situation and the situation in East Asia differ. One major difference she referenced related to memory and acknowledgement of the past. According to Feldman, Germany’s eventual willingness to recognize and publicly acknowledge its past mistakes sped up the reconciliation process, whereas East Asian countries, who have not publicly engaged in this type of dialogue, have made much less progress in that regard.

Feldman also discussed the current situation in Germany that has stemmed from the refugee crisis, which has put the country’s solidarity and tolerance to the test. Through this integration of the present-day situation into her talk, she highlighted the ways in which Germany functions as both an inspiration and a warning to East Asia: While the country has had great success in their journey towards reunification and reconciliation, the present-day situation in Germany demonstrates the ways in which the process of external reconciliation can generate internal issues and fiscal costs that lead to unexpected consequences. During the brief question and answer session, audience members engaged in debate about whether or not the German model presented can apply to the situation in East Asia. Overall, conference participants enjoyed the day’s events and left with a much better idea of how the experience of (inter)national division presents the opportunity to put seemingly different situations in conversation.
November 10, 2015: Lecture on Anders Breivik and The Mystery of the Lone Wolf Killer

On November 10, the Institute of European Studies and the Norwegian Consulate General of San Francisco co-sponsored a presentation by Norwegian author Unni Turrettini. During her lecture, Turrettini discussed her new book, entitled The Mystery of the Lone Wolf Killer. In the book, she uses the case of Anders Breivik to explain how lone wolf killers are created by society. Turrettini described the lone wolf killer as a young man with a medium to high IQ who has problems forming human connections. The consequence of this inability to interact with others is that they often get bullied and develop anger towards a very specific aspect of society; in the case of Breivik, this aspect was multiculturalism. These killers do not, however, have a death wish, which is one of the important distinctions from the profile conformed to by killers in most of the shootings we see in America. Turrettini herself grew up not far from Breivik, which helps her understand the environment and culture he grew up in. She described the Norwegian society as one that condemns people that stand out. For Breivik, who was deemed a “weirdo” and had problems with social interactions, this condemnation was an insurmountable reality. If society had acted differently towards him, he likely would not have become a lone wolf killer. Turrettini went on to give two other examples of killers who fit the same type of profile: Oklahoma bomber Timothy McVeigh and serial murderer Ted Kaczynski.

With these cases in mind, Turrettini called the audience to action. If the lone wolf killer is a product of its environment, it must be also possible to stop him from traversing that path. She identified three steps that we can all take to help. The first one is to be aware of one’s surroundings. She said that, in almost all cases, there are red flags that are easy to identify as long as people pay attention. According to Turrettini, someone merely being a “weirdo” can count as a flag. The next step is to report all identified flags to the police. The last step is to teach children the value of uniqueness, as this will limit the detrimental exclusion and isolation of potential lone wolf killers from society. In the following question and answer session, the audience probed a number of critical questions, especially regarding the second step of her proposed action plan. According to multiple members of the audience, the fact that somebody is different cannot be enough for police intervention. Actions taken on those grounds alone can cause both legal and moral issues. Turrettini admitted that she does not have the answers to all question but stressed once again the importance of awareness.

Norwegian author Unni Turrettini
On the evening of November 12, the Institute of European Studies hosted its Gerald D. and Norma Feldman Annual Lecture at the exquisite Bancroft Hotel. Each year, this lecture is held to honor the life and work of former IES Director Gerald D. Feldman. This year’s speaker was Jonathan Zatlin, Associate Professor of History at Boston University and former PhD student of Professor Feldman. His talk, entitled “The Ruse of Retirement: Eichmann, Theresienstadt, and the Elderly,” highlighted the ways in which Eichmann used retirement to take advantage of elderly Jewish populations during the Nazi regime. Throughout his talk, Professor Zatlin proposed two possible reasons for deceiving the elderly in this way. First, he argued that this deception responded to the failure of deportations in 1941. With suspicions towards the fate of deportees rising, the Nazis required new ways to foster compliance within Jewish populations. By promoting Theresienstadt as a “perk” of the new retirement contracts, Eichmann fooled many elderly Jews into cooperating. The other reason he proposed for the necessity of the ruse was that it served as a cover for theft, which aided Eichmann in the process of making the SS financially independent. Through the retirement contracts elderly Jews had to sign, Eichmann and the SS masked their stealing of Jewish property as a long sought after solution to the disappearing access to end-of-life care and other state benefits. While he did show data supporting the supposition that wealthier Jews were targeted first, Professor Zatlin also presented statistics that demonstrated how most of the Jewish people being targeted had relatively little to take. In his conclusion, Professor Zatlin stated that, contrary to what Hannah Arendt has famously argued, Eichmann was influenced more by ideology rather than by careerism. Following the lecture came a question and answer session and a reception, during which attendees continued to discuss the implications of Professor Zatlin’s findings. This year’s Annual Lecture proved to be an enjoyable night of European scholarship, remembrance of Gerald D. Feldman, and celebration of all that IES continues to provide to the Berkeley community.
November 13, 2015: Meeting between IES Students and the Junge Union

In cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Institute of European Studies was pleased to welcome a delegation of the Junge Union to the Berkeley campus on November 13. The Junge Union, or Youth Union, is the youth organization of the CDU, the political party of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, for members between the ages of 14 and 35. The German delegation met with a group of Berkeley students for lunch and a panel discussion at the Faculty Club. Representatives from various different campus organizations, including the URAP program at IES, the EU Student Ambassador Groups at UC Berkeley and Berkeley City College, the Berkeley College Democrats, and the Berkeley College Republicans, were in attendance.

The lunch provided the perfect opportunity for light conversation between both groups about anything and everything, from foreign families to the difference in smoking laws. After the lunch, it was time for a much more serious conversation, which started with a broad introduction to the Youth Union’s ideology and mission by their president, Paul Ziemiak. In light of current events, it was inevitable that the Syrian Refugee crisis became the main topic of the discussion. It was a question asked by one of Berkeley’s visiting scholars about how to solve this problem that illuminated once again just how complex the issue is. The members of the Youth Union admitted that, even within their own party, there exist two different viewpoints. The first group thinks that it is the German moral and legal obligation to welcome every refugee who is seeking refuge from war. The second group argues that Germany is not able to continue to welcome so many refugees without more solidarity from the other EU partners. Unfortunately, the discussion did not result in the discovery of a solution for the entire refugee crisis, but, for all who were present, it provided a great opportunity to gather with peers from overseas and to respectfully exchange ideas on the current state of the political situations in both the United States and Germany.

Paul Ziemiak, President of the Junge Union
On November 15, Jeroen Dewulf, Director of Berkeley’s Dutch Studies Program, spoke about some of his research relating to the slave community of the New Netherland colony in the United States. His lecture, entitled “A Strong Barbaric Accent: America’s Dutch-Speaking Black Community from Seventeenth Century New Netherland to Nineteenth Century New York and New Jersey,” illuminated the important role the Dutch language adopted in this slave community. To start off his lecture, Dewulf talked about Sojourner Truth and the linguistic confusion she experienced upon being sold to an English-speaking family. This confusion resulted from the little-known fact that she, having been born in a Dutch-speaking environment, was a native speaker of Dutch. He then moved into a discussion of the different stages of development of the New Netherland colony. He also highlighted the ways in which slaves’ initial resistance to Dutch acculturation slowly subsided and allowed Dutch customs and language to become integral parts of their identity. Examples of this resistance to linguistic acculturation can be seen in bilingual court cases, during which translators were brought in to assist slaves who were unable to speak Dutch. Interestingly enough, the predominant language of the slave community prior to Dutch may have been some variation of Portuguese, as can be explained by the possible Portuguese acculturation that may have occurred prior to the slaves’ departure for America. This possibility is further suggested through frequency of slaves possessing Portuguese names. Next, Dewulf highlighted the ways in which the colony’s transition from Dutch to English control resulted in the formation of the Low Dutch dialect. In the formerly Dutch colony, Dutch language and culture remained an integral part of slave identity, as demonstrated through memoirs and continued participation in cultural celebrations, such as Pinkster. In the final portion of his talk, Dewulf focused on the Dutch traces that exist in American English. Most interestingly was the appearance of Dutch words, such as “baas” (“boss” in English), which could be said to have strong ties to the slave community. He concluded by discussing accents in the context of his earlier example of Sojourner Truth, suggesting that the “barbaric accent” referred to by Harriett Beecher Stowe in her writings on Truth was more likely a misidentified Dutch accent. This misinterpretation of Truth’s legacy highlights the linguistic and cultural misunderstandings that crop up when talking about these Dutch slave communities. Following Dewulf’s intriguing presentation came a question and answer session, during which curious audience members asked about other Dutch words that exist in the English language, the possibility for literacy amongst slave populations, and other topics relating to the Dutch colony and its inner-workings.
November 17, 2015: Brown Waters: Baden-Baden in the Third Reich

On November 17, the Institute of European Studies welcomed David Large, IES Senior Fellow and Professor at the Fromm Institute at the University of San Francisco, to the Berkeley campus. His lecture, entitled “Brown Waters: Baden-Baden in the Third Reich,” discussed the role spa culture played during the Nazi regime. Why should we be interested in studying spa culture, you might ask? According to Large, spa towns such as Baden-Baden have played a significant role in European politics, history, and culture. When the Nazis initially came to power, spas were classified as places of indulgence meant for the rich that far from embodied “Germanic” ideals. For a regime that focused so much on replacing hierarchical society with what was coined the Volksgemeinschaft, the exclusive nature of spas did not fit well into the political scene of the period. As time went on, however, Nazi leaders began to recognize the significance of such places and made social activities, including trips to spa towns, available to lower classes through the KDF program. Baden-Baden, one such spa town that was known as a “first-rate cure destination,” initially established itself as an important place of resistance against Nazi policies and ideals. It demonstrated this resistance through its tardiness in celebrating Nazism as well as its reputation as a neutral zone for Germans, foreigners, and Jews alike. The town, however, was eventually seen as an asset by Nazi leaders because of its commercial potential and because of the positive public image it fabricated towards Nazism. This public image was especially important when Berlin hosted the Olympics in 1936. After the Olympics ended, however, the anti-Jewish campaign resumed in full force, no longer sparing Baden-Baden from its attack. Because Baden-Baden had previously been such a safe place, its Jewish population was less concerned about emigration than Jews living in other parts of the country. Tragically, these Jews met their fate at Theresienstadt, a concentration camp which had been strategically masked as another spa town. In his conclusion, Professor Large argued that Baden-Baden could be viewed as a micro-cosm that reflects the inner-workings of Nazi Germany. Attendees were fascinated by and grateful for the enlightening overview Professor Large gave to this cultural venue.
November 17, 2015: Politics of Precaution: Regulating Health, Safety and Environmental Risks in the EU and the US

This semester’s “Getting to Know Europe with Berkeley Faculty” lecture series concluded with a presentation given by David Vogel, Professor of Political Science, on November 17. His talk, entitled "The Politics of Precaution: Regulating Health, Safety and Environmental Risks in the European Union and the United States," presented a comparative view of the ways in which the European Union and United States react to various risks and how trends relating to these reactions have changed over time. According to Professor Vogel, between the 1960s and 1990s, responses to risks in the United States were much more aggressive than those in Europe. During the 1990s, however, this trend flipped, with European standards becoming more precautionary and innovative than those adopted in the United States. In order to explain this phenomenon, Professor Vogel first looked at the degree of divergence between American and European standards. He argued that there is not as much convergence as would be expected and gave three possible reasons for why that might be the case. The first contributing factor had to do with the issue of public misperceptions. Before the 1990s, the American people functioned as policy-triggers when it came to potential risks, while the European people reacted much more calmly. After the 1990s, however, the European people began to demonstrate more fear towards risks than the American people, who had become less worried about these issues. Another reason he offered was the shifting preferences of politicians. In the United States, the coming to power of the Republican Party in 1995 and the resulting polarization of the political scene ended the previous bipartisan support for stricter standards. The European Union, which strives to harmonize standards across member states, tends to align more closely with the standards of stricter regulatory states. Thus, with the addition of Sweden and Norway, two nations with very strict regulatory laws, to the European Union in 1995 came heightened standards across all of the member states. The final reason he suggested had to do with politics and the law of risk assessment. The key difference Professor Vogel called attention to had to do with the United States’ fear of false positives and the European Union’s fear of false negatives. In his conclusion, Professor Vogel stated that, while Europeans have converged with stringent standards previously adopted in America, the opposite effect has not been the case. He called attention to the fact that the European market’s strict standards and growing size have allowed it to surpass America as the global standard for regulation. Curious faculty and students in attendance probed questions related to the implications of these findings and how they might play out in future political scenes.
In cooperation with the Institute of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies and the Bay-Area based organization Nova Ukraine, the Institute of European Studies organized a presentation on November 23 by Sviatoslav Vakarchuk entitled “How Can Ukraine Become a Prosperous Country in Europe?” Vakarchuk is a Ukrainian activist and famous musician who was given the mandate of the People’s Deputy of Ukraine for the parliamentary elections in 2005 and subsequently became a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Freedom of Expression and Information. He was also named one of the top 100 most influential people in Ukraine. Meanwhile, Vakarchuk has left politics, but he continues to be engaged in building the post-Maidan Ukraine.

Vakarchuk started his talk by arguing that he does not know the exact answer to this complex issue of how to make Ukraine more prosperous; however, such a question should be addressed as a serious matter in today’s world. He stated that the key ideas regarding this question and the political momentum of Ukraine lie beyond criticizing the politicians of his nation. According to him, there are broader, more tangible, and more important things to talk about, most of them relating to the civil society and the steps the Ukrainian people should take in order to improve their country. Vakarchuk asked the audience a key question: “How do we make Ukraine a prosperous and happy nation?” Citing Plato and Aristotle’s philosophical views, he proposed the concept of the “ideal state” as a potential answer to this question. He claimed that the worldview of the older generation in Ukraine focuses too much on the past, thus allowing the political and social problems of past centuries to continue to influence the country’s present state. This suggests that society needs highly educated and enlightened citizens with the ability to devise newer, more innovative approaches to change Ukraine’s present-day situation.

How exactly can Ukraine be changed? According to Vakarchuk, there are few people with the revolutionary approaches and mindsets necessary to create a new momentum towards changing society. Vakarchuk also highlighted the negative effects of distrust on the development of a prosperous Ukraine. Instead, humans should be confident in themselves and others in order to establish a more trustful relationship between the people and the state. To conclude his talk, Vakarchuk argued that, in order to foster the growth of a more prosperous Ukraine, the people of Ukraine must stop thinking about the past and start looking ahead to the future.
December 4, 2015: The Catalan Independence Movement

To wrap up the Institute of European Studies’ fall program, Andreu Missé, journalist and editor-in-chief of the magazine Alternativas Económicas, visited the Berkeley campus on December 4 to give a lecture on Catalonía and the “disconnection process” from Spain. Starting with the nineteenth century and working his way to the present-day situation, Missé discussed both the historical and economic origins of such desires for separation and how they have evolved over time. Using this background, he highlighted both the positive and negative consequences that separation from Spain might have in Catalonia. Through his lecture, attendees gained a better understanding of the political and social conflicts that currently surround this issue as well as of the effects separation would have on Catalonía, Spain, and the European Union as a whole. Special thanks go to the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Berkeley Language Center for their co-sponsorship and support of this event.
Claremont-UC Undergraduate Conference on the European Union

Each year, the Institute of European Studies cosponsors the Undergraduate Conference on the European Union held at Scripps College in Claremont, California. With the April 2016 conference quickly approaching, IES URAP student Anton Wideroth sat down with past participant Elie Katzenson to discuss her experience as a presenter.

Wideroth: Tell me a little about yourself.

Katzenson: My name is Elie Katzenson and I am a senior transfer student here at UC Berkeley majoring in Political Science. My current area of interest and research is nuclear security, but I have done a lot of research on the EU and immigration.

W: What got you interested in the European Union?
K: My family lives in the Netherlands, and I also grew up in Turkey and Germany. The question of Turkey was one of the first things that got me interested in the EU. I think there is this interesting conception of Turkey as a westernized nation with a lot in common with the EU, but it is finding it hard to gain entry. Now the leader, Erdogan, is driving Turkey away from the EU while remaining a powerhouse in the region. I also find the EU interesting due to its conceptual and historical basis. For a region that has been war-torn since the beginning of time, it is very interesting to see relative stability and unity. I find it very beautiful and inspiring.

W: How did you first find out about the Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union? And why did you decide to apply?
K: I am a member of the Foreign Service fraternity, Delta Phi Epsilon, and I first found out about the conference through a list serve kept by them. I was also taking a politics of European integration course with Professor Nicholas Ziegler, so I was already writing a paper about Europe. When I then heard about this good opportunity, I submitted a paper I was writing for that class.

W: How was your experience at the conference itself?
K: It was pretty fantastic. They make it easy for you to get there, and there are no payment worries. I was surprised by how experienced some of the participants were and how good they were at presenting their topics. So I wish I had known that because I would probably have presented in a different way if I had. I expected it to be more of a dialogue, whereas the presentation aspect is very important.

W: What other tips do you have for anyone who wishes to go to the conference in the future?
K: I would say that either you should have a very strong oral presentation or be very well prepared with a professional PowerPoint and notecards. You really need to practice so that it is not frightening. I felt that the students from Berkeley did not have the best oral presentations, but we did all get published. Which I think means that we had really good written work but also that we did need to improve our presentation skills. Also, try to talk to participants from other schools because it did get a little cliquey among the different participating schools.

W: Is the presentation the biggest component of the conference? And if not, what else is included?
K: It is a two-day conference existing of panels: one the first night and roughly four the next day. Each panel includes 3-4 papers that are presented and followed by questions from the audience. I think that focusing on the presentation side is good, but one should also focus on asking a lot of questions because I found that I learned a lot from that.

W: How has this experience helped you?
K: To be able to publish helped me a lot. This summer, I had a paid research position, and the conference was definitely a leading factor in me getting that. The conference itself also introduced me to new research works and to a lot of the new and exciting topics in the field. It was furthermore very helpful for me to recognize where my work is strong and how I can adjust it to make it better. It also taught me a lot about what it means to be a professional in this field and how what I do and the decisions I make with regards to my work affects others. Finally, it reminded me of how talented people are and how much we have to learn from each other.

W: Has this experience influenced you in your future career choices?
K: It confirmed I enjoy doing research and going to research conferences. It really made me want to go to more conferences!

W: Thank you so much for taking the time to talk to the Institute of European Studies and me.

More information about the conference can be found here.
In August 2015, IES affiliated Professor Barry Eichen-green was referenced by the Brookings Institute in an article about the Greek crisis. You can read it here.

In August 2015, IES affiliated Professor Carla Hesse was interviewed by the French newspaper Liberation for an article about French historiography. You can read the article here.

In August 2015, IES affiliated Professor Barry Eichen-green published an essay entitled The Promise and Peril of Macropredential Policy at project Syndicate. You can read it here.

In August 2015, the book Memory and Complicity: Migrations of Holocaust Remembrance by IES affiliated Professor Debarati Sanyal was reviewed by Times Higher Education. You can read the review here.

In September 2015, IES and Scandinavian Studies Launched Icelandic Program. Read more in the report on the Berkeley News.

In September 2015, IES Director Jeroen Dewulf gave an interview on the refugee crisis in Europe at CBS Radio. You can listen to it here.

In September 2015, KTVU reported on IES' support to the creation of an Icelandic and Kurdish language program. IES Director Jeroen Dewulf was interviewed. The report can be seen here.

In October 2015, Berkeleyside reported on the visit of President Higgins of Ireland to the Berkeley campus, organized by IES. You can read more here.

In November 2015, the Daily Californian reported on the building on an Irish Studies Program at the Institute of European Studies. You can read more here.

In November 2015, the American Musicological Society awarded IES Senior Fellow Carla Shapreau and her co-authors of “The Ferrell-Vogüé Machaut Manuscript” with the 2015 Claude V. Palisca Prize for their outstanding scholarly edition or translation in the field of musicology. You can read more here, here and here.

In November 2015, the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter reported on the lecture by Ukrainian vocalist and civil activist Svyatoslav “Slava” Yakarchuk at IES. You can read more here.

In December 2015, IES Director Jeroen Dewulf gave a presentation on the Dutch language in America at the UCL London Center for Low Countries Studies. You can listen to it here.

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The Institute of European Studies in the News!

New IES Publications
The Institute of European Studies would like to thank all Undergraduate Research Apprentice Students for their tireless work throughout the semester.

Lauren Dooley | Editor-in-Chief
Ernesto Arciniega, Jack Chai, Jade Collins, Oscar Peralta, Niki van Sprang, Anton Wideroth | Content
Ernesto Arciniega, Elisabeth Lara Koffeman, Oscar Peralta, Niki van Sprang | Photographs
Sean Bartlett | Layout and Design
Akasemi Newsome | Supervision

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IES Director Jeroen Dewulf and IES students with Irish President Michael D. Higgins (middle)