

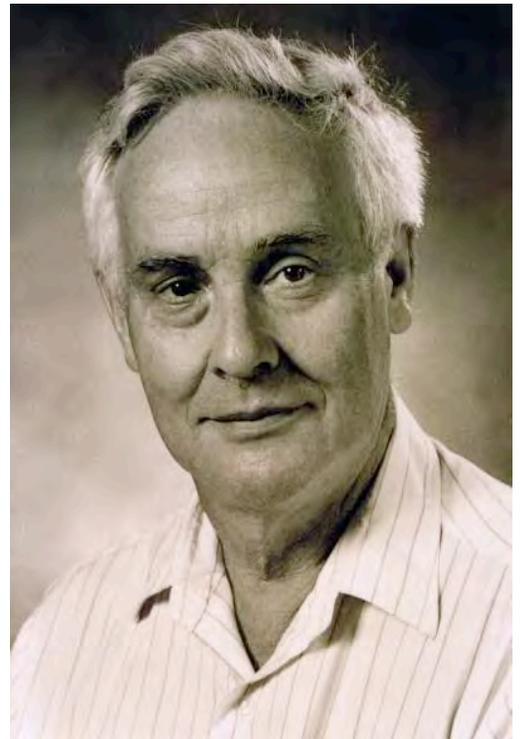
MAX KADE CENTER for European Studies

Helmut Walser Smith, Director | Anna E. Jones, Administrative Assistant

“A Good mind...but basically an Area Studies Person.”

“Anderson is a good mind but he is basically an area studies person.” This is how one outside reviewer judged the assistant professor as he came up for tenure in 1971-72. It was hardly intended as a compliment, and his university fortunately ignored the dismissive evaluation. For the Anderson in question was Benedict Anderson, and he would go on to become one of the most influential social scientists of the last quarter century.

To most scholars, Benedict Anderson needs no introduction. He wrote a series of fundamental works about Indonesia and is widely known for his book, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*. First published in 1983, when it was well received, the book appeared in a second, expanded edition in 1991 and became the most cited work of social science in the 1990s. It remains a work of fundamental importance, as it recast the whole study of nationalism and helped us explain



Benedict Anderson

the emotional power of one of history's most destructive ideologies. The book also breathed new life into how we think about national literatures, and it brought history, literature, and anthropology into a productive conversation.

Anderson taught at Cornell in the Department of Government. His degree was in classics, and already as a youngster he translated poetry back and forth from ancient languages. He also memorized poetry – in many languages – and kept this practice throughout his life. His scholarly preoccupation was, however, the politics, history, and literature of Southeast Asia, and he thought of himself – in disciplinary terms – as an area studies person. One of the remarkable things about the study of Southeast Asia is that it has brought forth some of the most influential social scientists of our times, scholars such as Clifford Geertz, Victor Turner, James Scott, and of course Anderson himself. It is not clear to me whether Geertz, Turner, and Scott thought of themselves as area studies people. But Anderson certainly did, and, as he describes in a recently published,

Guest Lecturers Fall 2016



Karen Remmler, Professor of German Studies, Gender Studies, and Critical Social Thought at Mount Holyoke College, will give a lecture entitled “The Digital Afterlives of W.G. Sebald’s Work of Memory” on Friday, October 28th, at 4:00 PM in Buttrick Hall, Room 206. A reception will follow. Remmler’s work focuses on transnational cultures of memory in the aftermath of atrocity, with emphasis on European and Asian cultures; postwar and contemporary German-speaking culture, literature, and media, especially the remembrance of the Holocaust and World War II; and German-Jewish culture in Berlin. She has also long been fascinated by the work of W. G. Sebald.



Mark Jones, currently Irish Research Council Marie Curie Fellow at University College Dublin and the Free University of Berlin, will speak on “Founding Weimar: Violence and the German Revolution, 1918-19” Wednesday, November 9th, at 4:00 PM in Buttrick Hall, Room 206. A reception will follow. Jones is a remarkably successful young historian who has already garnered major grants for his research. He completed his Ph.D. at the European University Institute in Florence in 2011, and his subsequent research has focused upon the relationship between violence and the language of politics in Germany during WWI.

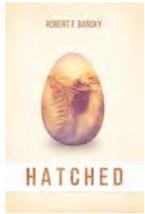
Ulrich von Bülow, Head of the Archival Section of the German Literary Archive in Marbach, Germany, will be giving a lecture entitled “The Handiwork of Thinking - On the „Nachlass” of Martin Heidegger” on Wednesday, November 2nd, at 4:00 PM in Buttrick Hall, Room 206. A reception will follow. Bülow’s scholarly work ranges widely, and includes studies on German writers such as Arthur Schnitzler, Peter Handke, Franz Fühmann, Tankred Dorst, and W. G. Sebald. Among the books he has edited are volumes by Rainer Maria Rilke, Erich Kästner, Karl Löwith, Martin Heidegger, and Hannah Arendt.



Margaret Lavinia Anderson, Professor Emeritus at The University of California Berkeley, will speak on Thursday, December 1st, at 4:00 PM in Buttrick Hall, Room 206. The title of her talk is “The Ambassador’s Story: Henry Morgenthau, the Armenian Genocide, and the Problem of Humanitarian Intervention.” A reception will follow. Anderson is one of the leading scholars on the history of Germany’s political culture. She is the author of a series of pathbreaking articles and of studies of German political institutions, including her magisterial work, *Practicing Democracy: Elections and Political Culture in Imperial Germany*, Princeton University Press, 2000.



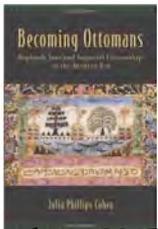
Faculty's Recent Publications



Robert Barsky, *Hatched*, Sunbury Press, 2016, and *Undocumented Immigrants in an Era of Arbitrary Law: The Plight of People Deemed Illegal*, Routledge Law, 2015, a book that one recent reviewer

called “a rich and economically written monograph” that will “be important to those studying immigration across national contexts.”

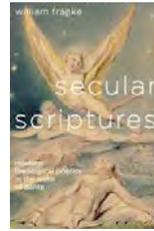
Michael Bess, *Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future*, Beacon Press, 2016. Kirkus Reviews calls it “an exuberant account of how biotechnology will vastly enhance not only our health, but our physical and mental abilities as well.”



Julia Phillips Cohen, *Becoming Ottomans: Sephardi Jews and Imperial Citizenship in the Modern Era*, Oxford University Press, 2014, was awarded

the 2015 Jordan Schnitzer Award in Modern Jewish History, and the 2015 Barbara Jelavich Prize of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

Lynn Enterline, *Shakespeare's Schoolroom: Rhetoric, Discipline, Emotion*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Paperback edition 2016. *The Sixteenth Century Journal* calls Enterline's book, which analyzes the rhetorical conventions taught in schools in Shakespeare's day, “innovative and inspiring.”



William Franke, *The Revelation of Imagination: From the Bible and Homer through Virgil and Augustine to Dante*, Northwestern University Press, 2015 and *Secular Scriptures: Modern Theological Poetics in the Wake*

of Dante, Ohio State University Press, 2016, which one reviewer describes as “an enthralling book about a pivotal issue in literary studies: the esthetics of visionary literature.”

Barbara Hahn, *Endlose Nacht. Träume im Jahrhundert der Gewalt*, Suhrkamp, 2016. See also our spotlight on a recent book on dreams that Professor Hahn edited with Professor Meike Werner.



Joel Harrington, *The Executioner's Journal: Meister Frantz Schmidt of the Imperial City of Nuremberg (Studies in Early Modern German History)*, University of Virginia Press, 2016.

This is the eagerly awaited journal of Meister Frantz Schmidt, who is the focus of Harrington's widely acclaimed book, *The Faithful Executioner*, which, at last count, has been translated into ten languages!

Christopher Johns, *China and the Church: Chinoiserie in Global Context*, University of California Press, 2016, and *Benedict XIV and the Enlightenment: Art, Science, and Spirituality*, anthology co-edited with Rebecca Messbarger and Philip Gavitt, University of Toronto Press, 2016. In *China and the Church*, according to one reviewer, “Johns seriously reconsiders chinoiserie as a cross-cultural phenomenon, deeply shaped by cultural exchange, trade, and global politics.”

Spotlight on Recent Faculty Publications



David Blackbourn, *Landschaften der deutschen Geschichte: Aufsätze zum 19. Und 20. Jahrhundert*, *Kritische Studien zur Geschichtswissenschaft*, vol 217, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen, 2016.

David Blackbourn's collection of essays, entitled *Landschaften der deutschen Geschichte* (Landscapes of German History), reinforce his reputation as one of the most imaginative historians of modern Germany. Covering major areas of Blackbourn's past and present research—including the history of Catholicism, the history of the Environment, and transnational history—the essays are beautifully crafted gems that sparkle even on rereading. There is also a section on historiography, focusing on different approaches to German history, and culminating in a reasoned lament about the shrinking chronological purview of the field. Lay readers might think that historians cover large stretches of time, but, as Blackbourn shows, a twentieth-century myopia has set in. To readers with current events foremost on their mind, Blackbourn's second section, "Politics in a New Style," may be of particular interest, as it gives historical contour (especially the essays on demagoguery and on politics as theatre) to the contemporary crisis.



Barbara Hahn and Meike Werner, *The Art of Dreams: Reflections and Representations (Paradigms)*, Walter De Gruyter Inc, 2016.

We all dream—but we only know about our dreams through reflections and representations of them in our subsequent wakened state. Ordinarily, we come to know our dreams by explaining them to ourselves or to others in a straightforward narration. Yet the spectrum of dream representation is actually wider, and includes art, dance, philosophical reflection, theatre, film, photographs, and many other possibilities. This wider spectrum is taken up in an exciting new collection of essays, entitled *The Art of Dreams*, edited by Barbara Hahn and Meike G. Werner, professors of German literature at Vanderbilt. Based on a conference sponsored by the Max Kade Center and the Robert Penn Warren Center, the contributions allow the reader entry into the deep tradition of interpreting dreams and using dreams to push the limits of representation.

Anderson – Continued.

posthumous memoir, it was only from the starting point of area studies that he made his wider contributions.

This is the issue I want to raise: the relation of area studies to global studies. In *A Life Beyond Borders*—a memoir he wrote for a Japanese audience and asked that it not be published in English during his lifetime—Anderson makes a case for knowing an area of the world well. At a time when social science seems stuck between an older one-country model and newer global pretensions, the case is well worth listening to.

Area Studies, Anderson argues, forces us to look to the wider world—but not without first becoming immersed in the deep patterns of specific foreign cultures. As there is an increasing interest in vast empires and in global flows of capital and people, it helps to recall that 97% of the people in the world still live in the country of their birth, and remain enmeshed in the literary, artistic, and political cultures of their nations. Anderson writes evocatively about the “emotional attachment” that comes with learning the language of a place and the actual experience of living there. That experience, Anderson believed, was crucial to attaining the level of understanding that allowed one to have genuine insight into a place. “Three years of classroom study is not worth six months of immersion in foreign everyday life,” he writes. There is no single measure for knowing when one can claim to be genuinely immersed in another culture.

Anderson, whose starting place was Indonesia, could write in Thai and Tagalog. Decisive to him, though, was that he sometimes dreamed in these languages.

Area Studies, as Anderson conceived it, was always also comparative studies, which Anderson thought of less as a method than as a discursive strategy. In *A Life Beyond Boundaries*, he maps out at least three things to bear in mind about country comparisons: whether you are looking primarily at similarity or difference, whether the comparisons have the capacity to surprise, and your own position—how, for example, your place in the societies that you compare allows you to see strangeness and absence. There is also a fourth, which historians as well as political scientists often ignore, and that is the possibility of longitudinal comparison—looking at phenomena across long periods of time, especially crucial where nationalism has sown a great deal of legend and myth into the fabric of a country’s history. Comparison, Anderson writes, is hardly easy, especially as one works through the frustrations involved in learning the languages necessary to make them. Finally, Anderson counsels, it is important to always ask a question to which you don’t know the answer.

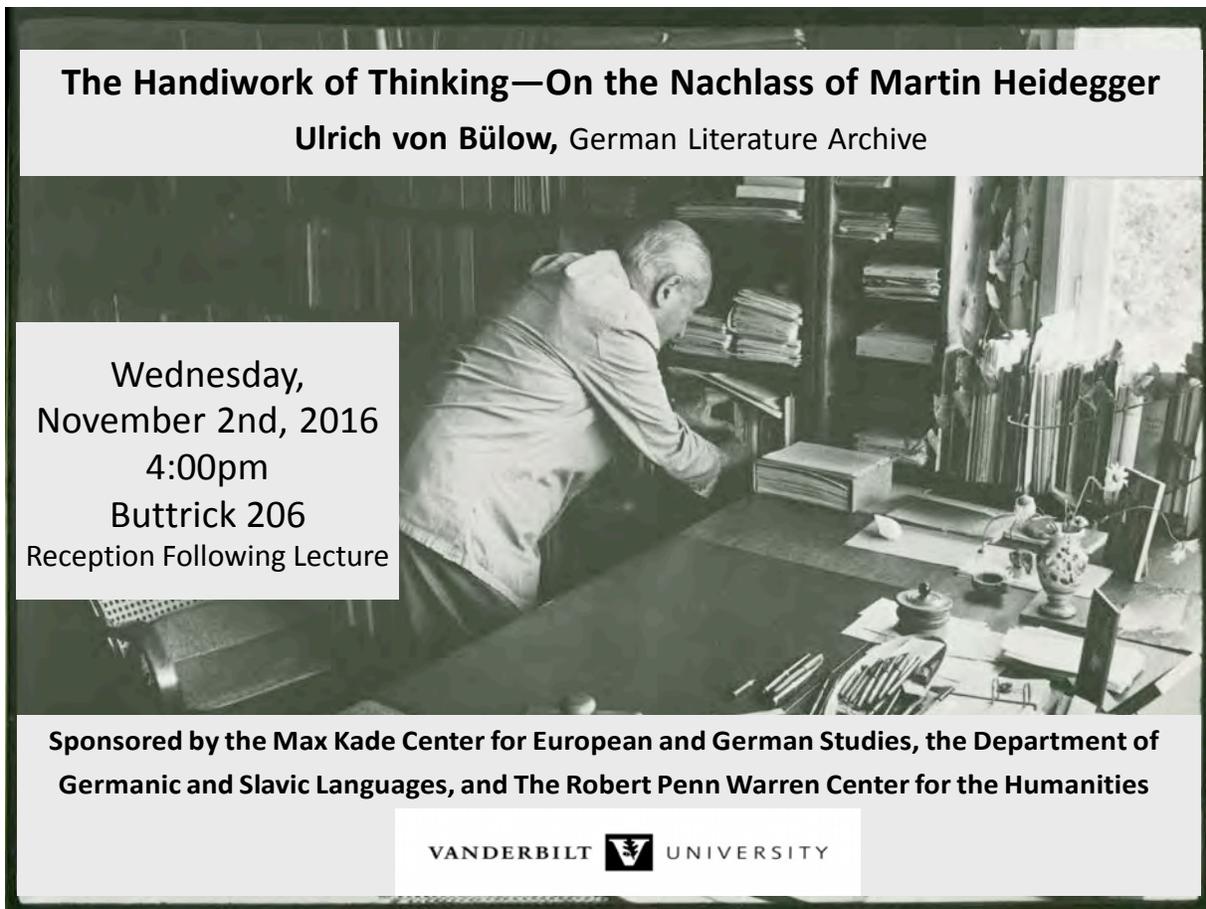
Reading Anderson’s memoirs puts one back in a world where it was *de rigueur* for scholars of areas and nations to know “our countries” intimately. This age is passing. In political science, there are fewer and fewer scholars who know areas outside the United

The Handiwork of Thinking—On the Nachlass of Martin Heidegger
Ulrich von Bülow, German Literature Archive

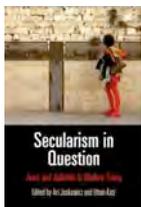
Wednesday,
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 4:00pm
 Buttrick 206
 Reception Following Lecture

Sponsored by the Max Kade Center for European and German Studies, the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages, and The Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



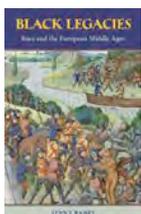
Faculty Recent Publications – Continued.



Ari Joskowicz, *Secularism in Question: Jews and Judaism in Modern Times*, co-edited with Ethan B. Katz, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015. This co-edited book, according to one reviewer, will be indispensable to anyone trying to understand the problem of secularism from a diversity of perspectives.



Kelly Oliver, *Hunting Girls: Sexual Violence from the Hunger Games to Campus Rape*, Columbia University Press, 2016, and *Earth and World: Philosophy After the Apollo Missions*, Columbia University Press, 2015. One reviewer says of *Hunting Girls* that it is a “brilliant analysis of how young girls’ path to womanhood is filled with beating, battery, abuse, and sexual assault” and the book is “shocking and timely.”



Lynn T. Ramey, *Black Legacies: “Race” and the European Middle Ages*, University Press of Florida, Paperback edition, 2016. First published in 2014 and now out in paperback, Ramey’s *Black Legacies* has been called “a provocative study of western racial attitudes.”

Anderson - Continued.

States as well as Anderson understood Indonesia and Southeast Asia. In History, there are many country and area scholars but not many who can also comment expertly on contemporary politics. Meanwhile, a great many specialists in Modern Languages and Literatures have abandoned national literature for “cultural studies,” with the result that the canon of great literary works is sometimes jettisoned for evanescent phenomena—Dostoyevsky exchanged for the Leningrad Cowboys, for example, or Heinrich Heine for “Run Lola Run.”

The point, of course, is simply to recall what a life of deep, situated, knowledge brings, and that there are no shortcuts to the truly great insights. Perhaps too that area studies brings to the emerging field of global studies the centrality of immersion—in terms of language, culture, history, and politics—in places. Those places could be Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, or Latin America. The main thing is that in pursuing area studies one allows for productive disorientation and guards against provincialism. A life beyond borders also requires courage. “Frogs in their fight for emancipation will only lose by crouching in their murky coconut half-shells,” Anderson quotes an Indonesian proverb as saying.

- Helmut Walser Smith

Benedict Anderson, *A Life Beyond Boundaries: A Memoir* (London: Verso, 2016).

The Digital Afterlives of W.G. Sebald's Work of Memory

Karen Remmler

Professor of German Studies, Critical Social Thought, and Gender Studies
Mount Holyoke College



Daniel Blaufuks, TEREZIN, 2007

Friday, October 28, 2016
4:00pm, Buttrick 206
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Maymesters 2017



Vienna and Prague: Culture, People and Politics in the Heart of Europe (EUS 2260)

In this Maymester, Professor Christoph Zeller will lead students in exploring the cultural diversity of Vienna in its European and Austrian context, focusing especially on Vienna's history, art, music, Jewish life, politics, museums, and monuments. The Maymester will include trips to Prague, historic sites along the Danube River such as the Melk Monastery, and the nearby Alps. It will also feature evening outings at world-class concerts and plays.



Migration, International Health, Social Justice, and Romantic Poetry from the Swiss Alps to Rome (EUS 2260-05)

In this Maymester, Professor Robert Barsky will explore the link between radicalism and creativity, safe haven and international law, and medicine and international engagement. Students will travel to Geneva, Ascona, the village of Murren, and Rome, and will be introduced to a myriad of international legal and non-governmental organizations that uphold international laws.



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