

Chair's Message

Dear Friends,
I have come to the end of my first year as chair of GSLL and I would like to celebrate the occasion by reviewing the main highlights of what has been a tremendous year for me personally and for the department as a whole.

Let me start by the last action we took just before the end of the academic year. Our department is made up of four programs, and this variety is going to be reflected in the new name the faculty has decided to adopt, pending Regents' approval: the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures (GSLL) will become the Department of German, Russian, Jewish, and Nordic Languages and Cultures (GRJN). While names (and acronyms!) may change, we hope that the quality and distinction of a degree from our department will remain the same.

I am writing these remarks from Regensburg, Germany, the site of our longest-standing study abroad program (started in 1970!) and the longest-standing exchange program at the University of Regensburg itself. I visited Regensburg to

strengthen our ties and explore possible ways to expand our collaboration with this university located in one of the most beautiful German cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The importance of an experience abroad remains irreplaceable and it was in meeting our students who are currently in Regensburg and former German students who graduated from our department and are now back home that I was reminded again of the importance of what we do and of the life-changing impact that the study of a foreign language and culture may have.

I arrived in Regensburg at a particularly dramatic time, as the majestic Danube river reached historical levels and threatened to flood the city center. Luckily, the damage in Regensburg was only minor, but most of central Europe is suffering catastrophic losses from overflowing rivers and exceptionally intense rain. I narrowly missed another extraordinary weather-related event last fall, when I traveled to New York City to meet the president of the Max Kade Foundation, the main sponsor of our German program,

and made it out barely in time to miss the landfall of Hurricane Sandy. I visited the Kade headquarters in order to secure additional support for our brand new PhD program in German studies. We have now selected our first and very promising class of PhD students, and we very much look forward to the exciting challenge of mentoring and preparing them for the academic profession or any other career venue they may want to pursue.

As I salute our incoming new students, I would also like to salute the new faculty members who will join our department in the fall: Arne Hoecker, in German studies, who joins us from New York University, Aleksandr (Sasha) Senderovich, in Jewish and Russian literatures and cultures, who joins us from Rutgers, and Eyal Rivlin, instructor of Hebrew, who was already an outstanding lecturer for us. It was a very successful campaign, as we were able to hire our top candidates in what continues to be a difficult climate for the humanities, but the support of the university administration remains steady and shows the trust they have in the soundness and



vision of our department.

This consideration extends to the MA program in Russian Studies, which has been approved at the campus level and now is only waiting for final approval from the Regents, to be granted, we are confident, this fall. I wish to acknowledge Rima Salys' almost single-handed contribution to the process, as the Russian program was understaffed this year, due to the concurrent sabbaticals of Mark Leiderman and Laura Olson Osterman, who report on their research in another section of the newsletter.

I am particularly glad to salute the great success of Ben Teitelbaum's first year at CU: under his leadership, the Nordic Studies program is making terrific progress in all areas and by all measures, while he also managed to complete his PhD in ethnomusicology from Brown University in spite of the pressure of a new position and an entire program to run. Congratulations, Ben!

Chair's Message (cont.)

The new year promises to be an exciting one, with major exhibitions being organized by GSLL faculty members, one by Patrick Greaney on the Austrian artist Heimrad Bäcker at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) in Denver this fall, the other at the CU Art Museum in Boulder in

spring 2014 by myself, along with Kirk Ambrose, chair of Art and Art History, on the seminal journey to the American Southwest of the German-Jewish art and cultural art historian Aby Warburg in the waning years of the 19th century. We look forward to meeting you at these and other events

throughout the year and to sharing with you the enthusiasm and dedication that we bring to our work and our mission as teachers and scholars.

With all good wishes,

Daide Stimilli
Chair, GSLL

German Ph.D. Program

Our interdisciplinary PhD features graduate-level internships, a minor concentration area, academic year exchange opportunities with the universities of Göttingen and Regensburg, graduate participation in the biannual "Conversations in the Mountains"

German Studies symposium, and research and travel stipends for doctoral candidates. A wide range of graduate-level course offerings includes courses designed to ensure content coverage and to move research projects into

publishable scholarship. The University of Colorado Max Kade German Room, housed in our department, offers a variety of academic events and visiting lectures. The University also runs the Colorado European Union Center of Excellence.

We thank the Max Kade Foundation for their generous support of our graduate program. The Max Kade Foundation funds three Max Kade Fellowships in our department and supports the Max Kade German Room.

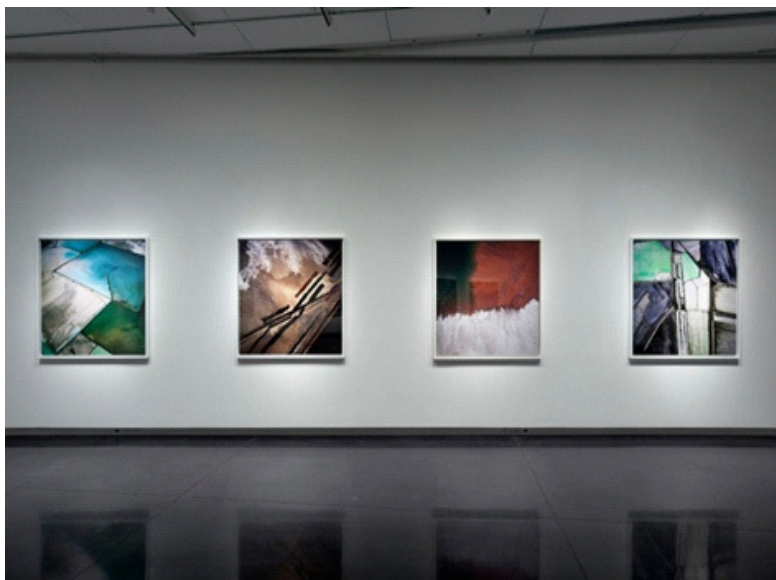
2013-2014 Max Kade Fellows are PhD students Ross Etherton and Emily Rath and MA student Marcus Hohe. We also thank Tom and Jeanne Baur for generously supporting the Grace van Sweringen Baur Graduate Scholarship.

For more information about our PhD, see <http://gsll.colorado.edu/node/434>.

-Ann Schmiesing, Associate
Professor of German

GSLL Professors Curate Exhibitions

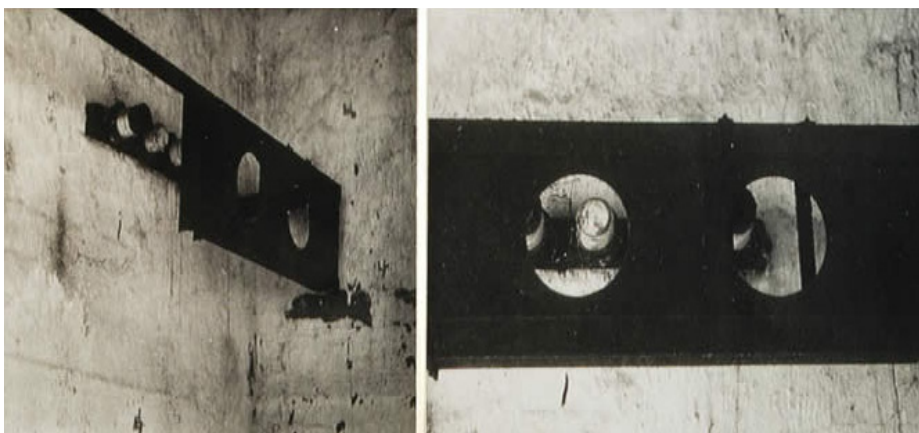
Helmut Müller-Sievers, professor of German and director of the Center for Humanities and the Arts, co-curated in fall 2012 a major retrospective of the photographer David Maisel, entitled "Black Maps. American



Landscape and the Apocalyptic Sublime" at the CU Art Museum. The show was reviewed by, among others, The New York Times and Time Magazine, and is now on view at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art in Scottsdale, Arizona. You may find a review of the show (by Davide Stimilli) at <http://bit.ly/10n1PFw>, but if you want to see first hand what David Maisel's work looks like, please come to the Max Kade Room (McKenna 112): GSLL owns three of Maisel's most beautiful prints.

GSSL Professors Curate Exhibitions (cont)

Prof. Patrick Greaney is the curator of a major exhibition of works by the Austrian artist Heimrad Bäcker that will open on September 27, 2013 at the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. Bäcker was a central figure in postwar Austrian art and literature, and this will be the first time his works have been shown in the US. The exhibition, titled "Landscape M," will focus on Bäcker's photographs of Mauthausen, the largest concentration camp in Austria. More information on the exhibition can be found at <http://www.mcadenver.org/heimrad-backer.php>



Davide Stimilli, chair of GSSL, is co-curating an exhibition at the CU Art Museum, to take place in spring 2014, with Kirk Ambrose, chair of the Department of Art and Art History. The exhibition documents the German-Jewish art and cultural historian Aby Warburg's journey to Colorado and other nearby territories at the end of the nineteenth century in search of what he called the "Pompeii of the New World." The exhibition is titled "Encountering Cultures: Aby Warburg in the American Southwest 1895-1896" and will be on view at the CU Art Museum February 7-March 22, 2014.

Professor Eder Visits from Vienna

In summer 2012, Professor Patrick Greaney, along with the German Program, hosted visiting scholar Dr. Thomas Eder, who

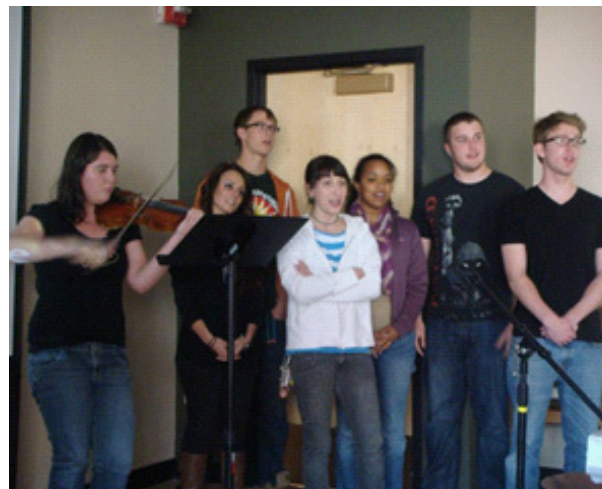
teaches German literature at the University of Vienna. Dr. Eder was one of fifteen scholars invited to CU to teach during the sum-

mer as part of the FIRST (Faculty in Residence Summer Term) program.

Russian Culture Week

Russian Culture Week was held April 23-26th and was attended by more than one hundred students and members of the community. The week's events consisted of a film night, Russian Idol competition and fashion show, egg painting workshop, and the concluding outdoor spring festival by the university pond with traditional foods, games and live music by the Planina singers. The event was organized by Vicki Grove and Tatiana Mikhailova, with the help of other Russian faculty.

—Rima Salys
Professor of Russian



German Club

German Club offered German students plenty of activities to enhance their knowledge of German culture and language plus to get together to meet each other and have fun. Lorraine Garcia was German Club president and worked hard to schedule activities. She and faculty club adviser Patty Schindler met several times to plan events. Our annual Oktoberfest was held October 19 complete with bratwurst and sauerkraut.

We set up a table with materials for the German folk art of paper cutting and attendees applied their artistic skills to this activity. We also hosted a game night on October 5 and played German word bingo, and the German versions of Monopoly and Scrabble. In the spring semester we had two German film nights with pizza and soda. We viewed "Stromberg", the German version of "The Office". Karneval was held on March 1 and we

provided students with blank masks and every sort of decoration to make their own Karneval mask. This was a lot of fun and all of the masks were a work of art! Our thanks to everyone who helped set up and clean up... especially the German graduate student TAs. We look forward to another fun-filled year next fall.

—Patty Schindler
Senior Instructor of German

New Faculty in GSSL

Benjamin Teitelbaum joined the department in fall 2012 as Instructor and Head of Nordic Studies. A Colorado native, Teitelbaum comes to CU from Brown University where he earned his Ph.D. in ethnomusicology. His research explores the intersections of race, nationalism, and expressive culture in the Nordic Countries. Teitelbaum's dissertation, which received the Joukowsky Family Foundation Outstanding Dissertation Award, focuses on the uses of music in contemporary Scandinavian radical nationalism. Teitelbaum has written and presented on

topics ranging from folk-tune collecting in 1800s Sweden, white nationalist hip hop and reggae, and Norwegian terrorist Anders Behring Breivik. His analysis and commentary on radical nationalism in Scandinavia has appeared in various print media and radio outlets in Sweden and Norway, including Aftonbladet, Dagbladet, Dagens Nyheter, Sveriges Radio, and NRK Radio.

Teitelbaum teaches a variety of courses, including The Vikings, Norse Mythology, 19th and 20th Century Nordic Literature, Introduction to Modern



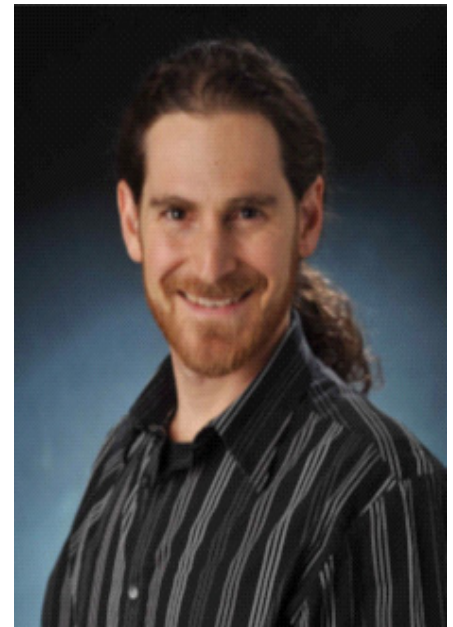
Nordic Culture, and Radical Nationalism. He is particularly happy to be reintroducing instruction in Swedish in fall 2013.

In addition to research and teaching, Teitelbaum is an active musician, specializing in Swedish folk music and Sweden's unofficial national instrument, the nyckelharpa. Having earned the first degree in nyckelharpa performance awarded outside Sweden, he tours nationally and internationally as a performer and teacher.

Born and raised in Israel, Eyal Rivlin began teaching as an instructor in the Israeli army in 1993. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Tel Aviv University majoring in Psychology and East Asian Studies. Pursuing the union of these two fields, Eyal then moved to Boulder and obtained a masters degree in Transpersonal Psychology from Naropa University. A professional touring and recording musician, Eyal has released and played on numerous Hebrew and Jewish CDs including *Coming Home*, a collection of original Hebrew chants released by Sounds True. In 2004-2007 he worked closely with Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and co-authored *Into My Garden* and

At the Rebbe's Table, two musical anthologies including recordings and transcriptions detailing the musical legacy of Reb Zalman. In 2009 he released *Body as Temple*, an instructional DVD set on the practice of embodied Jewish prayer.

Eyal brings his passions to the classroom, teaching Hebrew through songs, sharing his experience of growing up in Israel, and leading the class through Israeli folk dances. He is excited to grow the Hebrew Club and enable students to expand their learning beyond the classroom, build community and experience Hebrew through movies, role-plays, and even street foods!



My name is Arne Höcker and I am a new Assistant Professor of German in the Dept. of Germanic & Slavic Lang. & Lit. Originally from Bielefeld, I received my M.A. from the Humboldt University in Berlin, my Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins, taught for three years at Wesleyan University and most recently at NYU, where I also served as Director of Undergraduate Studies. I am a literary scholar with a particular interest in theory. My work is concerned with the intersections of literature with scientific, philosophical

and cultural discourses from the 18th century to the present. My first book, *Epistemologie des Extremen: Lustmord in Kriminologie und Literatur um 1900* (Munich: Fink 2012), investigates the formation of criminological knowledge around 1900 and its impact on literature and literary form. Most recently, I have worked on Kafka, Musil, Gottfried Benn's scene of writing, and on my new book project tentatively entitled *The Case of Literature*, in which I approach a literary history of the genre of the case study in 18th- and 19th-century authors such as Moritz, Schiller, Kleist, Büchner and Wedekind, up to the peculiar role of the case study in Freud's psychoanalysis.

I am extremely excited to join CU in August and to contribute to the wonderful work of the Department. I look forward to helping develop the new Ph.D. program in German Studies and to collaborating with colleagues and students in research and teaching. In the fall semester I will offer a course on concepts of nature and environment in German literature and thoughts with a special focus on the intersections between literature, philosophy and the sciences within major literary epochs from Classicism

and Romanticism to Modernism and the Post-WWII era.

There is maybe no better place to teach such a class than in the amazing environment that Boulder has to offer. My wife Peri, who will be a Post-Doc in an ecology lab at CU, and I consider ourselves lucky for the opportunity to live in Boulder, and we are happy to replace the skyscrapers of Manhattan with the Rocky Mountains. Already in mid-May, we drove a U-Haul truck through the country and now we are enjoying the fresh air, activities as hiking and cycling, and meeting so many friendly and interesting people. Peri and I will enjoy the summer in our new home right next to the mountains. We are excited to observe the amazing wildlife surrounding us, but we also can't wait to start in our new positions. I am curious to meet my new students, excited to work with my new colleagues in a vibrant and excellent German program, and to explore the possibilities of interdisciplinary collaborations at CU.

New Faculty in GSLL (cont)

Sasha Senderovich holds a PhD from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University (2010). His published work includes articles on Russian Jewish writers Dovid Bergelson and Isaac Babel and, most recently, a critical introduction and notes to the English-language translation of Moyshe Kulbak's Soviet Yiddish novel *The Zelmenyaners: A Family Saga* (Yale University Press, 2013). He has also published a number of shorter essays and encyclopedia entries on Soviet and post-Soviet

cinema. Sasha is currently at work on an article on contemporary Anglophone fiction by Russian Jewish emigré authors in the United States, for *The Edinburgh Companion to Modern Jewish Fiction*, and is working on his first book manuscript, *The Red Promised Land: Sites of Soviet Jewish Culture*.

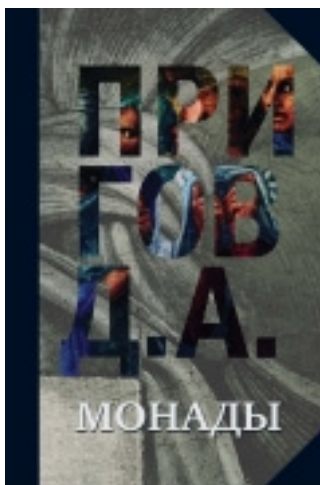
In addition to his scholarship, Sasha has also published journalism in *Tablet Magazine*, *Lilith*, *The Forward*, and *The New York Times*; public scholarship remains one of his interests.



Before joining the faculty at CU Boulder, Sasha was a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for the Humanities at Tufts University, a Visiting Assistant Professor of Russian and East European Studies at Lafayette College, and the Aresty Visiting Scholar in Jewish Studies at Rutgers University.

Website: www.sashasenderovich.com

Faculty Books



In 2012-13, Moscow-based NLO press has published a first volume of Dmitri Prigov's collected works, which Mark Leiderman edited, collected and introduced. Prigov (1940-2007), a leader of Russian conceptualism, left an unusually large number of works in various genres. Allegedly, he wrote 36,000 poems. 5 novels (one incomplete), a dozen of plays, and about a hundred of theoretical and

critical articles. These works were only partially published during his lifetime, therefore a production of the first set of his collected works is both a challenging and important task. Mark is coordinating the work on this project that includes scholars from Russia and Germany. There will be four more volumes, of which he will co-edit two.

Laura Olson Osterman's new book *The Worlds of Russian Village Women: Tradition, Transgression, and Compromise*, co-authored with Russian folklorist Svetlana Adonyeva, follows three generations of Russian women and shows how they alternately preserve, discard, and rework the cultural traditions of their forebears

to suit changing needs and self-conceptions. The book examines women's traditional practices associated with marriage, childbirth and death, romance songs, satirical ditties, and healing and harmful magic, revealing women's complex relationship to social norms and hierarchies.

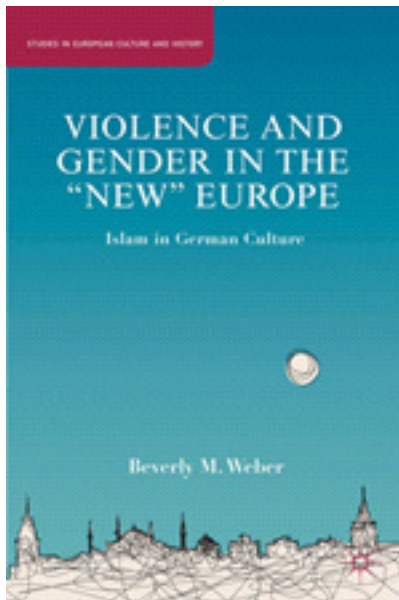
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Faculty Books (cont)

Currently, Laura is in Bulgaria where she will spend a total of five and a half months during the 2012-13 academic year. She is doing fieldwork for a new book on the contemporary culture of Bulgarian Muslims, in which she will examine folk music and dance, costume, wedding traditions, religious life, and ethnic/cultural identity.

Rima Salys has edited and contributed to a two-volume *Russian Cinema Reader*, to be published by Academic Studies Press in late 2013. This is the first English-language collection of critical essays and period introductions intended to accompany history of Russian cinema and contemporary Russian culture courses.



Violence and Gender in the "New" Europe: Islam in German Culture
Beverly M. Weber

Images of covered women, together with stories of honor killings and forced marriages, continue to retain their currency in media representations of Islam. Moving beyond staid stereotypes, Gender and Violence in the "New" Europe draws new conclusions about the role of violence in determining Muslim women's participation in German public life. Combining cultural studies with theory, Beverly

Weber contributes to the ongoing scholarly discussion about Islam in the West in two key ways. First, she demonstrates how current thinking about gender violence prohibits the intellectual inquiry necessary to act against a range of forms of violence. Secondly, she analyzes ways in which Muslim women participate in the public sphere by thematizing violence in literature, art, and popular media. By examining how violence is imagined, portrayed, and challenged, this timely book provides new strategies for action.

Where are our German & Russian Studies

Graduates? We continue to collect data about our former students' graduate school and job placements. Please send the information about yourself and your career to gsl@colorado.edu. Your privacy will be protected: only the names of academic programs and job descriptions will appear on our website. The information about careers for which GSLL prepares its graduates is very important for our current and incoming students.

Donate to GSLL: We would like to thank all our donors for their support. If you would like to donate to one of our programs or scholarships, please visit our website: <http://gsl.colorado.edu/> and click on "Make a Gift Online."

German Program Facebook Page: We've set up a Facebook page to help us keep in touch with alumni, and to keep you in touch with each other and our current students. We'd love to hear your news!

Please join us by "liking" the page at : <https://www.facebook.com/GermanCUBoulder!> Share your news with the tag @GermanCUBoulder.

Alumni/Alumnae News: We would like to hear from our alums, wherever you may be! Keep us informed about what you are doing, and about developments in your lives and careers. See what other alums are doing on our website: <http://gsl.colorado.edu/>, under Newsletter and Alumni News.

Please email your updates to gsl@colorado.edu.

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