Word from the Director 2015-2016

Paul Fleming

Dear All,

And welcome back from what I hope was a relaxing summer.

It has been another productive, collaborative year at the Institute for German Cultural Studies, with many exciting events and several new programs to report – and much more to come in 2015-16. In addition to the writer-in-residence, colloquia, workshops, conferences, and concerts documented in the forthcoming issue of German Cultural News and on the IGCS website, I would also like to highlight the following from 2014-15:

The graduate student exchange with the University of Cologne, begun in fall 2014, is now in full swing. Last year, Matteo Calla, PhD candidate in German, was awarded the first stipend to Cologne for 2014-15; this academic year 2015-16, Matthew Stoltz and Leigh York will each spend a semester at our exchange partner, Cologne University’s Humanities graduate school, a.r.t.e.s. Applications for the 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. Please encourage students to apply. 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). Applications are generally due mid February.

Congratulations to Alina Carrillo, Cornell undergraduate majoring in “Environmental Science and Sustainability,” for being awarded a full tuition and accommodation scholarship to the six-week “Cologne Summer School 2015 on Environmental Studies: Sustainable Cities.” Every summer, Cologne offers up to 2 stipends to Cornell undergraduates. The topics change every year; please keep an eye open for the announcement in spring (application usually due end of March).

The Contemporary German Literature Reading Group will continue its monthly meetings dedicated to the discussion of the most recent works of German literature (texts appearing in the last 5-10 years). If you are interested in participating for a relaxed evening of discussing literature and good food, please be in touch with IGCS.

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Fall 2015 IGCS sponsored and co-sponsored events – for more information and up-to-the-minute reports, visit the IGCS website (igcs.cornell.edu):

Colloquia
Unless otherwise indicated, colloquia take place at 3pm in 156 Goldwin Smith Hall. An
advance copy of each paper can be obtained in the Department of German Studies, 183 Goldwin Smith Hall.

**Sept. 4, 2015** Nur über seine Leiche: Literaturgeschichte der Männerfreundschaft (Andreas Kraß, Institut für deutsche Literatur, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

**Sept. 25, 2015** Genealogy Trouble: Secularization in Löwith, Blumenberg, Schmitt and Agamben (Kirk Wetters, German, Yale University)

**Oct. 16 2015** Before Truth: Walter Benjamin’s “Erkenntniskritische Vorrede” (Kristina Mendicino, German, Brown University)

**Nov. 6, 2015** Mosenthal’s Deborah and the Politics of Compassion: Anatomy of a Tearjerker (Jonathan Hess, Germanic Languages & Literatures, UNC at Chapel Hill)

*co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program*

**Nov. 20, 2015** Clouded Visions: Particulate Matter in F. W. Murnau’s Faust and Hartmut Bitomsky’s Dust (Paul Dobryden, German, Cornell University)

**Dec. 4, 2015** Klopstock’s Darstellung and the Cult of Aesthetic Experience (Matteo Calla, German, Cornell University)

**Conferences & Workshops**

**The Challenge of Realism: Theodor Fontane**
Sept. 18-19, 2015, 258 Goldwin Smith Hall

**Keynote lecture:** Sept. 18, 4pm, Eric Downing (University of North Carolina), Fontane & the Future Ends of Realism

**September 19:** presentations by Sean Franzel, Ulrike Vedder, Anette Schwarz, Peter Hohendahl, Elisabeth Strowick, Sam Frederick

Organized by Peter Hohendahl; Sponsored by Cornell University’s IGCS, College of Arts & Sciences, and the Departments of German Studies, History, and Comparative Literature

**Oct. 23-24, 2015,** 401 Physical Sciences Building
**Mapping the Medieval** / Conference in honor of Arthur Groos
Organized by the German Studies Department

**Lectures & Other Events**

**Sept. 8-10** A Yiddish Theater Festival Organized by Cornell Jewish Studies Program with Ithaca College Jewish Studies and Cornell Council for the Arts
For more information, please visit jewishstudies.cornell.edu

**Sept. 15, 4:45pm (Place TBA)** Martin Heidegger Saved My Life (Grant Farred, Cornell)
– co-sponsored with Africana

**Sept. 24, 4:30pm, 366 McGraw Hall**

*Through storms of steel: The path to the marble cliffs. Ernst Jünger dealing with Thucydides* (Christian Wendt, Free University, Berlin) Co-sponsored by History, Classics, IGCS, and Program on Freedom and Free Societies

**Nov. 16, 4:30 pm (Place TBA)**

*Wrong Sex and the City: Polish Work Migration and Subaltern Masculinity* (Dirk Uffelmann, University of Passau) – co-sponsored with FGSS

More co-sponsored events for Fall 2015 will be added soon; please browse the IGCS website (igcs.cornell.edu) for all that is taking place this year.