Word from the Director 2014-2015

Paul Fleming

It has been a rewarding and productive first year at the helm of the Institute for German Cultural Studies, with many exciting events and several new programs to report – and much more to come in 2014-15. In addition to the colloquia, workshops, conferences, concerts, and films documented in this issue of German Cultural News and on the IGCS website, I would also like to highlight the following news from the 2013-14:

The IGCS is excited to announce our new graduate student exchange with the University of Cologne, starting this fall 2014. Our exchange partner is Cologne University’s Humanities graduate school, a.r.t.e.s. (part of Cologne University being awarded an “Exzellenz” status among German universities). Applications for the new exchange are open to all Humanities graduate students with a knowledge of German who could benefit from a semester or a year researching in Cologne. As part of the exchange, Cornell students receive 1,000 euros per month for up to 10 months: every year we can send either one 1 graduate student for the full 10 months, or 2 graduate students for 5 months each (it can be the same semester). If you are a graduate student in the Humanities, know German, and would like to apply to this program for 2015-16, please be in touch with IGCS. Congratulations to Matteo Calla, PhD candidate in German, for being awarded the first stipend to Cologne for 2014-15 [for more information on a.r.t.e.s., please visit: http://artes.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/].

Congratulations to Alina Dvorovenko, CAS undergraduate major in Economics, for being awarded a full tuition and accommodation scholarship to the six-week “Cologne Summer School on Legal Aspects of European Integration 2014.”

IGCS is also very happy to sponsor a new Contemporary German Literature Reading Group dedicated to the discussion of the most recent works of German literature (texts appearing in the last 5-10 years). We meet several times throughout the term at IGCS; last semester we read work by Rainald Goetz, Ann Cotton, and Maxim Biller. If you are interested in participating, please be in touch with IGCS.

Last year, IGCS together with the German Department, inaugurated a new, yearly graduate student forum with the University of Colorado-Boulder and Johns Hopkins University for advanced graduate students in German to workshop dissertation chapters to professors and graduate students at our partner schools. We were very happy to support the travel of four of our graduate students to Boulder for 2 days of intellectual exchange: Johannes Wankhammer, Hannah Mueller, Alexander Phillips, and Katrina Noussek.

And to kick off this term...

IGCS is very pleased to welcome Prof. Dr. Ethel Matala de Mazza as our Humboldt University exchange professor for the first weeks of September 2014. Professor Matala de Mazza’s current research focuses on the poetics of the small as a literary mode of negotiating modernity’s self-inscription. She has published extensively, including the monographs Der verfaßte Körper. Zum Projekt einer organischen Gemeinschaft in der Politischen Romantik (1999) and Dichtung als Schau-Spiel. Zur Poetologie des jungen Hugo von Hofmannsthal (1995), as well as essays on the cold war; the construction of the body politic; E.T.A. Hoffmann; Heinrich von Kleist, and Georg Büchner, among many others. Professor Matala de Mazza will be presenting at the first colloquium on Friday, September 5, at 3:00, with a paper entitled
“Fabelhafte Macht: Louis Marin liest Jean de la Fontaine.” For the full line up of this Fall’s colloquia, see the poster included in these pages.

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Fall 2014 IGCS sponsored events – for more information and up-to-the-minute reports, please visit the IGCS website (igcs.cornell.edu):

**Sept. 12**, 3pm, A.D. White House: Lecture “Inheritance Trouble: Migration, Memory, and the German Past” with speakers Michael Rothberg (English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and Yasemin Yildiz (Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

**Sept. 13**, 1pm, A.D. White House: Workshop with speakers Michael Rothberg (English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and Yasemin Yildiz (Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) Org. by German Studies graduate students

**Sept. 16**, 9:30am – 5pm, 258 Goldwin Smith Hall: Conference: “Derrida’s Jewish Specters” Organized by Jonathan Boyarin, Jewish Studies Program. Speakers include: Martin Land (Jerusalem), Sarah Hammerschlag (Chicago), Michael Levine (Rutgers), Sergei Dolgopoloski (Buffalo)

**Sept. 26-27**, A.D. White House: Conference: “The Poet and the University: Stefan George among the Scholars” Organized by Peter Uwe Hohendahl and Paul Fleming. With talks by Eva Geulen (Frankfurt am Main), Ernst Osterkamp (Humboldt University-Berlin), Robert Norton (Notre Dame), Russell Berman (Stanford), Elke Siegel, Peter Uwe Hohendahl, and Paul Fleming (all Cornell)

**Oct. 31-Nov. 1**, Sage School of Philosophy, 218 Goldwin Smith Hall: Conference in Honor of Allen W. Wood “German Philosophy & the Ethics of Belief.” Organized by Andrew Chignell, Cornell University; Lara Denis, Agnes Scott College; Desmond Hogan, Princeton University

**Dec. 6**, A. D. White House, 10am-5:00pm: Critical Theory and (post)Colonialism Part II A joint workshop with ICM featuring Grant Farred (Cornell); Nahum Chandler (UC Irvine); Gary Wilder (CUNY Gradate Center); Robert Kaufman (UC Berkeley); Haiping Yan (Tsinghua University, Beijing); Xudong Zhang (New York University)

In April 2015, IGCS is delighted to welcome Ulrich Peltzer as Writer-in-Residence. The author of five novels, a book on poetics, and co-author of several film scripts, Ulrich Peltzer has won most of German’s biggest literary prizes: the Bremen Literary Prize (2003); the Berlin Literary Prize (2008); the Heinrich Böll Prize (2011); the Carl Amery Prize (2013). He will be here to present his new novel (due out in spring 2015) as the forthcoming film (spring 2015) he co-wrote with Berlin school filmmaker Christoph Hochhäusler: Die Lügen der Sieger [The Victors’ Lies].

Please take the time to read the German Culture News (in its ‘new’ retro layout) and browse IGCS website (igcs.cornell.edu) for all that is taking place this year. The IGCS is eager to partner in exciting, multi-disciplinary events; if you have ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.