Dear friends of the Institute of European Studies,

It is with great pleasure that I am sending you my first newsletter as IES Director, produced by our student reporters. The Fall 2014 semester started with good news. In September, we were informed that the US Department of Education decided to award IES four more years of Title VI National Resource Center funding, including Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships. This support allows IES to continue its programming and to initiate some exciting new projects. A few weeks later, we also received good news from our Portuguese Studies Program: the Portuguese Luso-American Foundation decided to renew its grant to the PSP. This generous grant will make it possible for the Portuguese Studies Program to continue and expand its activities in Portuguese language and culture as well as in the cultures of other Portuguese-speaking countries around the globe. Deolinda Adão, Executive Director of the PSL, will spearhead the new initiative by IES and other research centers on the Berkeley campus to reach out to community colleges in the Bay Area in order to give students from low-income families access to international studies. This outreach will be supported with Title VI funds. I am also pleased to inform that our Center for German and European Studies, led by Beverly Crawford, received a two-year grant from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for an exciting new slate of activities focused on the theme: “Global Germany.” Conferences, lecture series, student exchanges, and Graduate Student Study Groups will support innovative research focused on Germany’s new role in the world and the world’s impact on Germany.

In cooperation with the UC Berkeley Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Department for Near Eastern Studies, IES will also use its Title VI funds to co-sponsor a new course in advanced Turkish in order to strengthen Turkish language education on the Berkeley campus. Straddling both the European and Asian continents, Turkish is a strategic language with inadequate coverage in the US. It is also an official minority language in Cyprus and Greece, and a minority language in several other European nations. Germany alone counts about 3 million Turkish speakers. IES is well positioned to support training in Turkish. It participates in the EU-sponsored International Research Exchange with both Yasar University and Middle East Technical University in Turkey, which regularly brings Turkish visiting scholars to IES. The IES-sponsored “Moving Europe Project” on immigration and integration also gives special attention to German-Turkish relations from a cultural and linguistic perspective.

Title VI funding will also be used to build, in cooperation with the UC Berkeley Department of Scandinavian, a new European language program on the Berkeley campus: Icelandic Studies. Straddling both the Atlantic and the Arctic Oceans, Iceland is a strategic language in the transatlantic connections between the US and Europe as well as between Europe and the Arctic. With this new program, the Department of Scandinavian will be offering five Nordic languages: Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, and Danish. Via a high-speed video-conference connection, these language courses are also offered to students of the University of California Los Angeles.

I am also pleased to inform you that after several years of separation, the France-Berkeley Fund is returning to its former office in Moses Hall as part of IES. Under the renewed leadership of Prof. Larry Hyman, the France-Berkeley Fund promotes scholarly exchange in all disciplines between UC Berkeley and all research centers and public institutions of higher education in France. The France-Berkeley Fund will also take the lead in reviving our French Studies Program.

I have good news for those interested in the Netherlands and the Benelux region in general. Berkeley’s Dutch Studies Program, based in the Department of German, has decided to extend its program to IES, where it will organize events on the Netherlands, Flanders, Dutch colonial history, the bilingual (French/Dutch) city of Brussels, and the historic Low Countries, today’s Benelux region.

This newsletter provides an opportunity to look back at some of the events that were organized at IES during the Fall 2014 semester. In cooperation

IES Manager Gia White, IES Director Jeroen Dewulf and IES Associate Director Beverly Crawford
with our partners from the Goethe Institute, IES organized a panel discussion on the First World War that was moderated by Monika Bäuerlein, award-winning editor-in-chief of the magazine Mother Jones. The panel included the distinguished author and historian Adam Hochschild, DAAD Professor of German History Andrea Sinn and Eva Knopf, a filmmaker whose recent documentary Majub’s Journey chronicles the story of the German colonial Askari corps during the First World War. In cooperation with the UC Berkeley Department of German and the Stefan Zweig Centre in Salzburg, Austria, IES organized an international conference on the Austrian Jewish author Stefan Zweig. It brought together leading experts on Zweig’s life and work to discuss its message for today, particularly given that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the First World War - a catastrophic event which Zweig called the end of the World of Yesterday and the advent of modernity. Another highlight of the Fall 2014 was the visit of Hans-Gert Pöttering, former President of the European Parliament and current chairman of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. In cooperation with the UC Berkeley Department of German, IES also paid attention to the arrival of the new president of the European Commission in a lecture about Jean-Claude Juncker by Sonja Kmec, historian at the University of Luxembourg and visiting professor at the UC Berkeley Department of German.

IES is proud of its strong cohort of visiting scholars, some of whom enriched our programming with presentations on their current research. Among them were Martin Klaffke from the Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft in Berlin, who discussed the complex challenges posed by Germany’s shifting demographics to that country’s economic future and Mehrnem Gilian Özerim from Dokuz Eylul University in Izmir, Turkey, who delivered a lecture on populist far-right movements in Europe.

The highlight of the 2014 Fall semester was the annual Gerald D. and Norma Feldman lecture. This year’s speaker was distinguished historian Roger Chickering, Professor Emeritus from Georgetown University. In his very well attended lecture, Chickering discussed modern Germany’s peculiar path (Sonderweg) into the era of the First World War, posing the question whether Germany’s experience of this war was different in basic respects from France’s or Britain’s. He paid particular attention to the military impact and longer-term developmental consequences of these differences. His lecture provided a wonderful occasion to remember the great legacy of former IES director Gerald D. Feldman.

Without the support of my colleagues at IES and our partner programs, none of this would have been possible. Their tireless efforts allowed us to overcome the challenges posed by the severe cutbacks our institute suffered at the end of Spring 2014 semester. I am also grateful to our student ambassadors Yichu, Claudia, Fiona, Elisabeth, E embrace, Student, and Anne, who received and rejuvenated our Institute with their energy and enthusiasm. I am equally grateful to the friends of IES who provided much needed financial support to our Institute on the Big Give day. The one person I would like to single out is Norma von Roehlert-Knol, whose generous contributions allow us to keep the memory of her beloved husband and former EIES Director Dr. Feldman alive on the Berkeley campus and beyond.

New exciting events are awaiting us next semester, most notably the building of a new degree in European Studies at the Ph.D. level, which will bring together at IES a core group of distinguished Europeanists from a large variety of departments on the Berkeley campus. Plans are also in the making of a Nordic Studies Program and a BENELUX Program at IES. A conference on translation and interpretation, organized in cooperation with the EU commission and the Berkeley Language Center, as well as lectures by our Senior Fellows Costa Paparellis and David Large have also been planned. I am confident that with your support, IES will be successful in realizing its place as one of the nation’s leading research centers on Europe. I can’t wait for the Spring 2015 semester to start!

Kind regards,

Jeroen Dewulf
Director, Institute of European Studies

IES Manager Gio White, IES Director Jens Dewulf, Executive Director of the Portuguese Program Deolinda Adao and the Fall 2014 URAP students
On Tuesday, September 16th, the Institute of European Studies hosted a panel discussion titled “100 Years Later: What Effect Remains from WWI?” The event, co-sponsored by the Goethe Institute and moderated by Monika Bäuerlein, award-winning editor-in-chief of the magazine Mother Jones, brought together three noted experts on the period to consider the war’s continuing effects at the centenary of its start. Each guest, drawing from their personal research, contributed a unique insight on a minority perspective often ignored in conventional wartime narratives.

Ms. Bäuerlein opened the evening to an appropriately martial background of drumming from outside as she introduced the topic and the speakers. The first panelist, Adam Hochschild, is a lecturer in the Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism and a distinguished author, best known for the bestselling popular history books *King Leopold’s Ghost* (1998) and *To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914–1918* (2011). Mr. Hochschild emphasized the paradoxical way we remember WWI today, split between adoration of heroes and mourning the victims. He asked if we are to remember the war in its entirety, should we only emphasize the heroism and sacrifice, or instead engage in discussion about the problems caused by war itself. He further noted that post-war society tends to forget war’s atrocities, citing museums that curate exhibits with an array of advanced weaponry and ‘cans of beans’ rather than testaments to the evils and unresolved tensions resulting from conflict.

Andrea Sinn, the second speaker and DAAD professor of German history at UC Berkeley, discussed how the war affected the German Jewish community, inflaming anti-Semitic tensions among society in general while offering the Jews an opportunity to show their loyalty to the nation, which many eagerly accepted. She highlighted the importance of drawing from personal narratives in historical research, as she has done in her current work exploring how German Jewish women experienced the war, which draws on intensely personal sources such as diaries.

Professor Sim’s lecture laid the groundwork for the final speaker of the evening, Eva Knopf, a filmmaker whose recent documentary “Majub’s Journey” shines light on one of the more obscure historical aspects of the period. The film chronicles the life of Majub bin Adam Mohamed, an African veteran of the German colonial Askari corps during WWI. His struggle for recognition by the German government in the interwar period, and his subsequent career as a film extra in the 1930s. Her presentation was accompanied by rare images of Askari soldiers and Majub himself. Ms. Knopf spoke about her passion for creating films that attempt to depict history fairly and lend attention to the oft-ignored.

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

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Adam Hochschild and Monika Bäuerlein

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Fall Newsletter 2014
Writers and scholars from around the world gathered in Berkeley on September 24 and 25th for a two-day conference on the Austrian Jewish writer Stefan Zweig. The event, organized by the Institute of European studies in collaboration with the Stefan Zweig Centre in Salzburg, the UC Berkeley Dept. of German, and the Goethe Institute in San Francisco brought together leading experts on Zweig’s life and work to discuss its relevance for today, particularly given that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the First World War - a catastrophic event which Zweig called the end of the “World of Yesterday” and the advent of modernity.

Day one of the conference was opened with remarks by Professor Deniz Göktürk, Chair of the Berkeley Department of German, and Dr. Klemens Renoldner, Director of the Stefan Zweig Centre. Presenters included Gilad Sharvit (UC Berkeley/Hebrew University of Jerusalem); Gregor Thuswaldner (Gordon College); Arturo Larcati (University of Verona); Daniela Strigl (University of Vienna); and Norbert Christian Wolf (Salzburg University). The evening ended with a pleasant wine and cheese reception. Day two of the conference opened with Rüdiger Görner (Queen Mary University of London), followed by Arnhilt Höfle (University of Vienna); Ashwin Manthripragada (Hobart and William Smith Colleges); and Jeroen Dewulf, professor at UC Berkeley and director of the Institute of European studies. Closing remarks on the subject of Zweig and World War I were made by Professor Göktürk. The subjects covered in the various lectures presented were broad, from Zweig’s relations with Freud, the Bible, and the idea of Utopia, but also his connection to China, India and Brazil.

Dr. Renoldner, the Zweig Centre’s director and co-organizer of the conference, hailed the conference as a great success. It is a continuation of the overall mission of the center, which seeks to familiarize the public with Zweig’s corpus and promote his work both at home and abroad. The center, established in 2008, provides resources such as documents and photographs for the general public interested in learning more about Austrian literature. Additionally, they host lectures and readings for groups and students, encouraging them to come and engage with Zweig’s work. Dr. Renoldner refers to Zweig as one of the “largest networking energies” of the time, collecting information and channeling it into an optimistic view of the world. Dr. Renoldner seeks to continue that global vision by collaborating internationally with various other German departments: last year they held conferences in France, Italy, and Great Britain, and this year they are hoping to travel to Shanghai. Dr. Renoldner praised UC Berkeley, and his interactions with the Institute of European Studies and its director, Dr. Jeroen Dewulf. When asked about his stay in Berkeley, Dr. Renoldner says he “would have liked to have had to have studied here!”

Klemens Renoldner, Director Stefan Zweig Centre Salzburg, IES Director Jeroen Dewulf with the speakers at the Stefan Zweig Conference
On Monday, October 6, former President of the European Parliament Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering visited IES to deliver a talk entitled “Europe: Player or Loser?” Dr. Pöttering, the longest-serving member of the European Parliament, has represented the Christian Democrats continuously since the first European elections in 1979. His talk was arranged in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation which Dr. Pöttering has chaired since 2010. The talk was part of a broader visit to the United States on behalf of the foundation, which promotes civic participation and good transatlantic relations.

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

After his speech Dr. Pöttering fielded several difficult questions from the audience, on topics ranging from the rise of far-right parties in European politics to the danger posed by Islamic terrorists returning to Europe from the conflict in Syria. Each answer received a thorough response from Dr. Pöttering, whose thoughtful engagement with the assembled students and visitors was well-received. He re-emphasized his commitment to maintaining the union in the face of Euro-skeptic parties in France and England, arguing that while certain decisions must be made at different levels of government, if legislatures become too attached to their own locality, they can become nearsighted in their judgement. Likewise, he admitted, many decisions are better made at the local level where their implications can be better understood. He also reaffirmed that while radical Islamists pose a threat to Europe one must be careful not to fall into anti-immigrant rhetoric. In a moment that captured the atmosphere of the dialogue and one’s sense of the man, someone called Dr. Pöttering “a very important person”, but in return he said “we are all equal beings.” He ended his session to enthusiastic applause and profound thanks of everyone in attendance, and left a strong impression that will not soon be forgotten.

Speaker Hans-Gert Pöttering
On October 7th, the IES welcomed Professor Martin Klaffke (Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft, Berlin), a visiting scholar in Fall 2014, to discuss the complex challenges posed by Germany’s shifting demographics to that country’s economic future. Klaffke began his discussion by asking his audience: “Why are you here?” The answers varied, but the majority of the audience members were driven by curiosity about Germany’s economic state and the future of the German workforce.

Professor Klaffke answered this curiosity with a provocative presentation about the demographic shock that his research suggests the German workforce is about to experience. With the birth rate down, Germany faces a potential drop in employable citizens that will leave it undermanned by millions. In order to counteract this phenomenon, the German government has increased the retirement age to 67 and stimulated students to graduate earlier, causing employees to work longer and start work earlier, but creating an unusually heterogeneous age range in the German workforce. This broad variety, though possessing the potential for success, also seems daunting and problematic because of the unique differences that arise between generations. Klaffke proposed several stages of resolution in order to construct a level of understanding and teamwork among the varying methods of conducting business and modes of communication among the different ages. Through this mutual understanding, companies could be able to increase their opportunity for growth and limit workplace hostility, a point which he illustrated by referring to the success of Daimler and Deutsche Bahn in this field. Prof. Klaffke closed his presentation by opening the floor for questions, during which audience members engaged in a spirited debate which united a number of perspectives for an enlightening discussion.

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

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

The guests mingled for nearly two hours in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, sampling a wide variety of locally-catered foods and wines provided by the institute which were met with universal applause. When the evening finally drew to a close, there was a palpable reluctance on the part of many attendees to leave such a pleasant and welcoming environment, with many complimenting Professor Dewulf and his supporting staff on the reception’s success.
Visiting scholar Mehmet Gökay Özerim (Dokuz Eylül University, Turkey) delivered the first of a series of lectures on immigration in Europe on October 15. In a presentation based on his doctoral research, Özerim analyzed the recent rise of anti-immigrant rhetoric from far-right nationalist and populist parties in Europe. Drawing from party leader’s statements, speeches, and campaign propaganda, he argued that the current forceful anti-immigrant rhetoric these parties display has multiple, uniquely local, causes and larger-reaching effects than often realized. Rather than being solely a result of increased immigration, Özerim asserted that the increased focus on immigration was partially due to a de-emphasis of other traditional party platforms frequently coupled with xenophobia and Islamophobia. Locally, this is filtered through and presented cucked in region-specific concerns, such as the Freedom Party of Austria’s emphasis on “Heimat” and preserving regional culture or the Swedish Democrat’s caution over the cohesiveness of Swedish Society; the sustainability of the social state and immigrant’s use of government services is also a frequent and popular appeal. For this reason, Özerim argued, although no far-right group currently has the necessary support to form a government, they do possess the ability to shift discourses to the right as mainstream parties struggling in elections look to co-opt their strategies and policies. Most crucially, he stressed the importance of the Middle Eastern origin of these immigrants and its role in a growing fear of Muslim terrorism in Europe, especially with concerns of unassimilated, radicalized immigrants and returnees from the Syrian conflict.

Using the framework of the Copenhagen School of international relations, Özerim discussed how the “securitization” of society and the politicization of immigration issues affect political discourse in Europe. By successfully labeling certain groups as “security issues”, such parties gain the ability to control discourse on the subject and push for various anti-immigrant measures; once labeled as such, immigration moves out of the sphere of politics and becomes much more difficult to discuss. The simple fact of the resurgence of these groups and their more blatantly anti-Islamic propaganda, Özerim argued, reflects their success in shaping these key issues according to their intentions. After his talk a light lunch was served for those in attendance, and Mr. Özerim took questions from the audience; he was well prepared to answer even questions from some skeptical of his conclusions and promised to delve further into some issues raised in his speech the following week.
Michiel Scheffer, a member of the Gelderland Regional Parliament in the Netherlands, visited the Institute of European Studies on October 17 to give a lecture entitled “Globalisation, European Integration and Regionalisation: The Ordeal of Border-Regions.” Mr. Scheffer has been active in local politics for over twenty years, representing the party Democrats ’66 (D’66). Since 1994 he has been a member of the Gelderland regional parliament, and since 2011 has been party chairman of the D’66 in that region. He frequently travels to Brussels as a lobbyist to promote regional concerns of the European level, while also serving as a consultant for various Dutch companies. Mr. Scheffer’s visit to Berkeley comes as part of a wider visit to the San Francisco Bay Area.

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

Speaker: Michiel Scheffer

October 17: Dutch Politician Gives Lecture on European Border-Regions
On Tuesday, October 21, the Institute of European Studies hosted a lecture entitled "Europe’s New Chief Executive: Jean-Claude Juncker’s Journey from Prime Minister to President of the European Commission." The lecture, which was co-sponsored by the Consulate-General of Luxembourg, was a profile of Mr. Juncker, the third Luxembourgian politician to attain Europe’s highest position. The speaker for the evening was Professor Sonja Kmec, Associate Professor of History at the University of Luxembourg, who is currently a visiting lecturer at the Department of German at UC Berkeley, teaching a class on the development of Luxembourgian identity in a European context.

The evening began with a short address from Consul-General Georges Schmit, who thanked the audience for its interest in and support for Luxembourgian cultural events and acknowledged the Institute of European Studies for its help in organizing the event. Professor Kmec then took the podium. Using the model of the mythological “hero’s journey,” she surveyed Juncker’s career from his beginnings in Luxembourgian politics, his journey to the post of Prime Minister, and finally his appointment as President of the European Commission. Starting early in his political life, she noted his rapid rise in the Christian Social People’s Party (CSV) and the importance of the mentorship of the then-Prime Minister Jacques Santer. Following this she analyzed Juncker’s term of nearly two decades as Prime Minister of Luxembourg, and how his efforts to modernize his party, the CSV, kept it in power throughout that time and profoundly shaped the country. She explained that government’s many achievements while not shying away from certain controversies that dogged its tail end.

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

After finishing Kmec took questions from the audience, many of whom were members of the San Francisco Luxembourgian community. With the lecture concluded Consul-General Schmit made a few closing remarks before inviting the assembled guests to stay for a reception, where they would be able to ask further questions of him and Professor Kmec. Catered food and desserts were provided and the Consul-General of Luxembourg supplied a number of bottles of excellent Luxembourgian white and sparkling wines from the country’s Moselle region. In an occurrence rare outside the Grand Duchy, the room was soon filled with the cheerful sounds of people chatting congenially in Luxembourgian. The Consul-General and IES Director Jeroen Dewulf agreed that the event was a great success, and expressed their hope for further cultural cooperation in the future.
The Institute of European Studies concluded its fall program on a high note on Thursday, November 13, with its annual Gerald D. and Norma Feldman Lecture. The Feldman Lecture is dedicated to the memory of the late Gerald D. Feldman, a professor of German History at UC Berkeley and director of the Institute of European Studies for nearly a decade, and is generously sponsored by his widow, Mrs. Norma Feldman. The lecture honors Professor Feldman’s memory and the many years of guidance he provided the institute. This year’s speaker was Roger Chickering, Professor Emeritus of German History at Georgetown University, who delivered a lecture entitled “Imperial Germany’s Peculiar War, 1914-18”. The lecture was the culmination of a series hosted by the Institute on the centenary of World War I, and was held in the Heyns Room of Berkeley’s Faculty Club. The event drew an exceptionally large audience, which filled the room to capacity and required the addition of an extra three rows of chairs to hold all the attendees.

The evening opened with remarks by IES Director, Jeroen Dewulf, who used the opportunity to thank Mrs. Feldman for her support before providing a short introduction for Professor Chickering. Professor Chickering then took the podium, warmly thanking the Institute for the introduction. He provided the outline for his talk, which examined to what extent WWI can be described as a “peculiar” war for Germany. Making a point to question the audience about preconceived notions of the war, Professor Chickering addressed several key features of the war he argued were frequently distorted in public discourse: the state of the German bureaucracy, and militarism. He then explored the various military and developmental consequences of the war on Germany, France, and Great Britain. He used these aspects of the aftermath of WWI to decipher whether or not the German experience differed from that of France and Great Britain in several key fields, such as politics, labor, military planning, and propaganda. In doing so he questioned the famous “Sonderweg” theory of German history, that its unusual - generally described as incomplete - modernization in the 19th century led to the upheavals of the 20th. However, Chickering argued that the experience these three countries shared in the war was not so different labor unrest, for example, affected all three countries, while the mutinies of the French Army in 1917, much less known than their German counterparts at the end of the war, illustrated similar frustrations in the two countries. Chickering argued that too often perspectives on the First World War are colored by knowledge of the Second, but that accurate evaluation requires a more detached evaluation and that the central premise of the Sonderweg, using France and Britain as a model for normal development, is fundamentally flawed. The presentation ended with a question and answer session, during which the room erupted in a spirited discussion. The level of discussion was quite advanced: many attendees strongly agreed with Chickering, while some asked insightful questions about his work and still others brought up additional points that added much to the discussion. Following the lecture was a reception catered by the Faculty Club, during which time Professor Chickering made himself available for an open conversation.
Enjoy our presentations? Want to see more in the future? Consider supporting the Institute of European Studies with a financial donation. All donations go towards bringing you quality, informative events designed to broaden your knowledge of European affairs and deepen cross-Atlantic relations. Your generous gift will allow us to expand our program and ensure the consistent high-quality and availability of our offerings. IES is grateful to all supporters local, national, and international. All gifts, large and small are enormously appreciated.

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Jeroen Dewulf
Director, Institute of European Studies
207 Moses Hall
University of California, Berkeley
CA 94720-2316
Phone: (510) 642-4535
Email: jdewulf@berkeley.edu
Web: ies.berkeley.edu

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Tomás Lane | Editor-in-Chief
Elie Katzenson, Tomás Lane, Cherry Xueying Hong | Photographs
Tomás Lane, Tara Lookabaugh, Elie Katzenson, Madeline Zimring | Content
Yichu Cao, Claudia Marin, Nancy Ruiz | Event coordination
Sean Bartlett | Layout
Gia White | Supervision

Newsletter Staff

25