EUS 260: Origins of Modernism: Vienna 1750 to Present

By Christoph Zeller, Associate Professor of German

Time matters in Viennese coffee houses, but in an unexpected way. By slowing its pace down, time turns into a matrix for ideas and encounters with likeminded spirits. An abundance of time was maybe the most distinctive feature of Viennese coffee houses around the turn of the century, when intellectuals, writers, and artists met to exchange their ideas and visions.

Participants of this year’s Maymester course in Vienna (EUS 260) experienced this culturally saturated, intellectually stimulating approach to time almost immediately after they arrived. “I expected to be rushed out of the already crowded dining area,” says one of them, “to make room for more customers. But instead, a beautiful thing happened. Our waiter left us alone. He didn’t ask us to pay, and he didn’t push us to buy more food. He simply let us be. I could see many Americans perceiving this as a display of his indifference toward us as customers, but painting it as such would be entirely inaccurate. This is the cultural norm. This is how the Viennese experience their meals. And I quickly fell in love with it.”

Vienna’s architecture preserves time. Excavations of Roman buildings remind one of former glory as much as the adjacent Hofburg, the center of the Hapsburg Empire that once spanned the entire globe. The rise of Modernism was in many respects a rebellion against an imperial ideology and its need to display their power with help of monumental buildings and magnified symbols of superiority. Architecture, Adolf Loos, claimed, had to eliminate his-

A Welcome from the Director

In this issue we shine a spotlight on the students, curriculum, and alumni of the Max Kade Center’s undergraduate European Studies program. In these pages you can read about student experiences in Christoph Zeller’s Maymester course in Vienna as well as the University of Utrecht’s International Summer School on Equality, which three of our students attended in July. Current students should take note that Alice Stašková, Visiting Max Kade Professor of German in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages, will teach a course in EUS in Spring 2015. And be sure to read the updates from some of our recent alumni, as well as news from current and former affiliated faculty. As a field of inquiry European Studies is transdisciplinary, transnational, and comparative. To that end the MKC features programming that can illuminate the ways in which Europeans live together, such as Jennifer Illuzzi’s talk about Roma in both Italy and Germany in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (October 29th). We are also committed to discovering the ways in which Europe has engaged with the world beyond its borders, both geographically and conceptually. In February Glenn Penny and Ted Fischer will discuss the Guatemala-Germany connection, and in March Kira Thurman will speak about the Fisk Jubilee Singers’ nineteenth-century European tour. Please visit our website for further information about these events.

-Joy H. Calico

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torical allusion, strip ornamentation, and connect form with function.

Students saw buildings, for example, by Otto Wagner, Adolf Loos, and Ludwig Wittgenstein in order to identify a distinctive, middle class mindset that was free of historical ballast. All of these buildings sought to overcome time through a timeless architectural language.

Traditionally, art plays a major role in Vienna’s self-perception as a cultural melting pot with its long imperial history. Students learned about the shift from representative art to a more avant-garde, self-reflective, and experimental aesthetic in the city’s many outstanding museums. Guided tours, for example on Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele, brought back an era that began to favor everything new over things past.

Today, Vienna maintains its position as a geographic intersection between East and West, North and South. Among the many institutions and organizations that impact world politics, the many United Nations offices stand out. A visit to the UN gave students an idea about the role of the United Nations and their focus, for example, on solving current issues on nuclear development, border-crossing epidemics, and international crime.

Highlights of this year’s EUS Maymester in Vienna were, of course, the musical events at the Musikverein, the most traditional venue that the city can offer. After a concert performed by the formidable Fauré Quartett (Mahler, Fauré, Brahms) on May 8, we enjoyed a symphony concert by the Wiener Symphoniker, featuring Alain Altinoglu (conductor) on May 1 Ludwig van Beethoven’s piano concerto no. 3 was masterfully performed by Vladimir Jurowski, undoubtedly a rising star among pianists worldwide, followed by an excellent performance of Igor Stravinsky’s Rite of Spring with its numerous changes in tempo and rhythm during the second part of the concert.

All in all, the European Maymester Program in Vienna was considered a tremendous cultural experience and a lot of fun for all.
International Summer School on Equality (July 2014)

Utrecht, The Netherlands

Three EUS students participated in the International Summer School on Equality in Utrecht in July 2014: Jessica Winchester, Sahil Thiruvengadam, and Anna Najduch. This was the second in a series of three summer schools on the themes of the French Revolution (liberty, equality, fraternity). This project is a joint initiative of the Utrecht Network, coordinated by Utrecht University in Utrecht, The Netherlands, under project coordinator Gerrit Dielissen, a former visiting professor at the Max Kade Center.

The summer school is multinational and interdisciplinary in character. It consists of interactive lectures, student-led workshops, study visits, and dialogues with local actors. The school offers tuition, accommodation and full board, course materials and excursions. For more information about the program, including the 2015 summer school on Fraternity, please visit http://lefsummerschool.eu/.

EUS students are encouraged to apply! If you are interested in participating in the 2015 Summer School on Fraternity in Antwerp, Belgium, contact Sahil Thiruvengadam at pst@vanderbilt.edu. Read about Sahil’s experience in Utrecht here: http://as.vanderbilt.edu/europeanstudies/sahilutrechtexperiencefinal.pdf

Alice Stašková, Max Kade Visiting Professor in Spring 2015

In spring 2015 we will welcome Alice Stašková as Max Kade Visiting Professor of German to the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages. Professor Stašková received her Ph.D. in German literature at the University of Prague in 2005, and was assistant professor at the Charles University there before joining the German Department of the Free University in Berlin in 2009. She was the recipient of an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship in 2007-2008. In spring 2015 she will teach EUS 240: Big Cities in Modern European Literature (St. Petersburg, Rome, Prague, Paris, Vienna), which she describes as follows:

European literature since 1800 often focused on descriptions of life in big cities. Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Alexander Pushkin, Rainer Maria Rilke, Franz Kafka, Joseph Brodsky and others tried to explore and reinvent the capitals in their imaginations, resulting in new poetic representations and stylistic possibilities. This course reconstructs the history and topography of St. Petersburg, Rome, Paris, Prague or Vienna through the works of different authors and literary genres (poems, novels, essays) read in English translation. We will compare the different images of the cities presented in the literature and explore representations of the city in films based on those sources.
Faculty News

Professor Henning Grunwald, former DAAD Assistant Professor at the Max Kade Center (2006-2012), is a University Lecturer in Modern European History at Cambridge University (2012-Present).

Professor Joel F. Harrington, recently named Centennial Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History, has been awarded a Chancellor’s Award for Research for his book The Faithful Executioner: Life and Death, Honor and Shame in the Turbulent Sixteenth Century.

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European Studies Scholar Wins Guggenheim

Helmut Walser Smith, the Martha Rivers Ingram Chair of History, was selected from almost 3,000 applicants for a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. It is awarded on the basis of prior achievement and exceptional promise.

Professor Smith, who teaches modern European history, has served as director of the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities and the Max Kade Center for European and German Studies at Vanderbilt. His most recent books include The Butcher’s Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town (W.W. Norton, 2002), a Los Angeles Times Non-Fiction Book of the Year, and The Continuities of German History: Nation, Religion, and Race across the Long Nineteenth Century (Cambridge, 2008). He is also the editor of The Oxford Handbook of Modern German History (Oxford, 2011). As a Guggenheim Fellow, Smith will be finishing a book titled Finding Germany: A History of Discovery and Salvage, 1500 to 2000, which will be published with W. W. Norton in the United States and C. H. Beck in Germany.

“The book, which starts with the first highly accurate two-dimensional image of Germany on a map, circa 1500, is about how Germany has been seen, mapped, described, experienced, and thought about—before, during, and after nationalism,” Smith said. “Whereas most histories of nations focus on the ideas of nationalists or on the history of politics, this book follows the cognitive dimension of nationhood (how people know and experience the place) and its descriptive possibilities (how the nation is rendered in travel accounts, poetry, literature, painting, photography etc.). The book is an attempt to write a history of how Germans imagined their nation with nationalism not as the culmination, but as a historical, and therefore reversible, chapter in that history.”
The Max Kade Center has the pleasure of sponsoring several intriguing lectures and events for Fall 2014, on a variety of different topics and concentrations.

On September 16th Professor Jeffrey High of California State University at Long Beach (at right with Professor Christoph Zeller) discussed the reception history of Schiller’s “An die Freude.” On September 23rd Dr. Edith Hanke of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities gave an intriguing lecture on the worldwide reception of the works of famed German sociologist Max Weber. Both lectures were co-sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities and the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages. We had an enormous turnout for Dr. Svea Braeunert’s talk on drone warfare on 25 September, as she gave students and faculty a look into this increasingly relevant issue.

Looking forward, Professor Emeritus Roger Chickering of Georgetown University will give a lecture on October 21st on World War I from the German perspective. Then Professor Jennifer Illuzzi of Providence College will give a talk on October 29th about the lives of Romani people in Germany and Italy from 1861 until 1914.

Two events will mark the 25th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. On November 5th, Professor Lutz Koepnick will present a screening of Two Lives, a film dealing with the lives of war children born in Norway and raised in Germany. Then Professor David Blackbourn, Cornelius Vanderbilt Distinguished Chair of History, will give a lecture on the historical significance of November 9th in German history, co-sponsored by the Commons and Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages.

Alumni Updates

Emily Morgenstern [Class of 2011]: After 2 years working on Capitol Hill, Emily is now the Government Relations Associate at the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, a Washington, D.C.-based NGO that advocates for funding in the International Affairs Budget and promotes elevating diplomacy and development alongside defense in order to build a better, safer world.

Graham Marks [Class of 2012] Following graduation he studied law (Jurisprudence) at the University of Oxford in England for one year. He is now back in the United States studying for a Juris Doctorate at the University of Kentucky where he is in his second year and is Staff Editor on the Kentucky Law Journal.

Tim Xu [Class of 2012] is a second-year medical student at Johns Hopkins University and recently completed his Master of Philosophy in Public Policy at the University of Cambridge.

Hayley Gibson [Class of 2013] is currently studying at Indiana University’s Maurer School of Law, and is an active member of the Pro Bono Immigration Project, doing volunteer work helping attorneys with research for immigration cases and trials.

Nell Koneczny [Class of 2014] spent one week in East Tennessee assisting at a summer leadership camp primarily for minority youth. She also spent a month in Poland, visiting family and exploring new regions. Currently she is working at a local junior high school as a teaching assistant in a structured study hall for students with learning disabilities and as the library assistant in the afternoons. She plans to apply to Anthropology and History PhD programs this fall to continue her education next year.

Sam Denney [Class of 2014] is working in Washington D.C. with No Labels, a political organization that aims to work across the aisle in an effort to solve problems in Congress in an innovative fashion.
Donald Hancock, Professor Emeritus of Political Science

In his book *Politics in Europe*, Professor M. Donald Hancock offers an approachable yet rigorous introduction to the region—the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Russia, Poland, and the European Union. The book’s strong analytic framework and organization, coupled with detailed country coverage written by country experts, ensure that students not only get a robust introduction to each country, but also are able to make meaningful cross-national comparisons. Key updates include the latest in European politics, including recent election results, the content and impact of the Eurozone crisis, the emergence of a new “Nordic model” of welfare capitalism, and coverage of key social and political issues including globalization, terrorism, immigration, gender, religion, and transatlantic relations.

(Published February 27, 2014)
The Modernity of Others: Jewish Anti-Catholicism in Germany and France

Ari Joskowicz

The most prominent story of nineteenth-century German and French Jewry has focused on Jewish adoption of liberal middle-class values. Ari Joskowicz’s *The Modernity of Others* points to an equally powerful but largely unexplored aspect of modern Jewish history: the extent to which German and French Jews sought to become modern by criticizing the anti-modern positions of the Catholic Church. Drawing attention to the pervasiveness of anti-Catholic anticlericalism among Jewish thinkers and activists from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century, the book turns the master narrative of Western and Central European Jewish history on its head. From the moment in which Jews began to enter the fray of modern European politics, they found that Catholicism served as a convenient foil that helped them define what it meant to be a good citizen, to practice a respectable religion, and to have a healthy family life. Throughout the long nineteenth century, myriad Jewish intellectuals, politicians, and activists employed anti-Catholic tropes wherever questions of political and national belonging were at stake: in theoretical treatises, parliamentary speeches, newspaper debates, the founding moments of the Reform movement, and campaigns against antisemitism.

(Published November 6, 2013)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

New Research on Roma and the Holocaust

In September Professor Ari Joskowicz, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and European Studies, participated in a USHMM symposium and workshops about the effects of the genocide of the Romani people during the Holocaust. Participants identified Hungary, Italy, Poland, Germany, and Norway as areas of interest for further study regarding historical discrimination against Roma, including the Holocaust, and also on the continued persecution of Roma in Europe today. This event brought together 18 scholars and 2 directors to discuss these issues with distinguished colleagues from around the world. Professor Joskowicz’s current book project focuses on the entangled histories of Jews and Romani during the twentieth century in western and central Europe, the United States, and Israel.
THE MAX KADE CENTER FOR EUROPEAN AND GERMAN STUDIES
Spring 2015 Event Series

Friday January 16th, 4:10 pm
“Engineering and Philosophy Social, Technical, and Intellectual Elites in Interwar Germany”
Heidi Voskuhl, University of Pennsylvania

Thursday February 5th, 4:10 pm
“European Cities in the HyperCities Project”
Todd Presner, UCLA

Friday February 5th, 4:10 pm
“The Germany-Guatemala Connection”
Glenn Penny, University of Iowa, in conversation with Ted Fischer, CLAS at Vanderbilt

Thursday-Friday February 19th-20th
Sabine Hake (University of Texas) will lead several events on campus

Friday March 27th, 4:10 pm
“The Fisk Jubilee Singers on a Nineteenth-Century European Tour”
Kira Thurman, The University of Akron