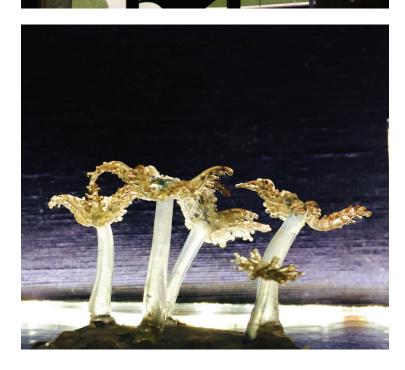
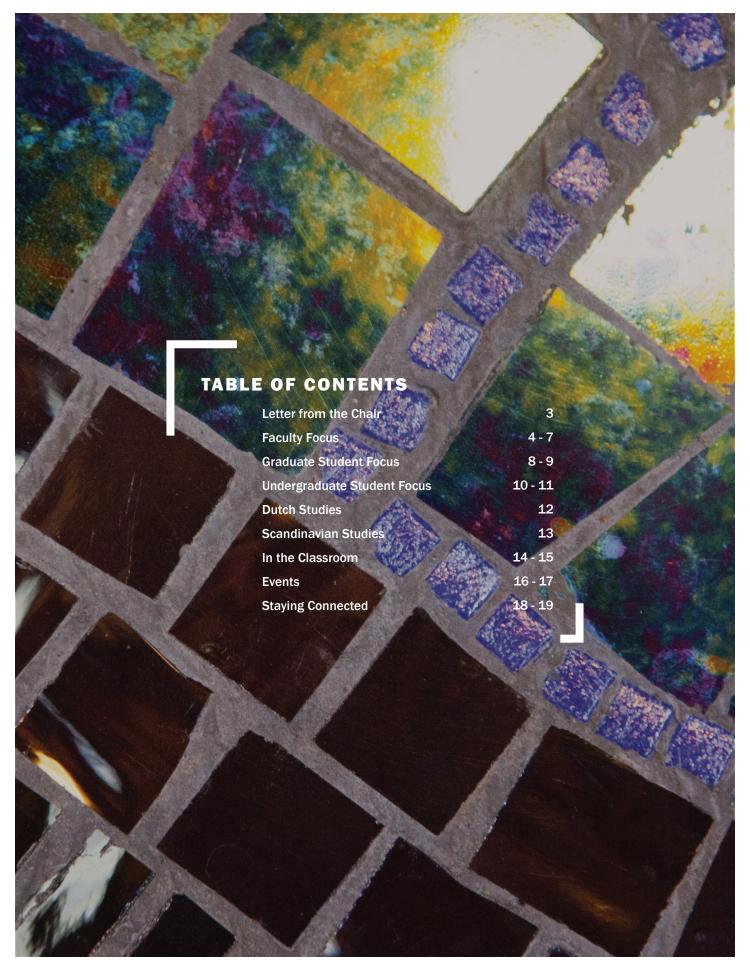


DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017







LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear friends of the German Department,



Just a few weeks ago, the Ingalls Mall outside of the MLB was still teeming with black-robed, mortarboardbedecked graduates sporting colorful tassels-and now those graduates have all left campus and the lighter rhythms of spring/summer have begun to settle in (even though the weather seems to be lagging). We have taken leave of another impressive graduating class of majors and minors, who are off to great things in the world beyond Michigan; perhaps some of you will discover yourselves in the graduation photos we include in this issue. And continuing students have left, or are about to embark, for language study and internships abroad, which we are once again able to support financially from our endowments thanks to the continued generosity of our donors. Faculty and graduate

students, meanwhile, have now turned their attention back full-time to research and writing on topics ranging from translation to collecting, from media to museums, from "forms of life" to histories of waiting, and from black musicians in Germany to Jewish life in central Europe.

It's been quite a year, once again: full of exciting classes, fascinating lectures, visits, and events-many of which you can read about in the pages that follow: workshops on Neue Sachlichkeit and transnational German Studies, classes on a plethora of eye- (and ear-) opening subjects; two colleagues even brightened the cinderblock hallways of the MLB by curating a display that showcased intricate glass models of marine invertebrates, manufactured by a father and son in Dresden in the 19th century!

As we head into summer we're already making plans for the coming year, and we look forward to updating you on our line-up of events, visits, and speakers on the web, Facebook, and Twitter (@umichGerman).

As ever, please stay in touch. Much as we love sharing what we do, we also enjoy immensely when we hear from you, find out where your "Abenteuer mit Deutsch", your explorations of Dutch language and culture, or your Scandinavian studies have taken you. And most of all, we enjoy the opportunity to reconnect and say hi when you pass through Ann Arbor: come visit!

Mit herzlichen Grüßen,

Ophannes . luseth

Johannes von Moltke moltke@umich.edu

FACULTY FOCUS

The Museum of Vitreous Ecology

by Kerstin Barndt and Alice Goff



The histories of art, nature

and science meet in the glass models of Rudolf and Leopold Blaschka (1822-1895). The intricate creatures that first came to the University of Michigan 125 years ago have moved freely between these realms. They inspired students in the nineteenth century to further their studies in biology and struck a chord with visitors to the University of Michigan's Museum of Natural History. In the late twentieth century new technologies of visualization and learning displaced most of the glass miniatures and they went into storage. This exhibit of The Museum of Vitreous Ecology brings them back into public view.

Together with his son Rudolf Blaschka (1857-1939), Leopold brought a centurylong Bohemian family tradition in the artistry of glasswork to Dresden. Leopold and Rudolf studied natural history through descriptions, illustrations and live specimens. With their glass models, Rudolf and Leopold Blaschka captured the transparency, colors and details of ocean animal life forms, such as jellyfish, sea anemones, sea slugs or sea cucumbers. Emphasizing the symmetry and intricacy of organic forms the naturalism of the Blaschka models also mirrored contemporary conventions of art and beauty.

One of the first museum directors to discover the Blaschkas' art of glass modeling for biological exhibitions was Ludwig Reichenbach, director of Dresden's courtly natural history collections and botanical garden. Reichenbach exhibited Blaschka sea anemones in dry aquaria that mimicked the original marine habitat. From Dresden, the glass models began their path to global fame. Museums and universities in Europe, Canada, the USA and Australia ordered the fragile specimens from Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka who created each one individually in their glasswork studio.

Alice Goff and Kerstin Barndt in front of *The Museum of Vitreous Ecology*.

Between 1862 and 1890, the father and son team designed 800 different marine invertebrate models. After 1890, the Blaschkas concentrated solely on a commission of an extensive array of glass plants, known as the "glass flowers," for the Botanical Museum at Harvard University. The collection at the University of Michigan encompasses approximately 78 marine invertebrate models, many of which have only survived in fragments. The first group arrived in Ann Arbor in the late nineteenth century to support the "scientific apparatus" and teaching of

biology. In 1928, a second set of glass specimens was brought to campus for the inaugural exhibition in the new University Museums building. All specimens seem to have been bestowed to the University as gifts from Louis Agassiz's Blaschka collection at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology.

To this day, some of these Blaschka marine invertebrate models remain on display to support the story of evolution as told in the Museum of Natural History in the Ruthven Museums Building. Not marked as historical artifacts, they blend in with plastic models that have followed the Blaschkas' lead in illustrating systematic biology.

The Museum of Vitreous Ecology exhibits all remaining glass models not on permanent display. In their fragmented state, these objects no longer capture the physiological complexity of marine invertebrates toward which the Blaschkas' exhaustively strove. Instead, transformed into witnesses of the history of science and collecting at the University of Michigan and beyond, these fragments open up new elusive worlds. Enter The Museum of Vitreous Ecology: an aquarium of the novel life forms that emerge from the fragile enterprise of biological representation and the inevitable decay of old technologies of research. The Museum of Vitreous Ecology opened on March 24, 2017, and remained on display through May 15, 2017, in the hallway outside the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.

Good-bye, Alice

by Andreas Gailus

Has it already been two years? Alice Goff, Assistant Professor in History and GLL and Postdoctoral Fellow at the Michigan Society of Fellows, will leave us this summer to accept a position as Assistant Professor of History at the University of Chicago. Alice has been extremely active since her arrival in Ann Arbor, bringing her expertise on memory culture and politics to bear on many projects inside and outside the department. Besides teaching a highly innovative class on "Looting" and coorganizing a Teach-in on "What is Fascism and

how does it work," Alice

presented talks at the GSA, Bowdoin College, the University of Chicago and at the conference on "Vagaries of Objectivity," organized by two of our graduate students. And the best she kept for the end. Together with Associate Professor Kerstin Barndt, Alice curated the spectacular exhibition on the glass models of Rudolf and Leopold Blaschka featured on these pages, where glasswork artistry met with contemporary nineteenth-century natural history to represent, in delicate and extraordinary detail, rare forms of marine life. Thank you, Alice, we will miss you!



Collegiate Professorship for Helmut Puff

by Johannes von Moltke

We were thrilled to receive news this Spring from the College that Helmut Puff, jointly appointed in the Departments of German and History, has been awarded a Collegiate Professorship. This is one of the highest honors the College has available for active faculty members who deserve the distinctive recognition that a named Professorship carries. Professor Puff is recognized for his outstanding scholarship, his teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and for his significant leadership in the unit, the College, and the University. Collegiate Professorships traditionally bear the name of former University faculty members who have made substantial scholarly and other contributions while at the University of Michigan. We look forward to welcoming back Helmut Puff this Fall as the Elizabeth Eisenstein Collegiate Professor of German and History!

FACULTY FOCUS (CONT.)

Toward a Critical Appreciation of Waiting

by Helmut Puff



Warten auf die BOB Bahn an der Donnersbergbruecke bei untergehender Sonne im spaeten November (Waiting for the BOB Train at the Donnersbergbruecke [Munich] while the sun set in late November). Photo by Stephan Gelbmann, Nov 29, 2009. Courtesy of Bahnbilder.de. **Waiting is a universal** experience. We hope for

better weather. We are idling at the departure gate. We are anxious to receive a medical diagnosis. We prepare for the birth of a child. Waiting, in other words, is an everyday occurrence, though how and what we wait for varies. Still, we barely reflect on what this state entails. It is even difficult to state what it is we do when we wait. Is it an activity or the absence of one? For the most part, what we remember about spending time in limbo-if we remember it at all—is a barrage of emotions, with frustration likely topping the list. While waiting, one might say, we are confronted with the realization that we are not always in command.

Put differently, however, waithood amounts to a temporally bounded condition in which time becomes actual, if not acute. Removed from their regular activities, those who wait often anticipate what will, may, or must come. In this sense, waiting is anything but wasted time. Waiting orients us toward the world and the future. What is more, waiting, though an individual experience, is collective. Utopia may be the only place where such intervals do not exist. Almost everywhere else, forms of waiting structure, organize, and coordinate social interactions.

This is why the question whether there is a history of waiting must be answered in the affirmative. The history I seek to uncover in this research intersects with the history of measuring time as well as building spaces. After all, separate rooms often harbor those who wait. Waiting, as I argue, is full of possibilities. And so is the history of waiting.

Discussions on Film Theory and Criticism: Johannes von Moltke and A.O. Scott at Labyrinth Books

by Johannes von Moltke

In the Spring of 2016,

Johannes von Moltke joined distinguished New York Times film critic A.O. Scott at Labyrinth Books in Princeton to talk with Scott about his new book on film criticism, Better Living Through Criticism: How to Think About Art, Pleasure, Beauty and Truth. In December, they both traveled back to Princeton to reverse roles, discussing von Moltke's new book about Siegfried Kracauer, The Curious Humanist. Their conversation touched on Kracauer's intellectual biography as well as on the larger claims of von Moltke's book.

During the Weimar Republic, Kracauer established himself as a trenchant theorist of film, culture, and modernity, and he is now considered one of the key thinkers of the twentieth century. But when he

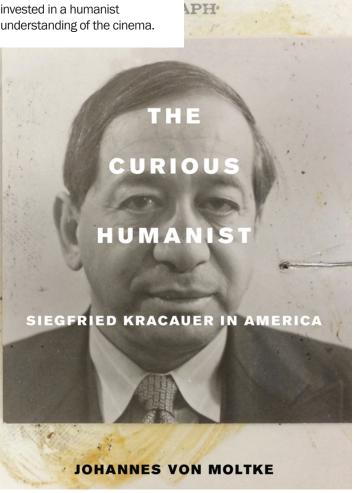
arrived in Manhattan aboard a crowded refugee ship in 1941, Kracauer was virtually unknown in the United States and had yet to write his bestknown books, From Caligari to Hitler and Theory of Film. In The Curious Humanist, von Moltke details the intricate ways in which the American intellectual and political context shaped Kracauer's seminal contributions to film studies and shows how. in turn, Kracauer's American writings helped shape the way in which films are understood and discussed in America.

Using archival sources and detailed readings of published works, von Moltke asks what it means to consider Kracauer as the New York intellectual he became in the last quarter century of his life. The Curious Humanist demonstrates

questions in conversation with contemporary critics from Theodor Adorno to Hannah Arendt, from Clement Greenberg to Robert Warshow: questions about the origins of totalitarianism and the authoritarian personality; about high and low culture; about liberalism, democracy, and what it means to be human. From these wideranging debates, Kracauer's own voice emerges as that of an incisive cultural critic invested in a humanist understanding of the cinema.

how Kracauer pursued

" Kracauer established himself as a trenchant theorist of film, culture, and modernity."



GRADUATE STUDENT FOCUS

A new Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop: Music and Sound Studies

by Tyler Whitney

The Music & Sound Studies

Reading Group is a new Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop convened by graduate students in German, Music, Architecture, History, and the School of Information, and advised by German Department Professors Kira Thurman and Tyler Whitney. The group aims to open up muchneeded space for graduate students on campus to exchange original research and discuss key theoretical texts related to music and sonic culture across a variety of disciplinary perspectives from media theory, literary studies, and the history of science, to affect theory, 'new materialism,' and actor-network theory. The group's stated goal is to develop conceptual flexibility in thinking through a common set of questions located at the intersection of aesthetics, politics, and the histories of acoustic media and auditory perception. This year the group chose the topic "Sound and Power" to organize a series of discussions, which culminated in a talk by the musicologist William Cheng (Dartmouth College).



Right image: Louis d'Hurcourt, "Téléphones et phonographes à l'Exposition Universelle" in L'Illustration 47 (1889): 328-30.

Page 9: Participants of January 2017 conference Vagaries of Objectivity/Launen der Sachlichkeit Conference.

Objectivity/Launen der Sachlichkeit

by Katy Holihan



Under the guidance of

Professor Kerstin Bandt, graduate students Kristin Schroeder (Art History) and Katy Holihan (German) organized the January 2017 conference Vagaries of Objectivity/Launen der Sachlichkeit. This conference brought together professors, graduate students, and recent PhDs in the fields of German Studies, Art History, and History from Austria, California, New York, Tennessee, Colorado, and our home University. The two-day conference kicked off with a keynote presentation from "Mr. Sachlichkeit" himself, Professor Helmut Lethen, on the habitus of Prussian Finance Minister Johannes Popitz.

Professor Lethen set the stage for two days of intensive scrutiny of the polyvalent and often contradictory meanings of the term "Sachlichkeit" in the German context before and after World War I. Presentations on Bauhaus ghosts, pedantic Biedermeier artists, and inflation and counterfeit questioned the driving forces behind the historical applications of "Sachlichkeit." Exploring the term in relation to the Arts & Crafts Movement, public health, photographic realism, exhibition practice, and factory design, participants transcended disciplinary borders, exposing the many guises of "Sachlichkeit" as modern sensibility, regulatory concept, political disposition, and critique of modernity.

Katy and Kristin would like to thank the departments of Germanic Languages and Literatures and History of Art for co-sponsoring the event and they extend heartfelt thanks to Professor Kerstin Barndt for her invaluable guidance and support. They would also like to thank keynote speakers Professors Helmut Lethen and Daniel Magilow, sponsors, speakers, participants, and staff for making this conference as fruitful an intellectual exchange as possible!

Graduate Student Awards: Congratulations!

Biz Nijdam



Swann Fellow at the Library of Congress: Biz Nijdam

Rackham Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award 2017: Biz Nijdam

Calder Fong

Naomi

Vaughan



Sweetland **Dissertation Writing** Institute Fellows Spring/Summer 2017: Biz Nijdam and Calder Fong

Rackham Predoctoral Fellow 2017-18: Naomi Vaughan

Mary Hennessy





German-American Fulbright 2017-18: Mary Hennessy

Freie Universität Berlin/Sturm Fellowship 2017-18: Katy Holihan

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FOCUS

Congratulations, Graduates!

Majors in German Studies

Matthew Victor Ackerman* Josiah Randall Ault Jamie Bahoura Megan Adele Bayagich Milena Danielle Beltramo Sarah Virginia Blasius Brittany Ann Boyle Galen Edward Burrell** Nathan Daniel Carrillo Max Vortex Carrillo-Ostrow Rachel Cheng Katie Rose Choike **Brandon Clark Cummings**

Matthew Glen Egeler Kirsten Elaine Eriksson Andrew Michael Ferguson Laurel Marie Fricker Remington Gregory Gerras** Daniel Nehring Gibbs Meredith Anne Gilbert Fangmeng Gu Raffaela Hainbuchner Arlene Grace Haselhuhn* Ian Geoffrey Holtz* Courtney Grace Keller* Jennifer Jihye Kim

Edward Michael Kosta Sophia Kotov Angelika Losey Kurthen Susan Pamela LaMoreaux John Patrick Larsen IV** Samuel Eli Lee* Yuchen Liang Nichole Jean Lohrke Hannah Rothley Lucas Sydney Amber McConnell Amy Diane McGregor Gage Alexander Minkley Eric James Montag

Alexandra Eileen Oklejas Michael T. Payne Matthew Tait Pfennig* Helena Martine Ratté Meredith Ann Ray Sam Dewitt Rea* Ethan Tyler Schulz Jacqueline Ann Smith Alexandria Jane Stehney Adam Jason Stone Kate Hannahfreitag-Vandervoort Sabrina Nicole Walker

Minors in German Studies

Jessica Marie Bauer Alison Jai Beach Marissa Maree Bivins Zachary Rodney Boulanger Katherine Elizabeth Cox **Austin James Day** Faris Dizdarevic Krysten Marieshaw Dorfman Natalia Catherine Estes Eva Elizabeth Fall Jessica Lynn Feathers** Hannah Nicole Fetner Kim Marie Frauhammer Jesse Michael Friedman

Edward Lee Godbold Eric Terrence Green* Ben Patrick Greenberg* Abigail Elise Grobbel Megan Rae Gutman Cameron Thomas Hodges* Brooke Donna Huisman Ryan Alan Uriu Jackson* Derek David Jacob Jose Antonio Jimenez Rocha Jin Hong Jessica Kim Amanda Rose Knop Nathan Gold Korth** Shao-Kai Lai

Ian Moon Chul Larson Kevin William Lavelle Erica Augustina Liao Larissa Marten Barbara Ann McHugh Grace Margaret McKenna Charlotte Caroline Moore Colleen Regina Natzke Addison Pia Notarantonio* Kendall Maye Oldford Litong Pei Samantha Robinson Raeder Molly Marie Range Jessica Ann Reid

Joseph David Rubino* Philip Michael Rynearson Clark Alexander Sanford Hvun Jun Jun Shin* Jordan Alan Shore Jasmine Breonna Smith Carsten Robert Sprunger Cherice Alexandra Todd* Sarah Keating Vanderwalde Joris Anthony von Moltke Rachel P. Wallace Mitchell Carlisle Walsh Allison Renee Ward* Nicholas John Wei** Joseph W. Zimmer

German Honors Students

Jamie Bahoura Matthew Glen Egeler Laurel Marie Fricker

Minors in **Scandinavian Studies**

Max Aveis* Joshua Blazen* Michelle Hoban Rebecca Smith Siri Andrews Hanna Ljungman

Departmental Awards

Bronson-Thomas Essay Prize: Winners of Advanced German **Essay Prize**

Native-German: Angelika Kurthen

Learned-German: Meredith Ostermann Frank X. Braun Award: **Outstanding Graduate Student** Instructors

Domenic DeSocio Calder Bragdon Fong

Lecturer of the Year Award: Student Nominated Award for Excellence in Teaching and Promoting German Language and Culture

Catherine Alice Marquardt

^{*}Denotes December 2016 Graduate

^{**}Denotes August 2017 Graduate









DUTCH STUDIES

Diversity and Tolerance

by Annemarie Toebosch

Dutch and Flemish studies

continues to build its curriculum around issues of diversity and tolerance with a special focus on the non-obvious relationship between intolerance and progressivism in Dutch culture and politics. In March, the program reached the national stage in an article on the Dutch elections (Newsweek, 3/19/17, "Shattering the Myth of Dutch Tolerance," first published in The Conversation as "Populist Wilders may have come up short, but Dutch intolerance is still real").

In a new political climate, many students expressed interest in examining connections between (neo-)fascism and white nationalism this year. The "Anne Frank in Context" course, now the third largest course offered in Judaic Studies, responded by including new material this year to connect the course with current events. Students examined almost weekly Anne Frank-related news, spent additional time considering forms of resistance to persecution, and studied the effects of the Holocaust on next generations in more detail. This fall Dutch and Flemish Studies will start collaborating with one of the university's most diverse residential communities, the Michigan Community Scholars Program (MCSP). A set number of slots in the Amsterdam course will be reserved for MCSP students. and the course will be taught in MCSP classrooms. MCSP students will strengthen the Dutch program with their focus on community and social justice. The first set of MCSP students will have the opportunity to explore options at U-M for a studentelderly cohousing program. This type of cohousing, first designed and implemented in the Netherlands, is also the topic of the 2017 annual De Vries-Van der Koov memorial lecture (speaker: Gea Sijpkes, CEO Humanitas. Deventer). The lecture is scheduled to take place Thursday, October 12, at 8pm in the Hussey Room of the Michigan League. Thanks go to the Netherlands Embassy in Washington, D.C., and the Consulate General in Chicago for their consultations on speaker selection.



Hup Blauw

by Annemarie Toebosch



Top image: 2016-17 first-year students of Dutch. Middle image: An evening of "sjoelen" and movies.

Two established institutes

for Dutch language research and policy, the Meertens Institute and the Dutch Language Union, recently concluded that Dutch is a "vital language with excellent chances of survival" [read: despite influences from English]. Dutch and Flemish Studies at the University of Michigan continues to do its modest part to expand the pool of Dutch speakers in the U.S.

2016-17 was another year of strong enrollment (140 student registrations, 65 in language and 75 in culture courses) and students celebrated the program with a lunch through the Germanic Faculty to Lunch Program, a night of "sjoelen" (Dutch shuffleboarding), and new Hup Blauw Hup (Go Blue) t-shirts. Many thanks go to David Baker and Mel Rolando for organizing.

Bottom image: Student-faculty lunch with Annemarie Toebosch, Director of

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

Scandinavian Program 2017

by Johanna Eriksson

Congratulations to the six

students who graduated this year with a Minor in Scandinavian Studies: Max Aveis, Joshua Blazen, Rebecca Smith, Michelle Hoban, Hanna Ljungman, and Siri Andrews. These wonderful students took advantage of the study abroad program at Uppsala University, summer internships in Sweden, and wrote independent papers on topics from Finnish Swedish culture to sustainability. They led the U-M Scandinavian Club, organizing weekly fika-conversation hours, board game and film nights, and seasonal Scandinavian parties. We celebrated with a Swedish themed reception. Swedish deserts, Swedish graduation songs, and conversation in Swedish about future plans.

Taking a gap year is very popular in Scandinavia. Many high school graduates spend at least a year after high school working, volunteering, traveling, and thinking about future careers before entering university, while less than 1% of students in the U.S. do so. Many explore their personal passion at a "folkhögskola," a school for adults offering programs in arts, music and the outdoors, among many other things. Our student Erik Lundberg (AB '17) spent a semester at Høgtun Folkehøgskole in Norway. He

participated in a program called "Top 30," where they climbed 30 mountains on skis. Hikes started at 6am, giving students hours of selfreflection and demanding physical challenges. Erik was surprised to find he appreciated the climb up even more than skiing down. His Norwegian language skills improved a lot, but most importantly, he found himself. After surveying 150 folkhögskola students for his independent studies paper, Erik found that the majority of students felt considerably happier and more self-confident and appreciative of life after their studies at a folkhögskola.

Twelve second-year Swedish students joined the Spring Break Study Tour to Sweden during the 2017 Winter term, and ten Swedish students from ProCivitas in Helsingborg visited U-M in March. Newly appointed Swedish Honorary Consul Thomas Mark and wife Melissa Mark joined us on our tour of Detroit. Mr. Mark is taking over the position from Lennart Johansson, who has been the honorary consul since 1992. The Marks presented on Swedish companies in the region, and generously sponsored our visits to the Motown Museum and DIA as well as a great American lunch. The sunny day in Detroit left the



positive impression of Detroit. Thank you for your time and support, Tom and Missy!

This summer, creative writing major Caroline Rothrock has secured an internship at the magazine Gatans Röster in Malmö. She received a generous scholarship from the Scandinavian Program with support from The Highfield Foundation and SWEA Michigan.

During the 2017-18 academic year, Professor David Östlund from Stockholm and Sodertorn will join the Scandinavian Program for a third time. He will teach a course on the history of the Modern Welfare state, give public talks, and join the program in activities throughout the year.



Top Image: Scandinavian minors with Johanna Eriksson, Collegiate Lecturer, Scandinavian Program Director.

Middle and Bottom images: Swedish Students touring landmarks in Sweden on the Spring Break Study Tour.



IN THE CLASSROOM

Different ways to study & learn German









We believe that language learning

From Classroom Translation to **Published Translation**

by Kristin Dickinson





Left image: Selim Özdoğan. Photo credit: Harald Krichel, CC BY-SA 3.0. Right image: Cover of Selim Özdoğan's book, Wieso Heimat? Ich wohne zur Miete (2016) (Who Said Heimat, I'm Only Renting). Published by Haymon Verlag. Page 14: Some courses offered this past year by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.

Selim Özdoğan was the Max Kade Writer in Residence during the Fall 2016 term. During his residency, Özdoğan visited Professor Kristin Dickinson's seminar "Un/Translatability in Theory and Practice" to workshop student translations from his most recent novel Wieso Heimat? Ich wohne zur Miete (2016) (Who Said Heimat, I'm Only Renting). Students first read the novel and then selected individual chapters to translate. Over the course of several weeks, students subsequently

read, discussed, and edited each other's work together with the author. Overall, this project offered the exciting opportunity for students to engage in a collaborative translation practice which underscored the value of translation as an ongoing process rather than simply an end product. The refereed online German Studies Journal Transit recently published these translations that Özdoğan and the students worked so hard on during Dickinson's seminar. These translations

are by Milena Beltrama, Brittany Boyle, Brandon Cummings, Kristen Datta, Hannah Kelley-Watkins, Nathan Korth, Edward Kosta, Ted Ma, James Margard, Sydney McConnell, and Sabrina Walker. In addition to the students' translations. Transit also published an introduction to the novel and an interview with Selim Özdoğan by Kristin Dickinson. The article can be found by visiting: www. Isa.umich.edu/german/ news-events/all-news/searchnews/german-472-studentstranslate-selim-oezdoan.html.

EVENTS

Exhibit to Commemorate 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

curated by Professor Helmut Puff



Ulrich Pinder, Speculum passionis, 1519, 26v (detail) (Harlan Hatcher Library, BT 430 .P65): (Photograph: Helmut Puff).

The late medieval German

lands teemed with innovation. Novel forms of piety emerged, the demand for practical learning grew, more universities competed for students, and wealth from both trade and mining transformed social relations. The dissemination of texts and ideas on an industrial scale via the printing press reshaped communication, knowledge, and belief. In this context, reform-the renewal of a lost standard of the past in the present-

became a battle-cry for religious, economic, and political change.

In 1517, Martin Luther, a professor of theology and a monk, published his scathing critique of indulgences, a church practice that allowed Christians to buy off time from suffering for one's sins in the afterlife. Issued in the provincial town of Wittenberg, this call for academic debate and reform unleashed a series of events that led to the break-up of Latin

Christianity. The Reformations that followed forever altered the lives of those in early modern Europe and beyond.

Highlighting the University of Michigan's Special Collections, Reforming the Word: Martin Luther in Context, commemorates this pivotal transformation in world history. The exhibit will be open to visitors between September 5 and November 15 in the Audubon Room of the Graduate Library.

Werner Grilk Lecture

by Johannes von Moltke



This past January, for its annual Werner Grilk Lecture in German Studies, the Department welcomed Professor Helmut Lethen. who spoke on "Magical Thinking in Cultural Studies." By which he meant the tendency to confuse rough simultaneity with causalityas when someone (such as the German media theorist Friedrich Kittler) claims it to be "no coincidence" that the first typewriters were produced in a weapons factory, or that EMI, Pink Floyd's record label, employed technology used in warfare to locate U-boats. In his talk, Lethen went on to offer a spirited exploration of the coincidences that shaped his own intellectual biography -including the Beatles single "Twist and Shout," a Stravinsky recording, some American sociology, and a lot of German critical theory.

Lethen is Visiting Professor for Cultural Studies at the Kunstuniversität Linz, which he joined after stepping

Professor Helmut Lethen. Photo credit: Heribert Corn.

down as Director of the International Research Center for Cultural Studies (IFK) in Vienna (2007-2016). He previously held positions at the Universities of Utrecht (Netherlands) and Rostock. and has held visiting professorships at Chicago, UCLA, Indiana, and Berkelev. Lethen is the author of numerous works on German literary and cultural history, including Neue Sachlichkeit (1970), Verhaltenslehren der Kälte (1994: translated as Cool Conduct: The Culture of Distance in Weimar Germany. California 2002), Der Sound der Väter (2006) and Die Suche nach dem Handorakel (2010). His most recent book. Der Schatten des Fotografen (2014), assembles essays on photography and won the Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair in 2014.

This year's lecture was the first to be held since Werner Grilk passed away. Thanks to the generosity of the donor —a student of Werner's-who endowed it, we will continue to hold the event as a memorial lecture in Werner Grilk's honor. We are delighted to announce our next speaker: in late September, Professor Celia Applegate (Vanderbilt) will be delivering the 17th annual Werner Grilk Memorial Lecture in German Studies.

Transnational German Studies Network and Workshop

by Kristin Dickinson

In order to critically engage with deeply important issues related to transnationalismincluding migration, race and ethnicity, globalization, colonialism, multiculturalism, translation, identity politics, cosmopolitanism, and exile-Professor Kristin Dickinson has been working to form an interdisciplinary research network involving graduate students and faculty from four leading public universities: The University of Michigan, Michigan State University, The University of Massachusetts Amherst, and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The impetus for this network finds its roots in the Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop "Alamanya: Transnational German Studies," which brings together graduate students and scholars

concerned with analyzing cross-cultural encounters between Germany and the world in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The ultimate goal is to create an ongoing interdisciplinary workshop that is separate from Alamanya, but that provides a forum for its members to network with faculty and graduate students working on similar issues at other U.S. institutions.

The research network's inaugural workshop took place on May 6-7, 2017 at the University of Michigan, with the plan to reconvene once every two years. The workshop had approximately 25 participants and diverse presentation formats, including panels, a roundtable, and a discussion of current scholarship in the field.

An Exhibit for the University's Bicentennial Highlighted in the LSA Magazine

Kerstin Barndt's work

with Carla Sinopoli on the history of the University's museums, libraries, and collections is highlighted in the current issue of LSA magazine and on-line here: www.lsa.umich.edu/ Isa/news-events/all-news/ search-news/objectlessons.html

Barndt is currently in the process of organizing another exhibit from various collections in honor of the University's Bicentennial. The fall exhibit will be held in the Ruthven Museum.

STAYING CONNECTED

From U-M German Student to U-M's German Librarian

by Mara Blake (AB '05)



prepare you for wherever your future takes you."

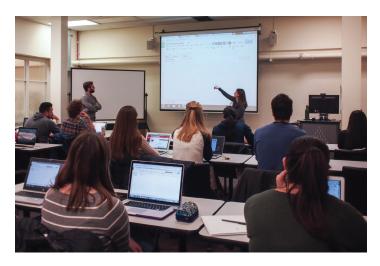


Like so many German majors before and after me, I clearly remember leaving Kalli Federhofer's office feeling somewhat dazed and holding a piece of paper indicating I had just declared a major in German. Also, I had made tentative plans to study at the Goethe Institut in Berlin over an upcoming summer. I had originally scheduled the appointment to discuss the possibility—possibility—of declaring a German minor. Kalli made a major and a trip to Germany seem so logical and reasonable! Although I experienced some initial shock, I am so glad and grateful that Kalli made me see how wonderful completing my B.A. in German (in addition to my second major, Residential College Social Science) would be. My major in German served me well as a student and later throughout my career as an academic librarian.

The small classes and engaged faculty made my experience as a German student wonderful. In addition to my coursework, I worked for Andy Markovits as a research assistant, learning a lot about the scholarly research process. Writing my honors thesis under the guidance of Kerstin Barndt and with Andy Markovits as my advisor in the department allowed me to develop my research skills further and also gain experience working on my first long-term project. Language learning in general provides an opportunity to develop lots of transferrable skills, including, but not limited to: cultural sensitivity, time management, and self-confidence. The German department provides the perfect environment to develop these skills which will be an asset no matter where your future takes you.

After completing my B.A. at the University of Michigan, I went on to obtain an M.S. in Information Science at the University of Illinois. Since 2009, I have served as a librarian at a couple of colleges and universities. I currently serve the University of Michigan as a Spatial and Numeric Data Librarian, as well as the Librarian for the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. The research skills I gained as a German student. particularly as an honors

Left above image: Mara printing an owl at the Gutenberg Museum booth at the Frankfurt Book Fair. Photo credit: Beau Case. Right above image: Mara Blake. Photo credit: Catherine Morse. Page 19: Mara giving a workshop to Kira Thurman's GER 396 class on mapping with colleague Justin Joque. Photo credit: Gregory Parker.



thesis writer, prepared me well for my current role instructing others how to use tools available from the library to conduct their own research. I enjoy working with researchers on their topics in German because I always get to learn new things as I learn about their research topics. I particularly have fun working with the cohorts of German honors students as they work on the research for their thesis projects.

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, along with the Library and History Department, also supported my attendance at the Frankfurter Buchmesse (Frankfurt Book Fair) in 2015. The Frankfurter Buchmesse is the oldest book fair still running. Going allowed me to continue to build the excellent collection of materials in the University of Michigan Library available for German students and scholars.

Mara is a recent recipient of the **University Librarian** Recognition Award. **Congrats Mara!**

Reviving a U-M tradition,

the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures will be hosting German Career Day this Fall Semester. Our focus for the event is making connections between our skilled and talented German Minors and Majors and companies that need employees and interns with German language skills. We are inviting German companies to participate in the event, as well as companies that have subsidiaries and operations in Germany. This event will offer an opportunity for our stellar students to meet representatives from these companies, learn what potential employers are actually looking for, and get a sense of the value their language skills can play in the hiring process and their professional lives. Please contact Maria Measel at: measelm@ umich.edu for additional details and applications to participate in the event.

German American **Career Day**



Cover Photos

Top photo: Detail from Rackham Graduate School, Sarah Nesbitt. **Bottom Left photo:** Blaschka figure, Alice Goff.

Bottom Right photo: Fountain outside the MLB, Sarah Nesbitt.

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Detail from Rackham Graduate School, Sarah Nesbitt.

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

812 East Washington Street 3110 Modern Languages Building Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1275 (734) 764-8018 • www.lsa.umich.edu/german

Chair: Johannes von Moltke

Asst. Editor & Layout: Jennifer White & Nina Barraco

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