

FALL 2024 NEWS

INSTITUTE OF  
EUROPEAN STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



Dear Friends of the Institute of European Studies,

It is my pleasure to send you our Fall 2024 newsletter. The absolute highlight of this semester was the annual Feldman lecture that honors the founder of our Institute, Prof. Gerald D. Feldman. For the first time in our history, IES and the Berkeley-based Pacific outpost of the German Historical Institute, Washington DC, co-organized the Feldman lecture. The selected speaker was Paul Lerner, who presented his latest research on “Radio Propaganda and Terror: Austrian-Jewish Refugees and the Media” in a lecture at the Magnes Foundation. In this newsletter you will find a report on this event and on all other activities our Institute organized this semester. These reports were prepared with the assistance of our team of undergraduate reporters. I am grateful to our reporters for their excellent work, in particular to the team’s editor-in-chief, Sitara Gupta. I would also like to thank our program directors, affiliated faculty and my colleagues at the Institute, Associate Director Akasemi Newsome, administrative director Gia White, program manager Rachael Longuépée, and the other IES staff affiliates, Heike Friedman, Ray Savord, and Lotta Weckstrom, for their hard work in support of the Institute during the fall 2024 semester. We are also very pleased to welcome a new permanent staff member to the Institute, Sydney Weaver, our new program manager. Sydney will assist Gia with financial matters and assist the respective faculty directors in the management of the Center for Portuguese Studies, the Modern Greek & Hellenic Studies Program, the Center for British Studies and the Anglo-American Studies Program.

After serving the maximum of two five-year terms, my tenure as director of IES ended in December. It is with great pleasure that I announce to you my successor as director of IES, Prof. Mia Fuller, Gladysce Arata Terrill Distinguished Professor of Italian Studies, past Chair of the Department of Italian, and also director of the IES’ Program for the Study of Italy. Professor Fuller is a cultural anthropologist and urban-architectural historian whose research concerns the interplays of physical space with political power. Combining fieldwork with archival and bibliographic research, she has published extensively on architecture and city planning in the Italian colonies.

Please allow me to use the opportunity to thank you all for supporting IES over the past years. I can reassure you that, even though I will no longer be the director, I will remain involved with the Institute and hope to be able to attend many of its events in the years to come.

With a warm goodbye and my very best wishes for the new year,

Jeroen Dewulf  
 Director, Institute of European Studies  
 jdewulf@berkeley.edu

## IES Welcomes Incoming Director Mia Fuller



Mia Fuller is the incoming Director of the Institute of European Studies, effective January 1, 2025. Fuller is the Gladysce Arata Terrill Distinguished Professor of Italian Studies and also served as Department Chair of Italian Studies from 2019-2024. She continues as Director for the Program for the Study of Italy at IES, a position she began in 2016.

Mia Fuller is a cultural anthropologist and urban-architectural historian whose research concerns the interplays of physical space with political power. Combining fieldwork with archival and bibliographic research, she has published extensively on architecture and city planning in the Italian colonies, winning an International Planning History Society book prize in (2008) for Moderns Abroad: Architecture, Cities, and Italian Imperialism. She is currently completing a revised edition (in Italian) of this book, as well as a new book titled Monuments and Mussolini: A Cultural History of Fascist Memory.

She continues to write on Libya and the legacies of Italian colonialism there. She has also written about how Eritrea capitalizes on the built environment Italians left behind, and on the endurance of memories of fascism, World War II, and Mussolini.

Fuller’s research has been supported by fellowships from the American Academy in Rome, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Fulbright Scholar Program, the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Humanities Center, and the National Science Foundation; she has received grants from the American Institute of Maghrib Studies, the American Philosophical Society, the Barbieri Research Fund, the École Française de Rome, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Université-Paris Est Créteil, and the Wolfsonian-Florida International University.

## IES Welcomes Program Manager Sydney Weaver

Sydney Weaver is the Program Manager for the Institute of European Studies at UC Berkeley, where she supports a range of academic programs, including the Center for Portuguese Studies, Modern Greek & Hellenic Studies Program, the Center for British Studies, and the Center for Anglo-American Studies. Sydney holds a Master of Arts in European History, Politics, and Society from Columbia University’s European Institute in New York City. She also earned dual Bachelor’s degrees in Economics and Global & Regional Studies from Saint Mary’s College. Prior to joining UC Berkeley Sydney worked at UC Law San Francisco where she honed her experience in project management, event planning, fundraising, and data reporting.



Jeroen Dewulf

Akasemi Newsome

Gia White

Rachael Longuépée

Sydney Weaver

Heike Friedman

Ray Savord

# 2024 GRANTEES

## FLAS Grantees

*Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships provide funding to students to encourage the study of critical and less commonly taught foreign languages in combination with area studies, international studies or international aspects of professional studies.*

### Academic Year 2024 - 2025 FLAS Grantees

- Sabrina Amrane (PhD, History) Turkish
- Lucayo Casillas (PhD, History) Dutch
- Sean Lyon (PhD, Biology) Portuguese
- Ari Gizzi (MA/PhD, Italian Studies) Italian
- Fiona Murphy (BA, Celtic Studies) Irish
- David Kanj (PhD, History) French
- Olivia Larson (MA/PhD, Scandinavian Studies) Norwegian
- Cello Lockwood (MA, Energy and Resources Group) Italian
- Stefania Lord (BA, Environmental Economics and Policy) Swedish

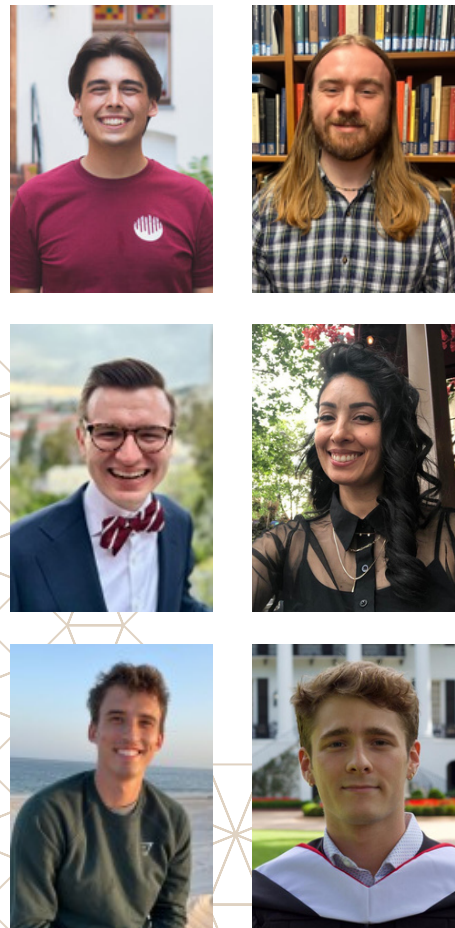


### Summer 2024 FLAS Grantees

- Aliosha Bielenberg (PhD, Rhetoric) Turkish
- Jared Brunner (PhD, English & Medieval Studies) Arabic
- Grant Durow (MA/PhD, Political Science) German
- Verónica Grajeda (PhD, Hispanic Linguistics) Catalan
- Joshua Lee (MA/PhD, Scandinavian Studies) Norwegian
- Riley VanMeter (PhD, Romance Languages & Literature) Italian
- Haley Wohlever (ME/PhD, Mechanical Engineering) Catalan
- Daniel Zimmerman (PhD, Religious Studies) Norwegian
- Madeline Zimring (PhD, Comparative Literature) Norwegian

### Berkeley-Cologne Research Fellowship Grantees

- Linus Mao (PhD, German)
- Andrew Blough (PhD, German)



# FALL 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

## Benedikt Harzl | Austria's Permanent Neutrality in European and Transatlantic Context(s)

On September 11th, The IES Austrian Studies Program, in collaboration with the Botstiber Institute for Austrian-American Studies, invited BENEDIKT HARZL (University of Graz) to speak about the ongoing nature of Austria's permanent neutrality as it exists in our world today. Harzl's online lecture focused on the theoretical and practical dimensions of Austrian permanent neutrality, a status embraced by Austria in 1955. Harzl was introduced by Isabella Tomas from the Consul-General of Austria who opened the discussion by emphasizing that "neutrality" is an important aspect of Austria's national identity. Tomas was followed by Michael Burri from the Botstiber Institute, who reinforced this notion, underscoring Austria's principles of conflict resolution through impartial mediation.

## Luc Rombouts | Sounds From Heaven: a musical heritage from the Low Countries

On September 15th, the Institute of European Studies, the Program for the Study in Flanders, the Dutch Studies Program, Flanders in the USA, the IES Benelux Program, and the Department of Music hosted LUC ROMBOUTS (Leuven University) for a lecture on the history and traditions of the carillon. Rombouts followed the lecture with a carillon performance in UC Berkeley's Campanile (Sather Tower). This lecture served as the second Prof. Johan Snapper Lecture in Dutch Studies. The lecture was attended by around 90 guests, with additional attendees joining during the performance.

## Minhea Stoica | Vulnerability to Populism in Times of Neighboring war. Political Discourse and Public Perception in the European Union.

On September 19th, the Institute of European Studies welcomed Professor MIHNEA STOICA (Babeş-Bolyai University) for a lecture on Europe's vulnerability to populism amid the war in Ukraine. The event explored the complexities of populism and euroscepticism within the European Union (EU). Stoica underscored the need to understand populism not just as an academic concept but as a dynamic and evolving force in European politics. He warned that crises like the war in Ukraine create fertile ground for populist sentiments to grow and called for scholars and policymakers to address the root causes fueling these movements.



Sasha Salzmann (top) and Molly Krueger (bottom)

## Archives of Migration | Sasha Salzmann in conversation with Molly Krueger

On September 20th, the UC Berkeley Department of German, in collaboration with the German Historical Institute Washington | Pacific Office Berkeley, the Goethe-Institut San Francisco, and IES hosted poet and playwright SASHA SALZMANN in conversation with MOLLY KRUEGER (UC Berkeley). In line with the Archives of Migration's ongoing mission to engage writers who bring diverse perspectives on societal polarization and the power of poetic imagination, Salzmann and Krueger discussed Salzmann's recently published memoir *Gleichzeit*. The event was held online with around 30 participants in attendance. Though Salzmann emphasized that their memoir is a personal work rather than a political one, Salzmann acknowledged that *Gleichzeit* offers a way to find their own voice and truth in the contemporary political environment. Ultimately, the memoir serves as a reflection on the present moment, offering an antidote to polarization, even if not a means to solve the conflict but to offer a hand of support and humanity to its readers.



Luc Rombouts (left) and Jeroen Dewulf (right)

### Melanie Arndt | When the Disaster Comes to Visit: The Chernobyl Children and the Transnational History of a Nuclear Disaster

On September 24th, approximately 35 scholars and students gathered to hear MELANIE ARNDT (Albert Ludwig University Freiburg) speak about her book “Chernobyl Children and the Transnational History of a Nuclear Catastrophe.” The event was sponsored by the Institute of European Studies, the German Historical Institute Washington, the Pacific Office Berkeley, the Center for German and European Studies, the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, the Department of History, and the Institute of International Studies. Arndt’s lecture focused on the aftermath of the nuclear disaster that occurred on April 26, 1986, when millions of families from Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia sought aid beyond the borders of the Soviet Union. Arndt highlighted the experiences of children, particularly those from Belarus, who were sent to countries like Germany, Italy, and the United States (U.S.) to receive much-needed care. Alongside the medical and psychological consequences these children faced after relocation, Arndt delved into how the disaster had an impact on the political tensions between the Soviet Union and the West.



Melanie Arndt

### Panel Discussion | Global History Meets German Zeitgeschichte

On September 25th, scholars from the German Historical Institute in Washington and the Leibniz Center for Contemporary History in Potsdam convened for an online panel discussion on the future of Zeitgeschichte, contemporary German history, in the growing field of German historiography. The panel was moderated by ISABELLA LÖHR (Freie Universität Berlin) and CAROLIN LEIBISCH-GÜMÜS (German Historical Institute Washington). There were 20 participants in attendance. Panelist FRENK BIESS (UC San Diego) commented on how German history has been traditionally viewed through a lens of specificities and singularities, resulting in a lack of comparative analysis between Zeitgeschichte and global history. Panelist FRANZISKA EXELER (Freie Universität Berlin) also commented on the potential for situating German history within the broader context of fascist history, emphasizing the increasing efforts to study it from a less Eurocentric perspective.

### Eva Horn | A Sense of Air: For an Aesthesis of Climate

On October 7th, EVA HORN (University of Vienna) delivered a lecture exploring how we can perceive and experience climate, moving beyond typical dystopian narratives of climate change. This event, attended by 40 people, was organized by the Townsend Center for the Humanities Collaborative Research Seminar on “Rethinking Futures.” Central to Horn’s argument was the idea of aesthesis—a term she defined as the wholeness of perception, the way we are affected by what we perceive. For Horn, climate is not merely something we understand scientifically, but something we experience through our senses and inhabit in our everyday lives; rather than looking into the future of climate, Horn looks back into history and asks “what was climate?”



Akasemi Newsome (left) and Rachel M'Bon (right)

### Film Screening | Je Suis Noires “Becoming a Black Woman” with filmmaker Rachel M'Bon

On October 7th, The Center for Race and Gender, along with the Institute of European Studies and co-sponsors, hosted a screening of *Je Suis Noires (Becoming a Black Woman)*, a film by Swiss-Congolese filmmaker RACHEL M'BON. Following the film screening attended by 20 participants, IES Associate Director AKASEMI NEWSOME moderated a discussion with the film director about her motivations for making the film. In *Je Suis Noires*, M'Bon delves into the deeply vulnerable and complex process of unlearning internalized racism and reflecting on identity, race, and belonging as a Black woman in Switzerland. Following the screening, a brief discussion provided further insight into the film’s themes and M'Bon’s personal experiences. She expressed the urgency she felt to create the film, not only to share her truth but also to reveal the truth about Switzerland’s racial dynamics. M'Bon’s story is a testament to a shift in the way Swiss Black women view themselves and their racial identity. While much work remains to deconstruct Switzerland’s systemic racism, M'Bon concluded with a powerful statement: “I am able to accept myself. I am able to be me.”



Kira Thurman

### Agata Kotkowska | Is The European Green Deal at a Crossroads?

On October 11th, the Institute for European Studies hosted an engaging discussion with AGATA KOTKOWSKA, former visiting research fellow at UC Berkeley and current Deputy Head of Unit at the European Commission’s Directorate General for Environment. Her talk delved into the resilience of the European Green Deal (EGD) amidst mounting political challenges. The discussion focused on the EGD’s ability to maintain momentum toward climate neutrality while addressing urgent economic concerns. Approximately 30 attendees participated in the event. The event concluded with a lively Q&A session: attendees raised questions focused on the resistance to the Green Deal, especially in relation to energy transition, the potential for hydrogen and nuclear energy development, and the challenge of reducing red tape.



Jeroen Dewulf (left) and Agata Kotkowska (right)

### Kira Thurman | On Musical Masquerade and Mimicry: Disco, Black Europe, and the Re-Making of a Music Industry

On October 11th, KIRA THURMAN (University of Michigan) delivered a guest lecture at Morrison Hall on the rise of Euro-Disco in post-World War II and Cold War Europe. Thurman, a professor of history, German, and musicology, focuses her research on how music shapes racial ideologies and national identity. Her first book, *Singing Like Germans: Black Musicians in the Land of Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms*, explores the role of Black performers in 20th-century Europe and critically analyzes the concept of “Germanness” as an identity that can be learned and performed. Her lecture, which was sponsored by UC Berkeley’s Department of Music and the Institute of European Studies, had about 50 people in attendance. Thurman summarized her research on Eurodisco, challenging the myth that one cannot be both Black and European, pointing out that in many cases, being African European was celebrated by Eurodisco lovers.



Viola Alianov-Rautenberg

### Viola Alianov-Rautenberg | Gender and the German-Jewish Migration to Mandatory Palestine

On October 15th, VIOLA ALIANOV-RAUTENBERG (German Historical Institute Washington | Pacific Office Berkeley) presented her latest research on the gendered dimensions of German-Jewish migration to Mandatory Palestine, drawing from her book “No Longer Ladies and Gentlemen.” She highlighted how gender politics and ideologies profoundly shaped the migration experience, affecting men and women differently. The event, organized by the Institute for European Studies in collaboration with the Pacific Office of the German Historical Institute, was co-sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies and the Helen Diller Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies, and had 25 participants in attendance.

### Giada Lagana | The European Union and the Northern Ireland peace process

On October 16th, UC Berkeley’s Institute of European Studies hosted GIADA LAGANA (Cardiff University) for a presentation on the key ideas from her first monograph. Her monograph, “The European Union and the Northern Ireland Peace Process,” examines the role the European Union played in resolving the Troubles, the sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland that spanned from the 1960s to 1998. IES Associate Director AKASEMI NEWSOME moderated the discussion. There were 20 participants in attendance. Lagana emphasized that beyond just its prominence, the European Union’s role in the Northern Ireland peace process had several key characteristics. These included a marked subtlety and an emphasis on metagovernance, which empowers societal networks to play an active role in political processes.



Anne-Laure Van Bruaene (left) and Jeroen Dewulf (right)

**Anne-Laure Van Bruaene | The Naked Man. Lucas d'Heere: A Flemish Exile Artist in Elizabethan London**

On October 23rd, the Institute of European Studies at UC Berkeley, in collaboration with the BENELUX Program, the Department of History, and Flanders in the USA, hosted a lecture featuring ANNE-LAURE VAN BRUAENE (Ghent University). The event focused on the life and works of Lucas d'Heere, a Flemish artist and poet who spent several years in exile in Elizabethan London. The lecture was moderated by Professor JEROEN DEWULF, Director of IES, with twelve participants in attendance. Van Bruaene's lecture centered around d'Heere's three major works produced during his exile in London: a collection of French poetry, a description of the British Isles, and a book on global costumes. These works reflect the economic and social realities faced by Flemish and Dutch exiles in late 16th century London, while also promoting a shared cultural history across national boundaries.

**Caroline Moine | The History of European Film Schools in the 20th Century: Artistic Circulations, Political Sociability and Professional Networks**

On October 23rd, the Institute of European Studies at UC Berkeley, in collaboration with the French Department and the Center of Excellence in French and Francophone Studies, welcomed CAROLINE MOINE (University of Paris-Saclay). Moine presented her research on the history of film schools in the 20th Century to an audience of 20 attendees, examining how European film schools acted as catalysts for artistic exchange, political mobilization, and professional networking throughout. Moine explained the pivotal role of institutions like the Institut des Hautes Etudes Cinematographic (IDHEC) in Paris, which fostered connections that transcended national borders.



Caroline Moine

**Natasha Wheatley | The Life and Death of States: Central Europe and the Transformation of Modern Sovereignty**

On October 24th, 2024, Professor NATASHA WHEATLEY (Princeton University) presented a talk based on her recent book which investigates evolving concepts of sovereignty and the impact of legal theory on state formation using Austria as a case-study. The event, hosted by the Institute of European Studies at UC Berkeley in collaboration with the Austrian Studies program and the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, attracted approximately thirty attendees.



Jeroen Dewulf (left) and Michael Bonitz (right)

**Michael Bonitz | Max Planck, Kiel, and the beginning of the quantum era**

On October 25th, MICHAEL BONITZ (Kiel University) visited UC Berkeley to deliver an engaging lecture on Max Planck's pivotal contributions to the field of quantum physics, moderated by IES Director JEROEN DEWULF. Bonitz contextualized Planck's achievements within their historical background, showcasing his profound legacy. The lecture, which attracted an audience of 50 attendees, was co-sponsored by the Institute of European Studies, the Astronomy Department, Mathematics Department, and the Physics Department.

**Martin Kocher | USA & Europe: How can we win together?**

On October 28th, the Management Center Innsbruck (MCI) and IES co-organized a virtual event featuring Austria's Minister of Labor and Economy, MARTIN KOCHER, titled The US and Europe: How Can We Win Together. The event offered insights into Kocher's academic and professional journey, as well as his perspectives on the current and future economic ties between the United States (US) and Europe. Kocher was interviewed by JEROEN DEWULF, Director of the Institute of European Studies, and ANDREAS ALTMANN, Rector of MCI.

**Asta Mønsted | What's Europe got to do with it? - Introduction to new faculty at Scandinavian**

On October 30th, the Institute of European Studies at UC Berkeley hosted ASTA MØNSTED (UC Berkeley) for a lecture on integrating oral history with archeological evidence. Moderated by IES Associate Director AKASEMI NEWSOME, this event, attended by approximately 15 individuals, provided a unique perspective on reevaluating traditional archeological practices. In her lecture, Mønsted acknowledged the limitations of conventional archeological approaches, which often treat oral histories as supplementary to physical artifacts. Instead, she argued that oral histories should stand as valid evidence on their own and challenge existing archaeological records. Her goal was to encourage reconsideration of their current potential in understanding archeological remains.

**Jakob Vogel | Forming an Elite for the French Empire: Colonial Sciences at the Ecole Libre de Sciences Politiques in Paris (1880-1960)**

On October 30th, JAKOB VOGEL (Sciences Po Paris) visited the French library to present his research project, "Sciences Po, Une Histoire Coloniale." The event was attended by an audience of 30, including the French consul. Vogel's presentation aimed to shed light on the historical connection between Sciences Po and colonial studies and was accompanied by an archive exhibition. He eloquently discussed how Sciences Po's foundational ties to colonial sciences played a role in expanding and asserting the ambitions of the French empire. Vogel's research seeks to uncover and confront this complex legacy, a pertinent endeavor given to Sciences Po's continued role as an institution shaping the French political elite, with several presidents and prime ministers among its alumni.



Asta Mønsted

**Miriam Gassner | "Transfer of legal thought through migration?" – The story of Helen Silving (1906-1993)**

On November 6th, MIRIAM GASSNER (University of Freiburg) presented a lecture at IES examining the wave of migration of Austrian academics to the Americas, with a focus on legal scholars. Due to the different legal system and the language barrier, only very few managed to resume an academic career in the field of law in their new home. In particular, Gassner focused on the story of one of the few legal scholars who succeeded in the U.S., Helen Silving (1906-1993), who was the presumably first female professor of criminal law.



Jakob Vogel

**Vally Lytra | 'And the wolf slept on the tree': Children's agentive voices in teacher-guided pretend play in a Greek heritage pre-kindergarten class**

On November 7th, VALLEY LYTRA (Goldsmiths University of London) delivered a lecture on Children's Agentive Voices in Arts-based Creativity in a Greek Heritage Pre-kindergarten Class. The event focused on multilingualism in education with the contexts of minorities and migrants, and used Greek language as a case study in her most recent research. Her data included insights from research conducted at a local Greek community school in Lausanne, Switzerland as part of a longitudinal study on Greek Community language education.

**Alireza Behtoui | Once upon a time Swedish schools were the best in the world, but not anymore: Why not?**

On November 7th, visiting professor ALIREZA BEHTOUI from the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT) delivered a lecture at the Institute of European Studies. Discussing the development and resolution of inequity in the Swedish system, Behtoui shared insights from his research at Berkeley with international relevance. Behtoui opened his talk with a historical overview of Swedish schools, once renowned for their education quality and commitment to reducing social inequality. He also discussed contrasting methods to address educational inequality in Sweden, distinguishing between "top down" and "bottom up" initiatives.

## Lisiane Feiten Wingert Ody | 25 years of the Washington Principles on art confiscated by the Nazis

On November 8th, LISIANE FEITEN WINGERT ODY (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre) Brazil, delivered a guest lecture at Philosophy Hall on the Washington Principles and legal battles concerning the restitution of artwork stolen by the Nazi regime. Ody explained that the 1998 “Washington Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art” marked a turning point, establishing an international framework to address these historical injustices. However, as Ody highlighted, these principles lack legal enforceability, leading to inconsistent implementation across different countries.

## Aron Aji | Diving Whole: Translation as Immersive Practice in the World Language Classroom

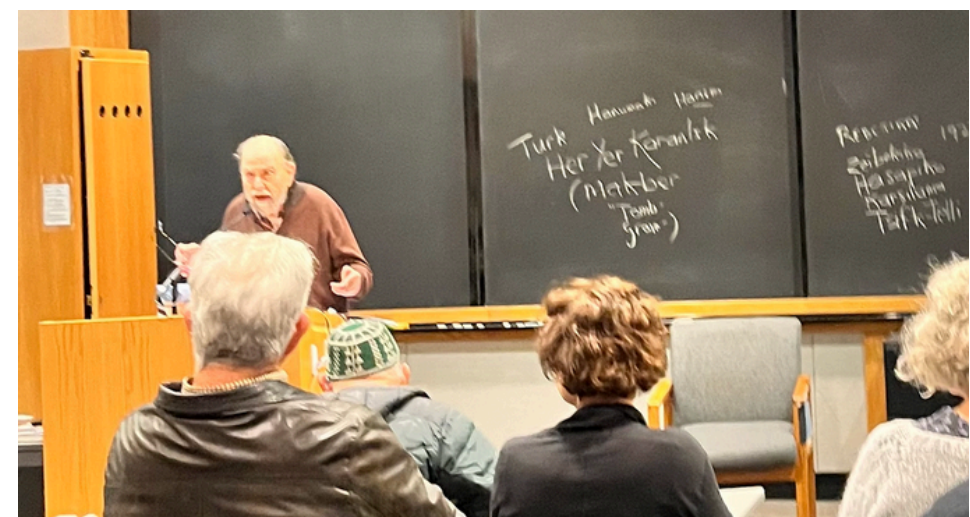
On November 8th, ARON AJI (University of Iowa) delivered a lecture on the use of translation in the world language classroom. Though this practice is often perceived as antithetical to the immersive aims of the Communicative Method, Aji argued that a language pedagogy that utilizes translation practice values the learner’s subjectivity holistically; it does not suppress but rather can incorporate the translatory dynamic already at work in the learner’s mind and train this dynamic towards an interlinguistic immersion experience that furthers second-language acquisition.



from left: Carla Shapreau, Lisiane Feiten Wingert Ody, Jeroen Dewulf

## Merih Erol | Greek Orthodox Music in Ottoman Istanbul

On November 8th MERIH EROL (Özyeğin University) delivered a lecture on the musical culture of the Rum (Greek Orthodox) community of Constantinople during the latter half of the nineteenth century, examining its influence on the construction of social and national identities. The lecture specifically scrutinized the perspectives and narratives of Rum intellectuals and musicians regarding the interplay between religious and secular music, as well as the themes of origin and musical continuity.



Martin Schwartz

## Martin Schwartz | The Asia Minor Style of Greek Urban ("Rebetic") Music

On November 8th, the Institute of European Studies at UC Berkeley, in partnership with the Modern Greek and Hellenic Studies department and the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion, hosted an engaging presentation by MARTIN SCHWARTZ, a former Berkeley professor of Near Eastern Studies (1970–2011). The talk explored the Asia Minor Style of Greek Urban Music, focusing on the origins, evolution, and cultural significance of Rebetika—a genre deeply rooted in the traditions of Asia Minor and a powerful expression of the urban lower and working classes in early 20th-century Greece.



## 2024 ANNUAL FELDMAN LECTURE

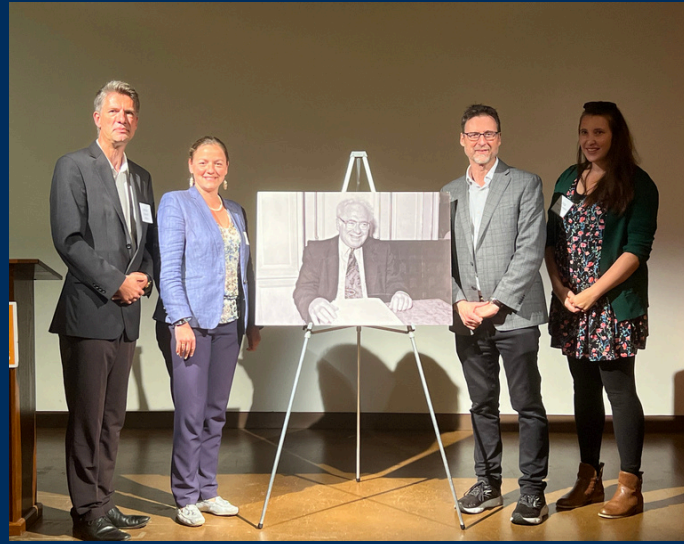
### PAUL LERNER | RADIO, PROPAGANDA, TERROR: AUSTRIAN-JEWISH REFUGEES AND THE MEDIA

by Jared Wilson

On November 13th, the Institute for European Studies (IES) at UC Berkeley and the German Historical Institute (GHI) hosted the Gerald D. and Norma Feldman Annual Lecture at the Magnes Museum Foundation. This annual event, established to commemorate the life and work of former IES Director Gerald Feldman, attracted approximately 50 attendees, including Mrs. Norma Feldman. The lecture featured Professor PAUL LERNER, Chair of History at the University of Southern California and author of two award-winning books. Lerner presented research from his forthcoming book, *Exiles on Main Street: Central European Émigrés, American Capitalism, and Cold War Consumer Culture, 1940-1970*. His presentation focused on how Central European refugees who escaped the Holocaust reinvented themselves in the United States (U.S.), particularly through their contributions to media studies and evolution of mass communication.

A key segment of the lecture examined the 1938 “War of the Worlds” radio broadcast and its profound impact on public perceptions of media. Lerner linked the widespread panic caused by the fictional Martian invasion to prevailing societal fears about international conflict. He cited the pioneering research of Herta Herzog (1910-2010), which revealed that many middle-class women were particularly susceptible to believing the broadcast was due to existing fears about a potential war with Germany.

Lerner traced the radio’s transformation from its military origins during World War I to its widespread adoption in the 1930s as a cornerstone of domestic life. He highlighted how radio reshaped the concept of “home”, becoming what he described as “an anchor of the living room.” The lecture contrasted German and American approaches to radio; American radio relied on corporate sponsorship, while German radio was state-controlled. The Weimar Republic deliberately resisted “Americanization,” evident in its use of the term *funk* rather than “radio.”



From left: Jeroen Dewulf, Isabella Tomás, Gerald Feldman, Paul Lerner, Viola Alianov-Rautenberg

The presentation emphasized the significant contributions of Austrian-Jewish refugees to modern media studies and market research. Among these, Paul Lazarsfeld (1901-1976) stood out for his groundbreaking work in mass communication and political sociology. Lerner detailed how Lazarsfeld's Economic-Psychological Institute in Vienna pioneered research into consumer behavior and media influence, laying the foundation for his later work in the U.S. with early support from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Particularly noteworthy was Lerner's discussion of Herta Herzog, whose research inspired a character in the TV series *Mad Men*. Herzog's studies on women's radio listening habits revealed how many women found escape and connection through daytime programming. Far from trivializing these listeners, Herzog's research illuminated the intellectual frustrations of well-educated women confined to domestic life. Her analysis of reactions to the *War of the Worlds* broadcast further demonstrated how pre-existing anxieties about war and technologies shaped susceptibility to media influence.

Lerner concluded by emphasizing the transformative contributions of Central European refugees to media studies and mass communication research in the U.S.. Drawing on their experiences as immigrants often viewed as "aliens" and their firsthand encounters with fascist propaganda, these scholars developed a unique sensitivity to the potential dangers and opportunities of mass media. Figures like Lazarsfeld and Herzog played pivotal roles in advancing these fields, with Lazarsfeld pioneering research into consumer behavior and political psychology and Herzog shedding light on the complex relationships between media consumptions and societal anxieties. The Q&A session further underscores these themes, exploring how refugee scholars' understanding of authoritarian media tactics informed their development of tools like the F-scale to measure fascist tendencies. By linking historical developments to contemporary challenges, such as misinformation and media's influence on democratic governance, Lerner illustrated the enduring relevance of their work. The lecture ultimately showcased how refugee experiences and scholarship reshaped our understanding of mass communication, leaving a profound legacy in both academic and practical domains.



### Ed Price | Now What? Three Dilemmas for the West

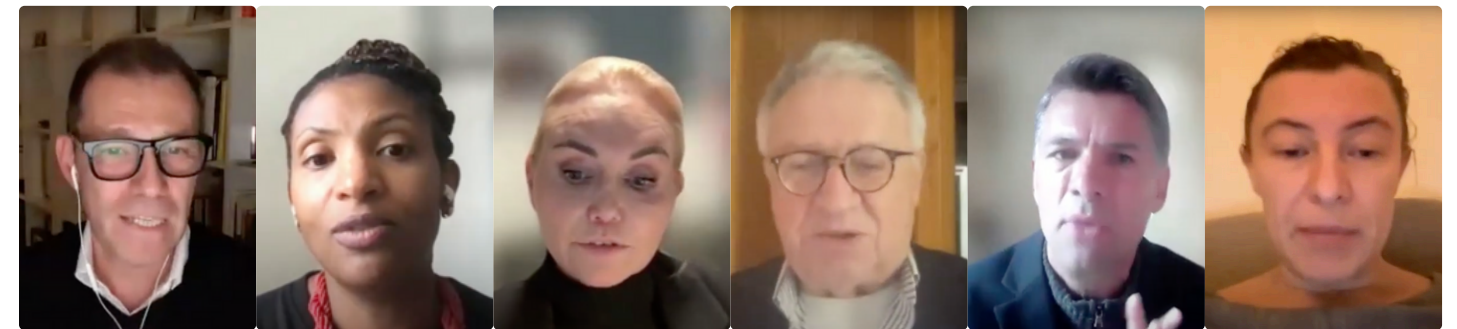
On November 18th, ED PRICE (New York University) gave a lecture outlining three great strategic dilemmas facing the transatlantic alliance. Drawing on his experience working for the British Government, his travels in war torn Ukraine, and his time working in the European and British parliaments, Price identified the following strategic problems: How can the west face down challenges to its society at home? How can the west navigate rapid changes in the international economy abroad? And, finally, how will the west behave if faced with the prospect of a third Great Power war?

### Panel Discussion | Transatlantic Perspectives: Trump, Orban, Le Pen, Wilders, Kickl – The Rise of Right-Wing Populism and the Future of the Transatlantic Partnership

On November 20th, the Austrian Institute of International Affairs, the Institute of European Studies, and the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation held a panel discussion on the rise of right-wing populism on both sides of the Atlantic. This event featured panelists AKASEMI NEWSOME (UC Berkeley), MARIANNE RIDDERVOLD (Innlandet Norway University), WOLFGANG PETRITSCH (Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation) and DANIELA PISOIU (Austrian Institute for International, Affairs).

### Marc Frey | Tensions of Empire: Writing Dutch Colonial History

On December 10th, MARC FREY (University of the Armed Forces Munich) presented a lecture at the Institute of European Studies, moderated by IES Associate Director AKASEMI NEWSOME. His presentation dealt first with methodologies of writing imperial history. It then highlighted some of the tensions inherent in Dutch colonial history by focussing on a few biographies from the 17th to the 20th centuries. These biographies allude to certain characteristic tropes of colonial history: empire-builders and men-on-the-spot; the transnational dimension of the Dutch empire; slavery and violence; governance and nationalism.



From Left: Cengiz Günay, Akasemi Newsome, Marianne Riddervold, Wolfgang Petritsch, Jeroen Dewulf, Daniela PISOIU

### Vincent Michelot | Beyond the 2024 Election: American Politics seen from France

On November 19th, the Center of Excellence in French and Francophone Studies at IES hosted VINCENT MICHELOT (Science Po Lyon) for a lecture analyzing the contemporary resonances between US and French politics. Comparing modern American conservatism to current state of the Fifth Republic, Michelot focused on the lens through which France looks at the US and what it tells us about the state of democracy in the two countries.

Participants speculated on how Donald Trump's election victory in the US might inspire and embolden right-wing populist movements in Europe and could further radicalize rhetoric on migration, security, and the Ukraine war. The discussion was moderated by JEROEN DEWULF (UC Berkeley) and CENGIZ GÜNAY (Austrian Institute for International Affairs)

### The Nordic Way to Green Transition Collaborative Governance and Co-Creation

On December 10th, the Nordic Center at IES in partnership with the Center for Responsible Business hosted a seminar exploring how Nordic approaches to collaborative governance and co-creation can inspire and inform the green transition. This event brought together leading scholars and practitioners to examine the potential of collective action in addressing the most pressing environmental challenges. A centerpiece of the discussion was Denmark's groundbreaking 2024 Green Tripartite Agreement, which introduced the world's first agricultural carbon tax that includes a tax for livestock emissions.

# CONFERENCES

In Fall 2024, IES was pleased to host our annual Undergraduate Conference as well as the 2024 British Studies Workshop.



## BRITISH STUDIES WORKSHOP THE GOVERNMENTALITY OF POPULISM

On September 9th, UC Berkeley political science professor and Center for British Studies director Mark Bevir hosted a British Studies Workshop on “The Governmentality of Populism.” The event featured eight scholars from several European universities who presented and discussed recent papers on this topic.

### Organizers

Mark Bevir, UC Berkeley  
Julia Simon, Bremen University

### Presentations

*Governmentality, people, acclamatory democracy*  
Mitchell Dean, Copenhagen Business School

### *Reactionary Governmentality*

Nicholas Michelsen, King’s College London  
Pablo de Orrelana, King’s College London

*The Gendered Chronopolitics of Authoritarian Populism*  
Marieke Gebhardt, University of Münster

*Conducting counter-conduct: the (neo)liberal resistance of authoritarian populism*  
Hannah Richter, University of Sussex

*Everyday Populism, Policing, and the Counter-Conduct of Crime*  
Graham Denyer Willis, University of Cambridge

*Assuming Responsibility in the Face of War. The example of the German debate on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine*  
Susanne Krasmann, Universität Hamburg

## 2024 IES UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE

THE EUROPEAN UNION’S STRATEGIC ROLE IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Sponsored by the Center of Excellence in French & Francophone Studies

As the European Union faces a rapidly changing global landscape, this conference aims to explore how it is positioning itself in response to geopolitical shifts, technological disruptions, and energy transitions. From defense and security to technology and energy policy, participants are encouraged to examine the many dimensions of European involvement in world affairs. This interdisciplinary conference seeks to bring together research from various fields—political science, economics, human rights—to foster a deeper understanding of how Europe is reshaping its strategic identity amid global transformations.

### Opening Remarks

Jeroen Dewulf, Institute of European Studies

### Panel 1

*Strategic Economic Autonomy in an Evolving World Order*  
Moderator: Miriam Gassner, Albert Ludwigs Universität Freiburg

- Anshul Singh, UC Berkeley, “Europe’s Path to Economic Autonomy Amidst a Second Trump Administration”
- Jash Desai, UC Berkeley, “EU-China Trade Tensions and the Role of Multinational Corporations”
- Conor Devlin, UC Berkeley, “Europe’s Path to Competitiveness in Space, Energy, and Industrial Strategy”

### Panel 2

*The EU’s Role in Civil Society and Energy Security*  
Moderator: Cajetan Späth, University of Regensburg

- Angel Fan, UC Berkeley, “The EU’s Role in Civil Society Building in the Post-War Western Balkans”
- Johnny Li, UC Berkeley, “Lessons from Europe’s Green Deal”
- Tony Ordoukhanian, UC Berkeley, “Armenia and the EU: Navigating Nuclear Energy and Sustainability Goals”

### Keynote

Isabella Tomás, Austrian Consul in San Francisco



## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW WINTER SCHOOL (IPAL 2024)

From December 6 to December 18, 2024, Nova University School of Law in Lisbon, Portugal hosted its second annual Intensive Program in Anti-Discrimination Law (IPAL 2024). IES Associate Director Akasemi Newsome, taught a session titled, “Race and ethnicity: A comparative analysis of anti-discrimination law in the US and the EU.” IES Faculty Affiliate and Berkeley Law Professor David Oppenheimer, also taught a session titled, “The Diversity Principle.”



Organized by Professor Nausica Palazzo, the program covered comparative anti-discrimination law, delving into its historical foundations, comparative legal frameworks, and litigation practices. Offered in a hybrid format, program participants included undergraduate and graduate students, government officials, lawyers, judges, social workers, NGO experts and legal scholars seeking to broaden their knowledge on combating discrimination.



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*Thanks to our fantastic team of undergraduate reporters!*

Pictured Below: Atiana Elena Novikoff, David Nicholas Eick, Ria Charlotte Utz, Lily Margaret Shandalove, Lisette Gomez-Galvan, Sitara Gupta, Chris Alejandro Ojeda, Claire Sofia Ducharme, Annelies van Haeften, Paula Rossignoli Santos  
Not Pictured: Luca Zislin

## EDITORIAL TEAM

