Institute of European Studies
Spring 2016 Newsletter
In this issue, I am proud to inform you that, precisely at a time when the EU is under so much pressure, our Institute was able to build a team of EU Student Ambassadors. Some of you may have already seen the EU Table on Sproul, where our EU Student Ambassadors spread awareness of the importance of the EU and encourage their peers to learn more about the EU and its many programs for young people. Of course, the EU Table also informs students about the lectures and grant opportunities at our Institute. Under the direction of Yasmin Bou Hamze, our EU Student Ambassador group successfully organized the very first undergraduate conference in Europe on the subject of "A Polarizing Europe: Identity, Aesthetics and Radiant Symbols in the Public Space." In February, Dr. Bartolomeo Conti (Fulbright visiting scholar) and Dr. Betsy Cooper (Executive Director of Berkeley's Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity) presented a workshop on the radicalization process within the Muslim community. In March, the group welcomed a delegation from the European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs; and in April, Fulbright Visiting Professor Tomas Koncewicz discussed turbulent political developments in Poland.

Much will depend on the result of the British referendum, which our Institute will be following closely. The highlights of this semester’s lecture series were the presentations of Professor Tomasz Koncewicz, who discussed turbulent political developments in Poland; and Robert Hellus, a surprisingly optimistic vision of the future of the EU; Michael Goering (CEO of PNG), who gave a talk on the profound impact of the refugee crisis on his country; Manfred Weber, Chairman of EPP (the largest parliamentary group in the EU Parliament), who gave a talk on the impact of the refugee crisis on his country; Evangelos Venizelos, former Deputy Prime Minister of Greece, who came to speak about Greece’s involvement in the European fiscal crisis; and in April, Fulbright Visiting Professor Tomas Koncewicz discussed turbulent political developments in Poland.

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Van Sprang: Welcome to Berkeley, Mr. Erbeznik! I am very interested to hear more about your project. Have you always done academic research?

Erbeznik: Thank you, Niki. Yes, I have. I earned a PhD specializing in criminal law and the role of the judge in democratic nations. In general, I find criminal procedure law more interesting than criminal material law because, in criminal material law, you have one immediately constituent constitutional law, whereas in criminal procedure law, there are many other constitutional laws, like the privilege against self-incrimination and the right to privacy. This is a much broader field of application – a very interesting field.

VS: In Europe, are all laws that constitute the field of criminal law EU laws, or just certain ones?

S: In Europe, there are divisions between federal-level and state-level laws. In the EU, there are bureau state prerogatives, federal prerogatives, and prerogatives which are mixed. Sometimes, the federation takes the prerogatives; other times, it does not. In this way, it is very similar to the United States.

VS: There is a lot happening in the EU right now. One current issue is the possible Brexit. How does that influence your work? How do you view the Brexit issue?

E: It influences my work because the UK has the ability to decide whether or not to take part in criminal law. They have a special status. I very much support the UK being part of the European Union because it is a well-established democracy and an old member state. It brings a very interesting perspective to criminal law with regards to the preservation of higher national standards and other similar issues.

VS: Do you believe the EU should be in charge of criminal law?

E: I am in support of this if it means that both federal and national standards are raised. If federal standards are higher than national standards, however, there are many different federal laws. In this way, we have at the moment in the EU with regards to criminal law is which standard should be accepted as the federal standard. Should it be the lowest common denominator, the highest standard, or complex situations, it can also apply to larger-scale issues.

VS: Why do you continue to do research in this area?

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This semester, IES co-sponsored the opening of No Legacy || Literatura electrónica, an exhibition displaying experimental works of literature from a number of linguistic traditions. In this article, IES URAP student Camryn Bell contextualizes her impressions of the exhibit using an interview conducted with exhibit co-curator Alexandra Saum-Pascual, providing a comprehensive overview to the project's overall effects and goals.

Walking through the north entrance of Doe Library, one notices a striking juxtaposition of traditional with contemporary. Sharply contrasting the classical architecture and marble designs of the entryway, the No Legacy || Literatura Electrónica exhibit does not fit preconceived notions of what one should find in a typical university library. Tall, wooden structures encase computers and monitors containing electronic literatures ranging from poetry to interactive texts. In an interview with the Institute, Alexandra Saum-Pascual, co-curator of the exhibit, stated that the choice to display the collection in Doe Library “disrupts the traditional idea of both archival and material practices of literature.”

This type of radical thinking is at the core of the NL||LE exhibit. Electronic literature itself is somewhat radical in the sense that its definition is fluid. The leading source in electronic literature, the Electronic Literature Organization, defines e-lit as “works with important literary aspects that take advantage of the capabilities and contexts provided by the stand-alone or networked computer.” Expanding on this definition, Saum-Pascual believes that electronic literature is “a type of literature or literary experience that cannot be conceived without the participation of the machine.” She added that “electronic literature can be printed, as there can be works that were created in a computer that interrogate print technology and examine how print has been digitized.” Electronic literature is varied and complex, and the exhibit well reflects its diverse nature.

Saum-Pascual is an assistant professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese who teaches classes on contemporary Spanish literature. She is also part of the Berkeley Center for New Media (BCNM). The inspiration for the exhibit emerged after she attended the Digital Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Victoria with co-curator Élika Ortega (University of Kansas). Saum-Pascual began to think about “literature as something that could be manipulated as an object and performed in a space.” With this idea in mind, the two scholars proposed the idea to Berkeley administrators and the BCNM, and, upon approval, began organizing the exhibit. Featuring works in Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, and English, Saum-Pascual and Ortega’s project showcases sixteen installations of digital works – presented on various devices, such as iPads and older generation iMacs – alongside approximately fifty experimental works in print.

Reflecting on the nuances of the multilayered exhibits, Saum-Pascual discussed the element of translation in electronic literature, the classification of literature in general, and the revolutionary role of the Internet, both in the sense of its communicative properties and its capabilities for the production of novel art forms. The latter is evident in “The Aleph: Infinite Wonder/ Infinite Pity” by David Hirmes, which is one of Saum-Pascual’s favorite pieces. The work compiles tweets that begin with “I Saw,” creating an amalgamation of different emotions and expressions.

Concluding her interview with the Institute, Saum-Pascual expressed her hope that visitors leave with an appreciation for literature’s integral role in their everyday environment. “Literature can be touched and played with; everybody has access to it,” she said. “I want people to question their assumptions of literature and to open their minds to what it can be in our current, twenty-first century digital condition.”

The No Legacy || Literatura Electrónica exhibit, located in the Bernice Layne Brown Gallery in Doe Library, runs from March 11 to September 2, 2016.
February 3, 2016: The Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the EU

The Institute of European Studies opened its spring program on February 3 with a lecture by Georges Schmit, Consul General of Luxembourg in San Francisco, on the results of the Luxembourgian presidency of the Council of the EU. Having served as the general director for Luxembourg’s Ministry of the Economy and Foreign Trade prior to coming to the Bay Area in 2009, Schmit has had a wealth of professional experience in economic development and policy making. Schmit explained that Luxembourg had two primary goals during its presidency: the stimulation of better law-making and the reinvigoration of European integration. Despite the fact that the refugee crisis forced the EU Council to change its agenda dramatically, Schmit showed that much progress was made during the Luxembourg presidency, including the deepening of the European Union’s social dimension and the placement of competitiveness in both global and transparent frameworks. Overall, Schmit assessed Luxembourg’s performance as successful in achieving a wealth of different goals throughout its incumbency.
February 4, 2016: From Wartime Germany to the Federal Reserve Board

On February 4, IES welcomed Robert Heller, former Governor of the Federal Reserve Board and CEO of VISA, to the Berkeley campus. His presentation centered around the content of his memoir, *The Unlikely Governor: An American Immigrant’s Journey from Wartime Germany to the Federal Reserve Board*, which chronicles his experiences growing up in Cologne, Germany, during World War II and, eventually, coming to the United States to attend university and pursue a career. During his talk, Heller recounted a number of these entertaining and, at times, tragic anecdotes – from his time living with his family in a cave in war-torn Germany, to the tumult of earning a PhD at UC Berkeley at the height of the Free Speech Movement, to landing positions at Bank of America and, ultimately, the Federal Reserve Board. Through these experiences, Heller highlighted the different ways in which his life’s challenges and subsequent triumphs culminated in what was to become a long, successful career. To conclude, Heller reminded attendees of how, in the midst of every disaster, there lies an opportunity.
In a lecture entitled “Facing New Challenges: The Past and Present of the Italian Economy,” Marco Doria, Mayor of Genoa and Researcher at the University of Genoa, recounted an economic history of Italy from the turn of the nineteenth century to the present. Doria explained that industrialization in the nineteenth century significantly altered the country’s percentage of domestic sector shares of Gross National Product. Italy’s shift of these GNP pluralities, in tandem with many other industrialized European nations such as Germany, was defined by a movement from a predominantly agricultural economy to a more service-based economy. That process, however, did not reach its peak until after World War II, and Italy continues to struggle with economic issues surrounding the attainment of sustainable growth in the present.

Main domestic figures that have played important roles in the shaping of Italy’s economic history include entrepreneurs, businessmen, politicians, and various other social actors. Doria’s historical framework for economic analysis provided key insights into the contemporary problems facing Italy’s economy given the increasingly globalized market.
February 10, 2016: Portuguese Modernism

The Portuguese Studies Program, in cooperation with the Luso-American Foundation and the Camões Institute, closed its “Almada Untold” exhibit on February 10 with a lecture given by Duarte Pinheiro, Camões Institute Lecturer in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and Deolinda Adão, Executive Director of the Portuguese Studies Program. Pinheiro started the presentation with an overview of the life and work of Almada Negreiros, a famous poet and artist of the Portuguese modernist movement. As part of this overview, he analyzed one of Negreiros’ poems, “Canção da Saudade,” which, he explained, exemplifies the rupture that occurred between modernism and other Portuguese literary movements of the period. This rupture is most clearly exhibited through the poem’s marriage of decadent structure and language with thematic content that is far from decadent. He also explained the importance of the concept of freedom for Negreiros and other modernist poets, who believed that this freedom involved the transcendence of established artistic limitations.

Adão further examined this innovative nature of Portuguese modernism in her portion of the lecture, which focused on the defining characteristics of the movement as a whole. The modernist project, she explained, centered itself around the view of Portugal as artistically backwards and modeled itself after the work of other modernist and avant-garde movements throughout Europe. Some of the most common characteristics of these works include introspection, the expression of complex thoughts through everyday language, and a strive for originality and authenticity. In her conclusion, she discussed modernism’s influence on contemporary movements, suggesting the impact modernism has had in redefining traditional conceptions of art and its purpose in society.

During the question and answer session, the lecture’s scope widened to include the historical context of the movement. Also, in response to a question on the goals of modernism, Adão expressed her hesitation with using the word “deconstruction” to characterize the modernist project. For her, this word does not fit because of the subsequent reconstruction it implies. According to Adão, the modernists were not interested in merely reconstructing what they had deconstructed; rather, they wanted to leave the pieces unassembled in such a way that would allow for the reader or viewer to reconstruct the meaning of the work in his own terms.
On February 11, in cooperation with the Norway House Foundation, the Nordic Studies Program welcomed Reverend Dagfinn Kvale and Mr. Carl Blom to Moses Hall for a talk on Norwegian seafarers and their role in the Second World War. At the beginning of the talk, both men emphasized the importance of Norway’s long coastline to its livelihood. Because of this distinctive geographic feature, the country has been known for its shipping industry and its relatively large merchant marine fleet. The pair then provided detailed descriptions of Norway’s involvement in the war effort. At the outbreak of the Second World War, the Norwegian government wanted to remain neutral. This did not last, however, owing to the German invasion of the country on April 9, 1940. Many Norwegians resisted Nazi rule, and the Norwegian merchant marine fleet greatly contributed to the Allied Forces’ eventual triumph over the Axis Powers through their shipping of petroleum to Great Britain. Without the assistance of the Norwegian seafarers, the British army might not have been able to defend itself against Germany. Blom concluded the talk by speculating as to how this painful part of Norway’s history could have influenced its continued reluctance to join the European Union. In the question and answer portion of the talk, the men elaborated on the fate of Vidkun Quisling, the Norwegian military officer who governed Norway in collaboration with the Nazi occupying forces. A reception followed, allowing guests to indulge in a generous spread of Nordic cuisine provided by Sirpa Tuomainen, Executive Director of the Nordic Studies Program.
February 16, 2016: Modern Jewish Intellectual History as a History of Friendship

In cooperation with the Center for Jewish Studies, IES hosted a lecture on February 16 given by Philipp Lenhard, Professor of Modern Jewish History at the University of Munich. Lenhard’s talk, entitled “Yours Truly and Forever…” Modern Jewish Intellectual History as a History of Friendship, used three pairs of German-Jewish friends to examine the ways in which Jewish friendships manifested themselves during the modern period. Through these examples, he sought to determine whether or not decisively Jewish modes of friendship existed. To start off the talk, Professor Lenhard gave an overview of the role that theories of friendship have played in analyzing such relationships, emphasizing that these theories need to be applied using a historically-grounded approach in order to make proper evaluations. He then transitioned into a brief discussion of the socio-political context in which these friendships were formed. While Jewish society during the period was predominantly patriarchal, the decline in bourgeois institutions led to the emergence of new ideologies, subsequently resulting in the discovery of friendship as a new mode of forming human connections.

From there, Lenhard delved into the analysis of his selected examples. The first pair – Max Horkheimer and Friedrich Pollock – defined their relationship through a written contract, which outlined the terms and conditions of their friendship as well as installed a regulatory system of checks and balances. As established in the contract, their relationship was to be based on mutual trust, loyalty, and support. Comprising the second pair were Leo Strauss and Jacob Klein, whose relationship was not based on a commonality of personality traits or opinions but, rather, on an acknowledgement of and respect for each other’s differences. The final example was that of Jean Améry and Ernst Mayer, who met in Austria as schoolchildren. This relationship, according to Lenhard, differed greatly from the two previous examples as it was, for the most part, immaterial; having survived Auschwitz during the Second World War, Améry found it emotionally impossible to return to Austria, where Mayer still lived. Because of this, their friendship was grounded on their silently shared memories of the innocent, untouchable past. Ultimately, Améry, unable to live with his painful memories of the Holocaust, committed suicide, physically destroying what remained of the pair’s relationship. Two years later, Mayer met the same fate. Through these examples, Lenhard reached a twofold conclusion: On the one hand, the Jewish history of friendship is embedded in a general history that shares commonalities and that allows for diverse manifestations of these relationships; on the other hand, as exhibited throughout the presentation, there do exist Jewish-specific experiences, such as anti-Semitism, that shape these friendships in a way that sets them apart from others. Following the talk, Lenhard was asked to touch upon the role of women in friendships, at which point he discussed the example of Hannah Arendt.
February 17, 2016: Erich Mendelsohn vs. the Skyscraper Primitives

As part of the “Getting to Know Europe with Berkeley Faculty” lecture series, Greg Castillo, Associate Professor of Architecture, gave a talk entitled “Erich Mendelsohn vs. the Skyscraper Primitives: A Berliner in Jazz-Age Manhattan” on February 17. Throughout his presentation, Castillo provided a vivid overview to the legacy of Mendelsohn’s architecture and architectural philosophy in the United States. More specifically, he analyzed the clash that occurred between Weimar modernism and American primitivism. Referencing a selection of images contained in Mendelsohn’s travelogue, *Amerika: Bilderbuch eines Architekten*, Castillo illustrated how Mendelsohn’s work and the concept of American primitivism influenced each other. He also compared Mendelsohn’s work with the ideas and design theories of other period architects – including Adolf Loos, Gorham Munson, and Walter Gropius – in order to illuminate how Mendelsohn came to terms with the development of modern industrial architecture. This development involved the coupling of aesthetic value with capitalistic purposes, as realized through the addition of advertisement boards and other revolutionary modes of publicity to building façades. Following the lecture came a question and answer session, during which the discussion further examined Mendelsohn’s legacy in Berlin and touched upon the different regulations governing the construction of new buildings in Germany and the United States during the period.
On February 17, the Nordic Studies Program welcomed Stina Katchadourian, writer, translator, and co-president of the San Francisco Chapter of the Finlandia Foundation, to the Berkeley campus. Katchadourian gave a talk centered around the contents of her memoir, *The Lapp King’s Daughter: A Family’s Journey through Finland’s Wars*. Throughout the book, Katchadourian recounts memories of her family’s experiences living in Finland during the Second World War. With war erupting between Finland and Germany and her husband fighting on the frontlines, Katchadourian’s mother made the difficult decision to seek refuge in Sweden with her two daughters, a trying experience she describes at length in the book. One of the stories she referenced was that which related to the use of the phrase “The Lapp King’s Daughter” in the title. This, she recounted, references her time in a Swedish school, where she was frequently bullied for her foreign way of speaking the language. The bullying soon subsided, however, when she used a photograph of her sister with the royal family to convince her schoolmates that they were related to the Lapp King. Special thanks to the Finlandia Foundation for its co-sponsorship of this event and to Sirpa Tuomainen, Executive Director of the Nordic Studies Program, for providing post-lecture refreshments.
February 19, 2016: Italian Mobilities

On February 19, IES held the inaugural event for its new Program for the Study Italy. Ruth Ben-Ghiat and Stephanie Malia Hom, professors in Italian Studies at NYU and the University of Oklahoma respectively, were invited to discuss their new anthology, *Italian Mobilities*, which tackles different methods of enabling and foreclosing both social and physical mobility in such a richly historical culture. Across multiple essays by scholars of Italian Studies, the volume offers a mission statement of revealing “how a country often appreciated for what seems immutable - its classical and Renaissance patrimony - has in fact been shaped by movement and transit.” Opening words from Italian Consul General Mauro Battocchi set the stage for the central tension of the afternoon. He addressed the challenge faced by those invested in Italy, scholars and politicians alike, regarding how to imagine a future even greater than its centuries of history. Many notions of movement discussed in the volume hinge on the dilemma of balancing forward motion with sufficient cultural reverence.

Mia Fuller, Director of the Program for the Study of Italy, then introduced Professors Ben-Ghiat and Hom, who each detailed their unique stakes in compiling this edition. Hom lingered on notions of hospitality, powerfully invoking the refugee crisis in her attempt to centralize her concerns around the tension of who has access to mobility and who does not in Italian society. She identified a conflict between mobility and state power in modern Italy, which appear to coexist in a mutually threatening dynamic. Italian national identity is characterized by a sense of ambiguity, of unfixed cultural boundaries as a result of attempting to establish a modern character through colonialism, nationalism, and other cultural pressures. Ben-Ghiat spoke to a dichotomy between modern political and traditional cultural barricades to mobility as a result of Italy’s tenuous identification of itself as more commonly European. It differs from its neighboring countries not in geography alone, but also in its contemporary fixation on national upward mobility – that is, industrializing to centralize the country in relation to its European peers. Therefore, mobility references both Italian struggles with migration and diaspora as well as a more systemic attempt to increase the country’s modern influence.

Following the talk came an opportunity to ask questions, at which point the discussion touched upon pre-unification mobility, the issue of consumerism in connection with migration, colonial projects, and the role of the Catholic Church in the context of Italian mobilities.
On February 21, IES’ Benelux Program welcomed Frank Willaert, Professor of Dutch literature at the University of Antwerp and holder of this year’s P.P. Rubens Visiting Chair at UC Berkeley. The event was organized in cooperation with the Netherlands-American University League. Willaert was an eloquent speaker, transporting the audience from a small room in Moses Hall to the fourteenth-century town of Bruges. A city that had suffered during the Ghent war, it soon burgeoned as an international port and market.

Most of the talk was focused on the Gruuthuse manuscript (c. 1400), a collection of secular monophonic songs. Rather than explore this medieval city through aged documents, Willaert chose to examine it through song culture developed in its pubs and the palaces. He set the story in the Burg – or the center of the town – in 1382, a year when war was raging between Bruges and Ghent. During that war, the Brugeois sang a socially satirical song characterized by a violent and hateful tone towards the Ghentenars and their allies. Willaert contrasted this song with that of Thomas Fabri’s “Ach Vlaendre vie,” a propagandistic piece performed at the highest levels of the Flemish court that called for unity in a county torn apart by civil war. Both through the playing of polyphonic music and the presenting of his own reenactments, Willaert delivered an animated performance in both Dutch and French. It was a lecture fit for the stage.
February 22, 2015: Germany’s Refugee and Migration Crisis

On February 22, Astrid Ziebarth, Migration Fellow for the Europe Program of the German Marshall Fund, presented a lecture entitled “Germany’s Refugee and Migration Situation in 2016.” This event was made possible with the support of the American Council of Germany. In the first half of the talk, Ziebarth discussed the mounting urgency of addressing the flood of refugees fleeing the war-torn Middle East, stressing it is not just a European crisis, but also a global one. She then highlighted the obstacles German Chancellor Angela Merkel faces after promising to harbor close to one million refugees. In connection with these obstacles, Ziebarth discussed the effort Merkel has led on an international scale to address the flow of refugees through Europe. According to Ziebarth, Merkel has recognized the importance of Turkey in managing the crisis and hopes to strike an agreement concerning the Turkish border. On the domestic level, Ziebarth claimed that the majority of Germans still have a great deal of trust vested in the government and believe that Germany should continue to take in more refugees. With an election looming on the horizon and migration being one of the most important issues in the country, however, Merkel’s migration plan faces intense scrutiny. The second half of the talk was devoted to addressing the audience’s questions. Ziebarth discussed the role of the Cologne attacks in the national conversation about refugees. Later, she also fielded questions about the logistics of harboring so many refugees, more specifically as related to efforts to provide them with shelter and employment. She admitted that, with unrealistic expectations, a housing shortage, and a debilitating language barrier, refugees face many obstacles that complicate the task of starting a new life in Germany.
In a multilingual workshop on February 23 entitled “Loops of Migration” held by the Department of German in cooperation with IES, German-language writer José F. A. Oliver presented a selection of his work and spoke on issues relating to multicultural identity and migration. Son of Andalusian Gastarbeiter, Oliver grew up in Hausach, Germany, where he was regularly exposed to Spanish and Alemannic, a dialect of German commonly spoken in the region. Through a multilingual reading of two of Oliver’s essays (one contained in his latest collection, *Fremdenzimmer*, and the other one unpublished), attendees from a variety of linguistic and academic backgrounds had the opportunity to engage with the original German texts as well as their English translations. These presented translations were completed by Jon Cho-Polizzi, a graduate student in the Department of German and avid translator of Oliver’s work. The discussion following this reading centered around how Oliver and others of migratory backgrounds navigate the situation of being caught between cultures. Related to this topic was how Oliver’s essays and poetry fit in amongst wider German and Spanish literary contexts. As Oliver eloquently described, German readers should accept that one of its authors is not German, while Spanish readers should accept that one of its authors does not write in Spanish. In the current European context, the wide range of migratory topics covered throughout the discussion made for a thought-provoking evening.
February 24, 2016: EU Foreign and Security Policies

On February 24, Marianne Riddervold, IES visiting scholar from the ARENA Centre of European Studies at the University of Oslo, spoke about EU foreign and security policies. In her lecture, she addressed how these policies have developed beyond intergovernmental cooperation and how they take a normative dimension differing from conventional interest-based foreign policy. Referencing her own research on EU Maritime security policies, Riddervold analyzed the decision-making processes and objectives of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). In theory, under the CFSP, power to initiate projects and make decisions should be in the hands of the member-states with veto powers. The various institutions of the EU are only meant to implement decisions; their authority, therefore, is limited. According to Riddervold’s findings, however, the European Commission holds disproportionate amounts of power and acts as a decision-making entity. She offered several examples, including EU naval missions, EU Arctic policies, and the EU Maritime Security Strategy. One question asked following the lecture pertained to the comparison between NATO and the EU and to whether or not the EU has any military power. Riddervold explained that, even though the EU is not a state and lacks an army, it is a federation whose powers are derived from integration and cooperation between member states. While the lack of a formal defense force sets the EU apart from NATO, the EU does have its own intergovernmental military operations. As a political entity, the EU also possesses authority, tools, and power in contexts that NATO, which is purely a defense force, does not.
February 25, 2016: Hitler’s Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields

In cooperation with the Center of Jewish Studies, IES welcomed Wendy Lower for a lecture on her new book, *Hitler’s Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields*. Lower is the director of the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights as well as the John K. Roth Professor of History at Claremont McKenna College. Her research focuses on the role Nazism and the Holocaust played in Eastern Europe. To begin her presentation, Lower gave a description of what led her to specifically study the role of women in the Nazi regime. In 1992, following the end of the Cold War, she traveled to the Ukraine hoping to uncover new documentation relating to the Nazis’ occupation of the country. While she was not very successful in accomplishing this task, something she did notice was the high number of German women who had worked in the region during the period. The role of women in the war effort had typically been seen as an apolitical or passive one; however, her findings proved to be contradictory to this stereotypical view. One phenomenon she came across was that of the “desk killers,” or women who determined from behind a desk who would live and who would perish. Lower proceeded to recount the stories of three different German women who traveled east during the war, compiling their narratives from memoirs, interviews, and photo evidence. Through the experiences of these women, she concluded that women similarly involved were motivated by a desire to make something out of themselves and that they thought joining the occupation forces in the East would give them the opportunity to do so. Upon arrival, these women actively participated in the Nazi oppression. One example, which Lower examined closely throughout her talk, is that of Erna Petri, who shot six innocent Jewish children, allegedly as a way to prove herself to the Nazi soldiers for whom she worked. Following the presentation came a lively question and answer session, during which the discussion centered on Erna Petri’s trial, young girls’ participation in the Hitler Youth, and the book’s reception in Germany and other countries.

Wendy Lower, Director of the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights
February 26, 2016: Forgotten: The Untold Story of D-Day’s Black Heroes

The French Department, in collaboration with the French Studies Program at IES, had the pleasure of welcoming four distinguished speakers to discuss Linda Hervieux’s book Forgotten, *The Untold Story of D-Day’s Black Heroes*. Among the speakers was Professor Tyler Stovall, UC Santa Cruz’s Dean of Humanities, Ricki Stevenson, former Bay Area journalist and talk show host, and Carl Clark, a recently decorated World War II veteran. The presentation began with an eloquent and moving introduction by Stevenson on her father’s experience in the Navy and the tragedy of the forgotten history of African Americans in World War II. Hervieux presented her book through short abstracts of various African American men who had served on D-Day. Few books mention these men and the segregation they were subjected to. Her stories were haunting, stark, and showed the true dedication of men who saw themselves as “American first,” despite being disregarded and forgotten. The talk ended with Clark, who celebrated his 100th birthday this spring. One can get a good understanding of the bravery Clark possesses in his opening statement: “I am not a hero. I am just a man who did his duty to save the men of the ship.” He spoke of his ship that was bombed in the Pacific and how he single-handedly saved another ship from sinking after more than six planes bombed the US fleet. Clark went on to tell of the pervasive racism that was present in the Navy. Nonetheless, he believes the war was “the greatest thing that ever happened to black people,” because it helped the community believe they deserved something better. It was a poignant lecture on the forgotten heroes of the “greatest generation.”

Robin Mills from the BSFO presents speaker Carl Clark with a certificate of excellence.
March 2, 2016: Germany and Its One Million Refugees

IES welcomed Sabine von Mering, Professor of German and Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies and Director of the Center for German and European Studies at Brandeis University, to Moses Hall on March 2. Her lecture discussed various issues and misconceptions surrounding the refugee crisis in Germany. Throughout the talk, she made three main arguments: 1) Germany is, in fact, a country of immigration; 2) The media hype and political failures, not the refugees themselves, have been responsible for the rise of right-wing extremism throughout Europe; and 3) Only broad coalition building and substantial investments in people can adequately solve the crisis.

After briefly discussing the origins of people applying for asylum in the EU and the transformation of the public’s perception of Angela Merkel, she discussed some of the different approaches being made to help these refugees upon their arrival in Germany. For example, Andreas Hollstein, mayor of the town of Altena, approaches the arrival of refugees with the belief that money should be set aside for programs and that the integration of these people into the rest of society should happen from the very beginning. Then, Von Mering gave an overview of the process of applying for and receiving asylum, which she portrayed as time-consuming and complicated. Those who are eventually granted asylum are allowed three years of temporary residence. While they cannot work until they have lived in the country for three months and have proven language skills, refugees are provided a variety of benefits by the state, including a stipend, housing, and medical care as needed. She also highlighted the ways in which fears towards immigrants, while justified at times, are not always factually grounded. Referring to the Cologne attacks, she emphasized how the information circulating about the danger of immigrants is false. While attacks have occurred and have led to a rise in fear towards immigrant populations, she stated that the crime rate amongst immigrants is overall no higher than that of German-born populations. According to Von Mering, it is in situations like this that the media portrayal of such occurrences skews reality in such a way that elicits a much more negative reaction than is necessary. Another problem she drew attention to was that of administrative chaos, which, she said, sparks heightened mistrust of the government and problems within various systems. To conclude her presentation, she discussed how the United States and other western countries have not stepped up as they should, characterizing such inaction as disgraceful.

One question following the talk speculated as to whether or not there is an end to the crisis in sight. According to Von Mering, there will be an end because of the fact that many of these refugees have a desire to return to Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan once the conflicts in their countries of origin have subsided.
With the generous support of the American Council on Germany, IES welcomed Christoph von Marschall, one of Germany's most famous journalists who currently works for Der Tagesspiegel, to Moses Hall on March 7. His talk, entitled “The Crisis of ‘Made in Germany’ – and How Germany can Recover,” discussed the way in which various crises in Germany and the EU have challenged German self-assuredness. Prior to 2016, the German people saw these crises as resulting from Europe’s own shortcomings; as such, these crises did not have a profound negative impact on their self-perception.

Starting in 2016, however, with the emergence of the Volkswagen crisis and problems at the Deutsche Bank, the German business model has come under intense scrutiny. Elaborating on the worrisome situation in Germany, Von Marschall also delved into the problems surrounding the refugee crisis, highlighting the divisions that exists within the realm of public opinion. It is only a matter of time, he said, before Germany will become overwhelmed by the sheer number of migrants entering the country. Also, while this influx of people is supposedly a way to counterbalance the declining birthrate, he explained that the expected positive effects are uncertain because very few immigrants bring skills that are lacking on the German market. Since it will take time for newcomers to learn the German language and new skills, he predicts a sharp increase in unemployment figures. When examining potential solutions for the refugee crisis, he stressed the necessity of regaining control of the chaos at the borders of Europe and emphasized that merely denying the existence of challenges to Germany’s Willkommenskultur will not work forever. For Von Marschall, it is important that Merkel’s “Wir schaffen das” mindset takes on a dual function: On the one hand, it should be used in approaching the integration of newly-arrived migrants from a positive perspective – as an opportunity for Germany – but, on the other hand, it should also be used to reduce the number of new migrants to a manageable level.
On March 8, IES was pleased to welcome Frank Biess, Professor of History and Director of European Studies at the University of California, San Diego, to the Berkeley campus for a lecture entitled “German Angst: Fear and Democracy in Postwar Germany.” In his presentation, Biess discussed his new book of the same name, in which he examines how fear and anxiety influenced cultural shifts in Germany in the period following the Second World War. Some of his main questions pertained to whether fear strengthens or weakens the sociopolitical border; how distinctly German memories of the Nazi past affect anticipations of the future; and what role fear and anxiety play in the democratization of society. In an attempt to answer these questions, Biess introduced some of the theoretical and conceptual parameters of the project and then proceeded to delve into some of the case studies his book addresses. He highlighted three different shifts that occurred to the nature of fear in the postwar period.

The first of these shifts occurred in the context of the normative framework, which shifted from an attempt at emotional restraint to an acceptance of emotional expressiveness. He described postwar fears as relating to retribution, American occupation, and revenge on the part of the Jewish community, to name a few. While the fears resulted in an expression of emotions that had not been expressed before, they also emerged during the more restrictive regime of the Cold War, which resulted in a “fear of fear” as well as attempts on the government’s part at emotional management. Through examination of different peace demonstrations, however, Biess displayed the importance of the public articulation of fear in the emotional regime in West Germany. Emotional suffering, he explained, had become an engine for change, resulting in a greater recognition of fear as productive in society.

The second shift he identified was that which occurred within objects of fear, which moved from originating externally to being formed internally. While collective fears of the 1940s and 1950s, for example, largely centered around defeat, the American occupation and the Cold War, triggers of fear in the mid-1960s shifted to memories of the Nazi past and the idea of the “Hitler within me” purported by student movements. The final shift he discussed was that which occurred in the political functions of fear, which shifted from the containment of fear from above to the mobilization of fear from below. Citing the peace movement of the 1980s as exemplary of this phenomenon, Biess demonstrated how, while the government claimed that too much fear would become dysfunctional, fear took the form of a higher level of rationality. Its performance soon provided legitimacy to political activism originating amongst student groups and other members of the populace. In his conclusion, Biess returned to the question of fear’s role in democratization, stating that the success of West German democracy resulted from an acute awareness and fear of the capacity of this democracy to fail.
Jeffrey Anderson, Graf Goltz Professor and Director of the BMW Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University, gave a presentation in Moses Hall on March 9 entitled “Europe on the Brink? Anatomy of Crises and Critical Junctures.” In his talk, Anderson discussed the current situation’s capacity to change Europe at both the domestic and global levels as well as hinted at its ill-preparedness to appropriately respond to such crises.

To start off, he gave an overview to the different clusters of events that occurred between the 1940s and the present, displaying the different layers of Europe’s narrative that have been important in molding European identity. Such events include the responses to the catastrophe of war; the emergence of economic competitiveness; the reestablishment of the connection between Germany and the European core project; and Europe’s development into a civilian power and soft power on the international stage post-9/11. After providing this overview to crises of the past and how they contributed to the formation of European identity, Anderson examined three major crises Europe has faced in recent years – the Eurozone crisis, the Russia and Eastern Ukraine crisis, and the migration crisis – and showed how these different crises have each put different layers of the narrative into question. He characterized all three as being exogenous and differentiated, having a high number of individual actors, and defining cleavage lines between conflicting interests. In comparing these crises with crises of the past, Anderson emphasized how differentiation makes the generation of uniform responses more difficult and how Russia, in being an active agent in all three cases, has the power to accelerate and amplify the crises. Elaborating on the detrimental effects of these crises in Europe, he stated that the three examples prove that urgent responses are harder for Europe to conceptualize; instead of generating urgent responses, it responds in a manner more appropriate for long-term crises, allowing for these crises to continue to unfold. Anderson then discussed outcomes, stressing the risks that come with thinking about each crisis in isolation. As a means of underlining the interconnectedness of the crises, he highlighted how, for example, the Greek dissatisfaction with Germany’s response to the migration crisis can be traced back to the country’s general dissatisfaction with the outcome of the Eurozone crisis.

To conclude, he brought up the potential for a “Brexit crisis,” stressing the way in which the UK’s exit from the European Union would likely have ripple effects all throughout Europe. He expressed his concern about the fate of Europe’s political solidarity as it faces these various challenges. Following his presentation, a debate ensued over whether or not a failure of political leadership in Europe contributed to all of these crises.
March 11, 2016: Viking Culture in Popular Media

IES was delighted to host Jackson Crawford, lecturer in the Department of Scandinavian at UC Berkeley, on March 11 for a lecture on the portrayal of Nordic and Viking culture in popular media. Crawford previously taught at UCLA and has occasionally worked in Hollywood, serving as an expert in Nordic history. He discussed the various degrees of historical accuracy in Hollywood films, referencing his experience working on the production of Frozen, the top-grossing children’s animated film. There is, he stated, an incredible attention to detail, particularly concerning material culture; however, when it comes to language, moviemakers tend to be much less concerned with accuracy. According to Crawford, viewers tend to be much more critical of the failure to accurately portray material items such as clothing, tools and architecture than they are of the incorrect use of languages. He has observed a lack of understanding of the difference between many Nordic languages. In fact, the terms “Sami”, “Norse”, “Scandinavian” and “Norwegian” seem to be synonymous to most of the people Crawford worked with in Hollywood. He addressed to what extent this appropriates Nordic cultures and for what level of “correctness” Hollywood should strive. In response to questions from the audience, Crawford emphasized the difference between modern Scandinavian people and Sami people. Samis, he explained, are the aboriginal people of Scandinavia who still exist in the northernmost areas of the region. Their language, which is part of the Uralic family, is very distant from Scandinavian languages such as Norwegian, Danish or Swedish, all of which are Germanic. The failure to recognize the difference between these cultures is one of the more extreme inaccuracies depicted in mainstream media.
March 11, 2016: Inauguration of No Legacy || Literatura electrónica

March 11 marked the inauguration of the highly anticipated No Legacy || Literatura electrónica exhibit, which will remain open in the Bernice Layne Brown Gallery in Doe Library through September 2, 2016. This exhibit on Spanish, Catalan and Portuguese electronic literature is co-sponsored by the IES Title VI program. To celebrate the occasion, a symposium was held in the library’s Institute for Data Science, during which two groups of panelists spoke on the role of electronic literature in redefining notions of what constitutes literature in today’s society. In the first panel, entitled “Electronic Literature: History/Archaeology/Artifacts,” Élika Ortega, co-curator of the exhibit, gave opening remarks, followed by Dene Grigar, President of the Electronic Literature Organization, who discussed the legacy that such an exhibit will leave behind. She started by defining electronic literature, which is digitally born and meant to be experienced solely through a computing device. Throughout the rest of her talk, she highlighted how scholars should understand such works, stressing that they require a combination of approaches promoted by the traditional humanities as well as by theories and practices more relevant to the digital humanities. Such approaches include textual analysis, media-specific analysis, close reading, and platform studies. Following Grigar’s talk, Roberto Cruz Arzabal from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México gave an overview of the ways in which archive and materiality intersect in the realm of electronic literature. Such literature, he explained, creates new structures through its employment of real yet immaterial elements. He concluded by characterizing materiality as a war machine against the archive and vice versa, stressing that, without its legacy, the exhibition would be a consignation of both. Following the discussion came an elaboration on the role of the visitor as well as how holding this exhibit in a traditional library setting affects popular notions of such places.

The second panel, entitled “Transatlantic/Transnational/Translinguistic: Perspectives on E-Lit,” focused on those three overlapping themes and how they play out in the exhibition. Alexandra Saum-Pascual, Assistant Professor of Spanish at UC Berkeley and co-curator of the event, opened the discussion with a series of questions concerning electronic literature, its failings, its categorization, its place in the current geopolitical landscape of literature, and why it all matters. Sandy Baldwin, Associate Professor of English at the Rochester Institute of Technology, then took the floor, giving a presentation on the progression of electronic literature, its limitations, and its future. He touched on how technical and human infrastructures affect the international production of electronic literature. After a third presentation given by Leo Flores, Professor of English at the University of Puerto Rico: Mayagüez Campus, the speakers opened the floor for audience questions, exploring a variety of topics such as digital humanism, diversifying readership, and the optimism of electronic literature in the face of a broader crisis in the (print) literature world. The topics covered by all of the speakers were thought-provoking and timely in an era of rapid technological and artistic evolution. The exhibition opened later that night with a reception and readings by featured artists of the exhibition.
On March 14, IES was pleased to welcome Deborah Cohen, Professor of History at Northwestern University, to the Berkeley campus for a lecture entitled “Love and Money in the Informal Empire: The British in Argentina, 1830-1930.” Throughout her talk, Cohen explored the relationship between businessmen, business culture, and family life. She argued that many Anglo-Argentines did not tend to think of their enterprises as expanding the British Empire; instead, their businesses primarily served as a means of supporting their families. As such, she portrayed how identity and interests were not necessarily connected and how familial well-being took precedence over economic success. In order to demonstrate this phenomenon, which has been discounted by past scholarship, Cohen examined the case of the Krabbé-Williamson family. To support her argument about the disconnection between identity and intentions, she cited letters written by the family, explaining that their contents did not suggest that their goals related to the expansion of the British Empire. Also related to these letters, she drew attention to their intermingling of Spanish and English words, opening a discussion of what constituted home for families like theirs. For them, while both Argentina and Britain were home, the concept of home was more specifically connected to family, meaning that they sought to avoid divisions caused by strife or the Atlantic Ocean. Then, to exemplify the family as taking precedence over economic success, she cited examples of how the Krabbé-Williamson family supported a financially unsuccessful man who had entered their daughter’s life and who soon became their son-in-law. She also went on to describe how the Krabbé-Williamson men, all of whom died relatively young, took care to secure ample funds for their wives and children so that they would be well taken care of after their deaths. In conclusion, Cohen emphasized how the case of the Krabbé-Williamson family exemplifies the potential for capitalistic failure to be seen as success, for it is only a matter of where one’s priorities lie.
March 16, 2016: Between East and West – Finnish Television History

In cooperation with the Department of Scandinavian, IES’ Nordic Studies Program welcomed Mari Pajala, Senior Lecturer in Media Studies at the University of Turku and current Visiting Professor in Finnish Studies at the University of Minnesota, to the Berkeley campus on March 16. Her lecture centered around the relationship Finnish television had with that of both the West and the Soviet Union during the Cold War era. She first gave a brief overview to Finland’s post-war foreign policy, which, she explained, was defined by a maintenance of good relations with the Soviet Union. Then, she gave a general overview to the structure of Finnish television between the 1960s and 1980s. During the period, there were two main broadcasters: YLE, a public service broadcaster; and MTV, a commercial television company owned by advertisers. Finnish television in general served as a “Window to the West,” allowing Finnish citizens to learn about different ways of life, points of view, and democratic procedures in countries outside of their own. Following this introduction, she delved into some of the recent research that has been done on socialist television history, explaining that, contrary to popular belief, programs were not just propagandistic; rather, they also had educational and entertaining elements. Scholars have tended to strictly separate Western television from Eastern television. What Finland’s television history demonstrates, however, is an intersection of these two regions’ programs, especially as realized through the YLE’s membership in both the European Broadcasting Union of the West as well as the comparable OIRT of the East. YLE was the only broadcaster that was a member of both and, as such, played an important role in fostering cooperation between the two. Pajala then went on to describe how cross-border television manifested itself in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s and how it evolved over time. Overall, her presentation gave an enlightening perspective on how the seemingly disconnected East and West intersected through Finland’s position between the two.

Speaker: Mari Pajala (University of Turku, Finland)
March 16, 2016: Meeting with the Chairman of the European People’s Party

On March 16, IES had the honor of welcoming Manfred Weber, Chairman of the European People’s Party Group in the European Parliament, to the Berkeley campus. The EPP is the largest group within the European Parliament and unites all center-right parties, including Angela Merkel’s CDU and Viktor Orbán’s Fidesz. During his presentation, Weber provided an overview to the various challenges that the European Union is facing and discussed potential solutions to these problems. Topics covered included the migration crisis, the lack of job opportunities for young people in southern Europe, and the terrorist threat. In his discussion of how to address the migration crisis, Weber suggested a four-tiered approach consisting in 1) regaining control of the European borders, 2) offering more aid to refugees in the Middle East, 3) creating a burden-sharing mechanism to spread asylum speakers over Europe, and 4) developing a common European plan to handle asylum policy that could serve long-term. To solve Europe’s problems, he stressed, there needs to be strong leadership as well as a focus on how solutions will play out both in the present and in the distant future. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of adopting a European identity in harmony with a national and regional identity. Using his own multifaceted identity as a Bavarian, German, and European as an example, he illustrated how the coexistence of such identities supports a broader vision of European values. When it came time to answer questions, some attendees expressed criticism over the presence of Fidesz in the EPP. In response, Weber cited numerous examples of how the EPP was able to convince Orbán to reconsider some of his controversial political ideas, for instance on the death penalty. In the midst of the media’s negative portrayal of the many challenges that the EU is facing, Weber offered a surprisingly optimistic outlook on Europe’s future.
March 17, 2016: Post-Imperialism: The Legacy of Europe’s Colonial Repatriates

On March 17, IES hosted a conference entitled “Post-Imperialism: The Legacy of Europe’s Colonial Repatriates,” an event which served to contextualize Europe in its global significance as part of the Institute’s Title VI Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. Organizers Jeroen Dewulf (UC Berkeley) and Christoph Kalter (Free University Berlin) opened the program by characterizing decolonization as an ongoing process that is perhaps more disruptive than many domestic audiences would like to imagine. Pamela Ballinger (Univ. Michigan) then gave a presentation entitled “From Colonist to Minority, From Refugee to Citizen: Italian Imperial Repatriates and the Limits of Citizenship,” which addressed this argument in its colonial Italian context. According to Ballinger, the structure of citizenship in Italy was less binary than either having it or not. She framed a hierarchy of cultural identities in the context of legal issues in the colonial era, speaking to the complexities that defined citizenship in a country with blurred territorial and racial distinctions.

Following Ballinger’s presentation, Claire Eldridge (Univ. of Leeds) gave a talk entitled “A Fraternal and Heartwarming Welcome? Integration and Identity Formation among the Repatriés from French Algeria,” in which she specifically highlighted the way in which the French government, while overwhelmed by the number of repatriates flocking into the country beginning in 1962, sought to protect these people from the economic strife usually faced by migrants. To do so, the government aided in their reintegration into the labor market and provided significant financial and medical assistance. Outside of the government, groups such as the National Association of North African and Overseas French and their Friends (ANFANOMA) served to further bridge the gap between the repatriate community and the rest of French society. She ultimately argued that the French response made repatriates virtually indistinguishable from the rest of the population, with state aid allowing for repatriates not only to secure material integration, but also to reestablish their place in French society.

The second half of the day opened with Kalter’s presentation “Portugal’s Retornados: The Success Story of Integration and What is Wrong with it,” in which he discussed the experiences of repatriates from Portuguese-speaking Africa. Kalter argued that the seemingly positive narratives of these returnees’ experiences obscure the hardships they faced as they struggled to make ends meet in the midst of a weakening economy. Ultimately, he demonstrated how decolonization shifted perceptions of Portuguese identity as well as argued for the development of a narrative of integration that encapsulates the nuances of the process’s successes and failures. Following Kalter’s presentation, Dewulf gave a talk entitled “The Uncomfortable Voice of the Colonial Repatriate: Tjalie Robinson and the Eurasian ‘Indo’ Community in the Netherlands and the United States.” Examining the life and work of the Dutch Eurasian author Tjalie Robinson, he illuminated how Eurasians struggled to fight the discrimination that resulted from their mixed ethnic identity. According to Dewulf, Robinson’s works also attempted to concretize the Nietzschean concept of the “new man” in portraying the multiracial Indos as the people of the future.

To wrap up the day’s riveting presentations, Jordanna Bailkin (Univ. Washington) gave a talk entitled “Unsettled: Refugee Camps in Britain from the Suez Crisis to Idi Amin,” in which she examined the different types of refugee camps that came into existence following the decolonization of Britain’s overseas colonies. She specifically detailed the conditions of the Anglo-Egyptian camps and Ugandan-Asian camps and how these two groups were treated. Overall, the conference provided a variety of enlightening perspectives on post-imperialism, its immediate effects during the period of decolonization, and its continued echoes throughout present-day discussions on migration and integration across Europe.
On March 29, IES, in cooperation with the Social Science Matrix, had the privilege of welcoming a delegation from the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament to Berkeley for a roundtable discussion on the “sharing economy.” Delegates in attendance were Thomas Händel (Chair, Germany, GUE/NGL), Thomas Mann (Germany, EPP), Anne Sander (France, EPP), Romana Tomc (Slovenia, EPP), Agnes Jongerius (Netherlands, S&D), Jutta Steinruck (Germany S&D), Ulrike Trebesius (Germany, ECR), and Morten Løkkegaard (Denmark, ALDE). Before delving into discussion, the delegation laid out its purpose for coming to California, emphasizing its desire to examine the effects of digitalization on economic systems and to learn from the way the United States, particularly Silicon Valley, handles such effects. As Berkeley representatives noted throughout the discussion, however, Silicon Valley should not be the sole focus in attempting to address Europe’s own social problems; rather, they should remain open to examining the successes of industries in other technological areas, such as the Bay Area’s high-tech sector. Another issue raised was that of education. One of the questions discussed was how to best prepare European students for the new economy and how the education system in California connects with Silicon Valley’s success. Berkeley representatives highlighted how American universities manage to attract worldwide talent, whereas European universities frequently lose their most talented faculty. Referencing the American university model, three suggestions were made to the delegation for attracting talent: 1) to offer all programs in English at both the postgraduate and graduate levels in order to create more of a market for international students; 2) to create a clearer stratification and quality rankings of institutions in Europe; and 3) to make more funding available to international students. These suggestions led to an impassioned debate between representatives from both sides of the Atlantic, one in which concerns surrounding the standardization of such an educational model across twenty-eight countries were raised. Overall, the afternoon provided an excellent platform for the exchange and critique of ideas between all participants.
March 29, 2016: Home Movies and the Intimate Social History of the GDR

As part of the Center for German and European Studies’ Director’s Lecture Series, IES welcomed Laurence McFalls, Professor of Political Science at the Université de Montréal, to Moses Hall. His talk, entitled “Open Memory Box: Home Movies and the Intimate Social History of the GDR,” examined the challenges of memory politics in reunified Germany and the role of film in the emergence of such challenges. Referencing German cinematic masterpieces such as Good-Bye Lenin and The Lives of Others, McFalls drew attention to the problematic nature of the relationship between memory and film, stating that such fictionalized accounts result in the stereotyping of memories into common tropes. For his current project, McFalls has shifted his attention to home movies, collecting footage from people and examining the role it plays in the formation of memory. As part of the project, he makes the footage available for others to view online. In doing so, he hopes to stir up authentic memories of the past, break such memories out of the fixed tropes into which they have been organized, and allow people to reconstruct their perceptions and memories of the GDR based on an authentic, not cinematographic, form of representation. To exemplify these goals, he shared some of the clips he has acquired through the project, which depict scenes of daily life – including Sunday strolls and intimate family gatherings – in a number of different cities across East Germany. One potential issue raised with regards to basing perceptions of the GDR off of such footage concerned the ownership of video cameras and whether the home footage in existence is only representative of a specific class, or whether it can be representative of the entire population. McFalls asserted that ownership of a camera was relatively widespread, thus allowing footage to offer glimpses into life in the GDR as witnessed from a variety of socioeconomic perspectives.
April 5, 2016: A Genealogy of Governance in Europe

In a lecture entitled “A Genealogy of Governance,” Mark Bevir, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for British Studies at UC Berkeley, discussed the realities of governance in Europe today and the importance of contextualizing them historically in order to fully understand their causes and effects. At the center of his argument was the idea that the social sciences make the world in which we find ourselves and do not merely describe it. After emphasizing this point, he went on to explain how different forms of knowledge coexist within bureaucracy, connecting the development of governance with political critiques that have emerged from these forms of knowledge. According to Bevir, governance in Europe is marked by a shift from a hierarchical bureaucratic system towards one that favors networks and markets. To better understand this shift and the role the social sciences have played in catalyzing it, Bevir highlighted the importance of understanding the rise of modernism and its impacts. With the rise of modernism came a more open critique of the welfare state and its inherent inability to address the problems for which it was created to solve. After giving this overview to the historical context, he moved on to discuss three areas in which resistance to the policy area of governance has manifested itself: civil servants, street-level bureaucrats, and street-level citizens. In his conclusion, he stressed that bureaucracy still exists and enshrines important democratic values that would not exist without it. According to Bevir, the ways in which markets have been actively resisted and community networks have been neglected demonstrate that, while attempts to move towards a more network-based system seem attractive and beneficial, there is still much to be done in order to properly establish such a system.
April 5, 2016: Belgian Students Visit IES

On April 5, a group of students from the Howest University College in Belgium visited IES. This college, which tragically lost one of its brightest students in the recent terrorist attack in Brussels, is based in the province of West Flanders and has two campuses: one in Bruges and one in Kortrijk. It is particularly known for its program in Applied Computer Science. To complement the students’ visit, members of the Institute’s EU Student Ambassadors team provided the visitors with a campus tour. Aside from their general interest in the institutional structure and history of the university, the group wanted to learn more about student life at an American university. To satisfy this curiosity, the tour included a visit to the Memorial Stadium as well as a stroll through some of the student residential areas. The visiting students were stunned by the size of the stadium and found it hard to believe that such a venue housed a collegiate team. In all, the day offered a fantastic platform for cross-cultural comparison of different student lifestyles and cultures.
Anze Erbeznik, member of the European Parliament’s Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and current EU Fellow at IES, gave a lecture on April 13 in cooperation with the Berkeley School of Law. Entitled “The EU Justice and Home Affairs Area – EU Criminal Law,” Erbeznik provided a comprehensive overview to the development of EU criminal law and prerogatives of the European Parliament. His primary purpose for the lecture, he said, was to highlight his research on the overlap in criminal development that exists between the EU and the United States. One similarity between the systems is the way their legislative bodies work, as Erbeznik exhibited through his overview to the inner-workings of the European parliamentary system. Similar to the system employed in the United States, a legislative proposal cannot be adopted solely upon the European Parliament’s passing of it; rather, it must also be voted on by a second party, the Council of the European Union. Turning to the historical origins of EU-wide criminal law, Erbeznik started with the 1992 constitutional change in the EU, which established three pillars of law – European Communities, Common Foreign and Security Policy, and Police and Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters. The current system of EU criminal law, however, did not come into being until 1999 with the EU-Amsterdam treaty, which facilitated more harmonization between member states as well as fostered a more seamless integration of criminal law at the EU level. He also discussed the expansion of the concept of mutual recognition to the area of criminal law; its application in the EU is more complicated than it is in the United States, however, because of the fact that different legal systems exist in individual member states. Drawing other comparisons between the United States and the EU, Erbeznik discussed commonalities between the systems of extradition as well as problems, such as overcrowding, currently plauging prisons across both regions. To conclude his talk, Erbeznik highlighted the challenges the EU faces in its approach to criminal law because of the difficulties that accompany the distinction between federal versus national level law. Thanks to Erbeznik’s expertise, those in attendance left with a much better understanding of how EU criminal law works, how it compares with that of the United States, and what kinds of unique challenges a governmental body such as the EU faces in implementing such a system.
As part of the “Getting to Know Europe with Berkeley Faculty” lecture series, David Oppenheimer, Clinical Professor of Law, gave a presentation on comparative secularism and the accommodation of religious minorities. Throughout his presentation, he argued that secular states in the West have lost much of their credibility through the contradiction that exists between their definitions of “secularism” and what could be seen as an overt preference for Christian practices. In order to examine this issue further, Oppenheimer examined three federal court cases – one in the United States, one in Italy, and one in France – in which controversial judicial decisions reflected this argument. The first case highlighted was the 1995 United States Supreme Court case *Greece vs. Galloway*, which concerned the question of whether or not denominational prayers before town board meetings violated the prohibition of state-established religion. The Court held on a 5-4 decision that it was an example of a “proper legislative prayer” and that, as such, it was appropriate. The second case examined a law in Italy requiring that all public school classrooms display a crucifix. This law was challenged by an atheist parent who claimed that such practices stigmatized her child, violating his right not to believe. Italian courts, however, upheld the practice, stating that the crucifix was a cultural rather than religious symbol. The European Court of Rights went on to say that the crucifix is both a cultural and religious symbol but that, because there was no European consensus on whether or not it was appropriate to display it in schools, it was within Italy’s right to continue the practice. The final case, SAS vs. France, concerned a controversial French law banning the public wearing of face-covering burqas that resulted from the findings of a governmental commission that studied allegations that some Muslim men in France force their wives and daughters to wear the face-covering burqa. While the study did not conclude that a full ban on face covering was necessary, the French government justified the passing of the ban by arguing that such covering interfered with fundamental French values as well as endangered public safety. In conclusion, Oppenheimer stated that, in these three constitutional democracies, secularism has been embedded into society in such a way that non-Christians are constantly reminded of their outsider status by the state.
April 15, 2016: The Refugee Crisis in Germany

On April 15, Michael Göring, chairman of the board of the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius, gave a lecture in Moses Hall on the refugee crisis in Germany. As he explained, a combination of war, terrorism and harsh conditions in countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq has caused thousands of people to seek refuge in Europe. Many times, their desperateness leads them to enlist dangerous and, often, fatal methods to reach Europe. Chancellor Merkel has declared that Germany, a country with a long history of immigration, can handle this recent influx of refugees, but many German citizens are unsure. Anxiety towards these foreigners, especially as induced by the Paris and Brussels attacks, has led them to question whether helpless families or vicious terrorists have been allowed to enter their country. To alleviate pressure and curb the number of people coming into Germany, Chancellor Merkel entered into a contract with the Turkish government, granting Turkey six billion euros in exchange for the country’s agreement to take back refugees who arrive in Greece from Turkey. While Göring for the most part supports this deal, he expressed some concerns, especially with regards to the Turkish president’s questionable reputation as well as to Turkey’s preparedness to handle such a volume of people.

Returning to the reception of refugees by the German population, Göring explained that most Germans are sympathetic to the plight of the refugees but are also stressed and anxious about the situation that has developed in Germany. This stress has resulted in a public mistrust of the government. Some people are skeptical of the refugees’ different cultural backgrounds, customs, and values; however, many people are also welcoming and want to help them, with ten percent of the German population actively contributing to integration efforts. For example, many university students have signed up to provide newly-arrived children with German-language instruction. In a discussion with the audience, Göring was asked if the influx of refugees really threatened German culture. He responded that social cohesion in Germany is strongly tied to a shared language and history. He added, however, that he is confident that refugees will soon learn German and integrate into German society. Another audience member asked if enough job and employment opportunities for these people exist in Germany, to which he answered yes. According to Göring, the German economy is currently strong and can support jobs, although better jobs for refugees will require lengthy vocational and language training at low pay.

Overall, Göring is optimistic about the situation and believes that Germany will survive this crisis, all while helping millions of displaced people. He did admit, however, that Germany will face a serious crisis if many more refugees arrive in the coming months.
On April 22, in cooperation with the Social Science Matrix, IES hosted its second annual graduate student conference. This conference came into being as part of IES’ commitment to uniting graduate students from a variety of disciplines under a common interest in European affairs, a goal that has namely manifested itself through the recent development of the Designated Emphasis in European Studies. Entitled “A Polarizing Europe: Identity, Aesthetics and Radicalism in the Post WWII Era,” this year’s conference consisted of three panels, each of which explored various areas in which this polarization has occurred, specifically in identity politics, political economy, and myth and memory. The first panel, “Politics of Identity: Collective Memory, Conflict, Legality and Solidarity,” examined the simultaneously individual and collective aspects of identity in a changing Europe, the borders of which are constantly extending themselves beyond the initial EU countries into an ever more global interconnectivity, conflict and solidarity. The second panel, “Political Economy: Nation and Identity in Europe,” addressed relations between economic and political institutions and their influence on culture and the political ideology of a nation-state. The final panel, “Myth and Memory: (Re)Writing History in the Hands of the Artist,” engaged with memory, aesthetics and the arts in posing questions regarding cultural and national heritage, history, and political organization in the post-war era.

To conclude the day, a panel comprised of IES Director Jeroen Dewulf, IES Associate Director Akasemi Newsome, Leonid Kil (UC Berkeley, Political Science), Brandon Schneider (IES, Program for the Study of Italy), and Marianne Riddervold (Univ. Oslo and IES Visiting Scholar) engaged in a keynote discussion addressing the question of how academics should negotiate rigorous study amidst the contemporary crises unfolding in Europe. Newsome, citing some of the common underlying threads of the day’s presentations, suggested that the mission of academics should be to challenge previously established wisdom in order to better examine how events have unfolded in the present. From there, Kil highlighted two lessons that could be derived from the conference and preceding seminars, the first being the necessity of looking at the examined processes in historical terms, and the second being the importance of remembering that these European developments do not occur in isolation but, rather, are part of a broader international framework. Schneider, elaborating on Newsome’s discussion, warned against becoming too caught up in narrow analyses of isolated events, arguing for the maintenance of a larger picture in which day-to-day developments can be contextualized. Riddervold then discussed the importance of history and collective memory as unifying factors of the European project, emphasizing the role of researchers in helping people understand historical divergences as well as in conducting critical analyses of political and social responses at all levels of society. Following the panelists’ comments, the floor opened to audience questions, at which point the importance of academics resisting the temptation to merely predict the future was stressed. Instead, it was suggested that they should seek to strengthen their fields by probing questions and reconsidering assumptions. In short, the day provided an invaluable opportunity to scrutinize the vast array issues plaguing Europe today, to engage critically with up-and-coming research conducted by the rising generation of academics, and to reflect on the crucial role academia plays in the understanding of such social, political, and cultural flux.
April 22, 2015: A Finnish Perspective on International Responses to Humanitarian Emergencies

The Nordic Studies Program welcomed Alli Mikkulainen, a Finnish public health nurse with experience working with the UN World Food Program, to the Berkeley campus on April 22. Her lecture, entitled “International Response to Humanitarian Emergencies: Spotlight on Hunger and HIV,” centered on the many humanitarian issues facing our world today. Speaking from her years of experience in the public health field, Mikkulainen provided a comprehensive overview of some of the current crises being faced worldwide and the various international responses undertaken to address these issues. Mikkulainen outlined global issues across all of the continents, spanning from the outbreak of civil war in the Central African Republic to last year’s major earthquake in Nepal. Other major crises worldwide included internal political conflicts, immigration crises, and environmental issues. Mikkulainen then discussed the different international agencies working to alleviate these crises. Such agencies include governmental organizations – such as the United Nations’ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Red Cross – as well as faith-based organizations. She then highlighted the more specific topics of HIV and hunger. In her discussion of the HIV crisis, she argued that, although the cost of treatment has improved, many issues still face certain groups disproportionately. She emphasized that preparedness, coordination, recovery, and resource mobilization are crucial steps towards progress in preventing the spread of HIV. With regards to hunger, her main point was that there is enough food available to sustain the world’s population, but poverty traps and a lack of agricultural investment perpetuate worldwide malnutrition. Civil society, NGOs, and community engagement, she argued, are all critical in order for the hunger crisis to be addressed. To conclude, Mikkulainen emphasized that, although the subjects of her presentation are bleak, her attitude towards the current crises is optimistic because of the visible progress that has been made. The presentation ended with a video on the current sustainable development goals compiled by the UN General Assembly, one of which is to work towards zero hunger by the end of 2030.
April 25, 2015: UK Referendum and Brexit

Richard Lewis, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of European Studies at the Free University of Brussels, gave a presentation on the United Kingdom’s referendum on membership in the European Union. Throughout his talk, he grappled with the question of what the potential repercussions of the upcoming vote in June might be at the British, European, and global levels. He first established that there had always been reservations – both on the side of the EU and on the side of the UK – when it came to British membership in the EU. Lewis then highlighted various aspects of Prime Minister Cameron’s renegotiation of British membership. From there, Lewis moved into the effects he predicts the referendum, regardless of the outcome, will have on current relations between the UK and other nations. For example, he argued that Britain’s choice to leave the EU might result in a loss of influence over the United States, who might turn its attention to Germany. He also pointed out that other important allies of Great Britain, including Australia and New Zealand, do not approve of the idea of a Brexit; resultantly, Lewis believes that such an outcome would have negative effects on Britain’s relations with those countries. He also mentioned NATO, suggesting that its effectiveness in world politics would not be affected by a decision in either direction. The referendum, Lewis stressed, marks a turning point for British relations with the EU, and, while the future is uncertain at this point in time, its outcome will surely impact not only the EU, but also the rest of the world.
April 25, 2016: Electronic Literature from Portugal

The Portuguese Studies Program hosted a lecture by Rui Torres, Associate Professor of Communication Sciences at the University Fernando Pessoa in Porto and the Center’s Distinguished Writer in Residence this past April. His talk, entitled “Unlocking the Secret Garden,” contextualized his own works of electronic poetry in the larger context of experimental and electronic literature. Throughout the talk, Torres emphasized the ways in which texts and the more general concept of textuality are in a constant process of metamorphosis. One way in which this metamorphosis manifests itself in works of electronic literature is through the employment of various computing techniques to create texts that otherwise could not be seen or read. Electronic literature, he explained, involves a convergence of the verbal, the visual, and the vocal and promotes the direct involvement of the reader in the formation of the reading experience. Citing some of his works as examples, Torres went on to discuss how the performative nature of electronic literature starkly contrasts the culture of the “permanent” promoted by traditional conceptions of the term “literary,” which he affiliates more with print works that can be found in libraries or bookstores. Rather than something tangible and unchanging, electronic literature is impermanent, variable, and in a constant state of flux. In his conclusion, Torres characterized the act of reading as an alchemic process, stressing the importance of non-linearity as well as interactivity in the development of electronic literature. For him, the new media paradigm – centering around the reader’s ability to manipulate, participate in, and personalize a given work – sets electronic literature apart from more traditional literary forms, opening up a new realm of possibilities for approaches to both authorship and readership.

Professor Rui Torres (University Fernando Pessoa, Porto)
April 26, 2016: Rethinking the Berlusconi Experience in the Time of Trump

On April 26, IES’ Program for the Study of Italy welcomed Enrico Deaglio, an Italian journalist and author, to the Berkeley campus for a lecture entitled “Rethinking the Berlusconi Experience in the Time of Trump.” Through a close examination of Silvio Berlusconi’s rise to power in Italy in 1993, Deaglio sought to uncover some of the potential outcomes of Donald Trump’s success in the polls in the current US presidential race. Both men, he emphasized, possess many of the same traits, including big egos, strong desires for power, and successful careers in business. After laying this groundwork, Deaglio shifted his attention to the year 1993, whose tone in Italy quickly intensified as a result of a series of judicial persecutions carried out against politicians as well as the rise of the Northern League, a movement born in the northern region of the country that fought against a unified Italy. It was amidst this tumult that Berlusconi, a successful businessman who lacked political experience, unexpectedly announced that he would run for president. His campaign centered around promises to protect Italy from communism, to create jobs, to lower taxes, and to raise pensions. Through his impressive oratory skills, he quickly gained popularity across the entire country, leading to his winning of the presidency. As Deaglio emphasized, however, his time in office was largely unsuccessful, with his personal interests taking precedence and his numerous promises never being fulfilled. Two reasons Deaglio specifically highlighted for Berlusconi’s ultimate demise was the scandal that resulted from his wife’s speaking out against him and his inability to adequately address the economic crisis that plagued the country towards the end of his term. Ultimately, he was convicted of fraud, his party lost popular support, and his power dissolved. According to Deaglio, the Berlusconi experience exemplifies how difficult it is to stop a person like Berlusconi, who so easily gained public trust in an anti-democratic manner. Deaglio expressed his shock towards the fact that the public was not able to see the potential conflicts of interest that lay beyond his appealing façade.
April 26, 2016: Celebration of the Catalanian *Diada de Sant Jordi*

On April 26, IES, with the generous support of Catalan-language lecturer Ana Belén Redondo-Campillos and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, hosted its second annual celebration to honor the Catalanian *Diada de Sant Jordi*. Observed on April 23, this cultural festival honors Saint George, the patron saint of Catalonia, who was said to have slain a dragon that had been wreaking havoc amongst the local population. Symbolic of the dragon’s blood, red roses play an integral part in the celebration and are given as gifts. The holiday also coincides with World Book Day, which commemorates the deaths of Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare; as such, it is also common for books to be passed out along with roses. As is practiced in the region, guests were invited to take a rose and Catalan-language book in order to fully immerse themselves in the traditional experience. Between the lively Catalan music and generous spread of refreshments, the afternoon proved an excellent opportunity for socialization and engagement with the Catalan culture.
April 26, 2016: First Undergraduate Conference in European Studies at UC Berkeley

The European Union Student Ambassador group, an official UC Berkeley student organization supported by IES and the European Commission, hosted its inaugural Undergraduate Conference in European Studies on April 26. During the conference, participants presented research proposals answering the question of whether or not the European Union would survive as an institution in the globalized era. These proposals were then judged by a panel of faculty and diplomats. The winner, in addition to receiving a stipend, was provided the honor to have his/her paper published in the IES Working Papers Series. The team of judges was composed of Diego Lovelace, Consul General of Spain, Anna Bielicka, Foreign Trade Representative of the Embassy of Poland, IES EU Center Assistant Director Noga Wizanksy, IES Director Jeroen Dewulf, and IES Associate Director Akasemi Newsome. Three Berkeley undergraduate students – Jina Yi, Trevor Cox, and Heather Stone – were finalists and approached the question from very different angles and perspectives. Ultimately, the judges decided Yi, whose research centered on Turkey’s future in the EU, and Stone, whose research focused on EU-Asian Pacific relations, would both be declared winners. The evening offered an excellent opportunity for undergraduates, faculty, and community members alike to exchange ideas and to contemplate the future of the European Union.
April 27, 2016: The New Polish Government and the Time of Democratic Reckoning

In cooperation with the Social Science Matrix, the Working Group on East Central Europe, and the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, IES welcomed Tomasz Tadeusz Koncewicz, Fulbright Visiting Professor at Berkeley Law School, for a lecture entitled “Eastern Europe and the Time of Democratic Reckoning.” Throughout his talk, Koncewicz highlighted the issues surrounding Poland and its relationship with the European Union, centering around the question of how to define democracy and whether or not the controversial measures by the new Polish government under Beata Maria Szydło represent a threat to democracy. According to Koncewicz, this is very much the case. To contextualize his discussion of Poland, Koncewicz emphasized that the European project is based on certain principles that all member states are expected to share and honor. The Polish government, he argued, is undermining the overlapping consensus in Europe and demonstrates how the EU is currently undergoing a crisis in terms of the common framework paradigm. Moving to the question of the role of law in all of this, he emphasized that law alone cannot sustain democracy; rather, public opinion is also a necessary component. To conclude, he discussed his personal feelings about returning to Poland, describing them as twofold: on the one hand, he strongly opposes the current government and feels that he should stay away, but, on the other hand, he thinks that Poland needs people like himself to oppose the current government. According to Koncewicz, it all comes down to a decision between activity and passivity. He believes that activity – especially on the part of average citizens – will ultimately save the Polish democracy, and this extends beyond the reach of law.
April 27, 2016: Evangelos Venizelos on the Refugee Crisis in Greece

On April 27, in cooperation with the Onassis Foundation, the Institute of European Studies was honored to welcome Evangelos Venizelos, former Deputy Prime Minister of Greece and the current Vice Chairperson of the Socialist Group in the Council of Europe, to the Berkeley campus. Throughout his talk, Venizelos examined the refugee crisis from a Greek and European perspective, depicting it as an issue of national sovereignty and European external borders. The imposition of border controls and collaboration with maritime neighbors such as Turkey, he stressed, is paramount if the EU wishes to succeed. Although he admitted that the relationship between Greece and Turkey is fragile, he emphasized the necessity for cooperation in the current refugee crisis. He conceded to the fact that this is a complex issue but expressed the firm conviction that European integration will prosper once the refugee crisis is under control. When it came time for questions, the discussion expanded to the Greek financial crisis. Venizelos argued that the Greek financial crisis is more than just a problem of debts. He admitted that, even with a complete debt relief, the Greek economy would still need profound structural measures to be undertaken in order to be competitive on the European market.
On April 28, IES hosted the inaugural lecture of its partnership with the Peralta Community College District. This partnership is supported by the Ministry of Education and its Title VI Program. Invited speaker was Fabian Banga, Professor and Chair of the Modern Languages Department at Berkeley City College. His lecture, which stemmed from his doctoral research conducted at UC Berkeley under the direction of Francine Masiello, was entitled “Brujos, espiritistas y vanguardistas.” Throughout the presentation, Banga highlighted the aesthetic projects of the vanguard literary movements in Latin America and Spain, specifically analyzing the presence of spiritualism and theosophical life in the works of Robert Arlt, Ramón del Valle-Inclán, and Vicente Huidobro. In his discussion of Arlt, he illuminated the prevalence of esoteric elements – including spiritualism, kybalion, and anarchism – and the ways in which pessimistic views towards nationhood have manifested themselves throughout his works. Valle-Inclán, he said, offers very similar contributions to the vanguard tradition, with its view of the nation as needing to be recreated through the leadership of the church. Valle-Inclán’s works also incorporate numerology, the significance of which Banga illustrated through an examination of the structure of the author’s seven-part novel. Both of these authors, he stressed, utilize a deconstruction of images throughout their works in terms of the Catholic nation and its relationship with esoteric traditions. Departing from his comparison between the two authors, Banga shifted his attention to the works of Huidobro, discussing the way he allegorizes both the confrontation of esoteric traditions with modern materialistic science as well as the battle between canonical interpretations of artistic values and the artistic values upheld by the vanguard movement. To conclude, Banga highlighted how these authors exemplify a use of esoteric theories to contradict a canonical sense of reality. Overall, the lecture provided a fascinating overview to the realm of Spanish-language vanguard literature.

Deolinda Adao (Coordinator of the Partnership for International Education), IES Associate Director Akasemi Newsome and speaker Fabian Banga (Berkeley City College)
May 4, 2016: Portuguese Language Day at Berkeley City College

The Berkeley City College European Union Student Ambassadors (BCC EUSA), a student organization sponsored by IES, hosted its inaugural Celebration of the Cultures of All Portuguese Speaking Countries on May 4 in observance of Portuguese Language Day. This presentation was made possible through the Partnership for International Education (PIE) established between the Peralta Community College District and UC Berkeley with a generous Title VI grant provided by the Federal Department of Education.

The celebration of Portuguese Language Day at Berkeley City College consisted in a series of talks as well as a variety of cultural and musical performances. To open the event, Mestre Acordeon and Mestra Suelly from The Capoeira Art Foundation performed traditional music as well as demonstrated the art of the jogo de capoeira. Also featured was Nuno Mathias, Consul General of Portugal, who spoke on the relationship between Portuguese speaking countries. Deolinda Adão, Director of the Institute of European Studies’ Center for Portuguese Studies and lecturer in the Modern Languages Department at Berkeley City College, later presented on the origins of Portuguese as a language. Other presenters included jazz guitarist Dillon Ingram, who performed several classic Portuguese songs with the help of his twelve-string Portuguese guitarra, as well as Fadista Angela Brito, an international recording artist who spoke on the origins and influences of fado, a genre of Portuguese music. Following the event, guests were invited to indulge in a spread of traditional Portuguese food and drinks. In all, the evening provided an exciting opportunity to explore and engage with the diverse cultures that color the world’s Portuguese-speaking nations.
May 5, 2016: Minister President Bouffier and the Future of the European Union

On May 5, IES was honored to welcome Volker Bouffier, Prime Minister of Hessen, and a delegation of German academics to the Berkeley campus for a luncheon with distinguished faculty and students. Prior to the luncheon, Bouffier gave remarks on his view towards the future of the European Union. Throughout his talk, he made a case for the importance of European cooperation and emphasized the fact that the current generation is the first to live in a peaceful Europe. Furthermore, he addressed the challenges the refugee crisis has created for Germany, not just on a national level but also on a state level. After his talk, IES Associate Director Akasemi Newsome presented Mr. Bouffier with a thank-you gift for his visit. By that time, the buffet was ready, and German guests and American hosts alike had the opportunity to indulge in a delicious lunch as well as to engage in conversation. The event concluded with a question and answer session, during which the discussion centered around the lessons Germany can learn from its own past experiences as well as from the past experiences of neighboring countries in approaching the task of integrating the recent wave of immigrants into the rest of society.
In January 2016, the Universität Münster reported on an alumni gathering at the Institute of European Studies. You can read more here.

In January 2016, Russell Shorto interviewed IES Director Jeroen Dewulf at the New Netherland Institute about his research on the Dutch history of New Netherland. You can listen to it here.

In January 2016, IES affiliated professor Jonah Levy was quoted in an article from The Verge about France’s anti-terror efforts. You can read the article here.

In February 2016, IES Senior Fellow David Large published an article on “The Rise of the Platform Economy” in the National Academy’s Issues in Science and Technology. You can read it here.

In March 2016, IES affiliated professor John Zysman published an article on “The Stab in the Back” in Foreign Policy. You can read it here.

In March 2016, IES Senior Fellow Zachary Shore was interviewed in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle about his contribution to the film on the 1936 Berlin Olympics. You can read it here.

In March 2016, IES Director Jeroen Dewulf was interviewed by ABC7 News on the terrorist attacks in Brussels. You can watch the interview here.

In May 2016, IES Senior Fellow Zachary Shore gave an interview on leader behavior at the foreign policy magazine The Diplomat. You can read it here.

In May 2016, Russell Shorto interviewed IES Director Jeroen Dewulf at the New Netherland Institute about his research on the Dutch history of New Netherland. You can read more here.

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The Institute of European Studies would like to thank all of its Undergraduate Research Apprentices for their tireless work throughout the semester.

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