

Chair's Message

Dear Friends,
It has been another momentous and memorable year for GSLL. And let me start by reassuring those of you who may have been baffled or troubled by the first item in last year's newsletter: the department's name and acronym have not changed!

Change has taken place, however, on a number of fronts, starting with the decision of the Hebrew Program to relocate to the Program in Jewish Studies, which prompted the department to put on hold any name change, at least for the time being. We were sorry to see the Hebrew Program leave the department, but we are keeping close ties with the Program in Jewish Studies, both at the faculty and the student level.

Change has also occurred in our faculty roster, with the retirement of two long serving and highly respected members of the department, Professor Rimgaila Salys (Russian) and Senior Instructor Patricia Schindler (German). Rima and Patty have been seminal figures in creating the GSLL we inherit and we are grateful for all they have done for the department over the years. We

will miss both and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors!



As I salute them, I would also like to salute the new faculty members who will join our department in the fall and who introduce themselves in another section of the newsletter: Lauren Shizuko Stone, in German, who joins us from New York University, Thomas Roberts, in Russian, from Stanford via the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Berit Jany, who joins us from the Ohio State University and will replace Patty Schindler as the language coordinator for first- and second-year German. It was another successful hiring campaign for GSLL, as we were able to attract our top candi-

dates in spite of tremendous competition, and we are extremely grateful for the continuing support of the university administration.

Two of our faculty members were promoted at the end of this year: Artemi Romanov (Russian) to the rank of full professor and Beverly Weber (German) to associate professor with tenure. Professor Romanov has also been selected as the new director of the Global Residential Academic Program, a prestigious position in a strategically important and fast developing area of the university. Moreover, Professor Helmut Müller-Sievers was confirmed for another four-year term as director of the Center for Humanities and the Arts, thereby also confirming the centrality of our department to the humanities' mission on campus. To all of them go our congratulations!

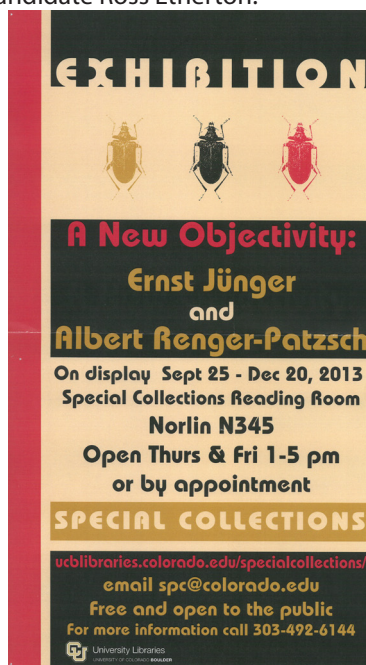


My colleagues were extremely active this year in planning and organizing visits by distinguished scholars and events that attracted a great deal of attention on our campus and beyond. You may find some of these activities highlighted more in detail in other sections of this newsletter, but here is a brief summary in chronological order: in fall 2013 Professor Patrick Greaney curated the exhibition "Heimrad Bäcker:



Chair's Message (cont.)

Landscape M," which was on view September 27, 2013–January 5, 2014 at the MCA in Denver. In conjunction with the exhibition and to celebrate the launch of the PhD in German Studies, GSLL hosted a reception at the MCA during the annual conference of the German Studies Association on October 5. Also in October, Professor Michael Jennings, from the Department of German at Princeton, visited our campus at the invitation of Professor Helmut Müller-Sievers. Professor Jennings delivered the talk "'The Secrets of the Darkened Chamber: Michael Schmidt's Trauerspiel'" and attended a special introduction to the exhibition "The New Objectivity: Ernst Jünger and Albert Renger-Patzsch," on view at the Norlin Library Special Collections, and curated by German PhD candidate Ross Etherton.



In December Nordic Program Head Ben Teitelbaum hosted Swedish journalist Jonathan Leman for a public lecture on WikiLeaks and anti-Semitism, and Professor Greaney organized, along with David Shneer, director of JWST, a symposium on Photography

and History that featured art historian Sarah James and artist Andrea Geyer.

In the spring, a festival of contemporary Russian poetry took place on January 23-24, 2014, organized by Professor Mark Leiderman, followed in February by a visit by bestselling author Gary Shteyngart at the invitation of Professor Sasha Senderovich. In March the second edition of our Conversations in the Mountains took place under the title "Images After All": the two-day workshop addressed the status of the photographic image, especially in relationship to the controversial photographs of Native American rituals that the German-Jewish art historian Aby Warburg took during his journey to the American Southwest in the late 19th-century. Speakers included Michael Steinberg (Brown University), Peter Geimer (FU Berlin), and Hopi filmmaker and photographer Victor Masayesva.

In April Professor Greaney and Professor Ann Schmiesing hosted visits, respectively, by renowned critics Marjorie Perloff and Don Haase. As part of Russian Culture Week, Professor Senderovich invited Russian-American journalist Masha Gessen to give two public talks on Russia's anti-gay movement and the punk band Pussy Riot. Finally, Professor Arne Hoecker hosted Marco Clausen, founder of the famous Prinzessinnengarten, an urban farm project in central Berlin (more info at <http://prinzessinnengarten.net/>), and (already in early May!) the first Cornell-CU graduate colloquium.

As you can see even from such a cursory overview, it was a very dense calendar, and one that we hope we can duplicate already this coming year and replicate in the future, as we want to make sure that our students experience an intellectually

stimulating and vibrant environment, but also for the sake of the university and the broader community. Due to the events of these last few months, for instance, that have catapulted Russia to the front pages and into the headlines, our faculty have made sure to provide an invaluable service to the university



community and beyond by addressing these issues in a timely fashion and receiving a great deal of attention in the media, both locally and nationally.

In mentioning my colleagues' accomplishments, I would like to single out the prestigious prizes awarded by the American Folklore Society to Professor Osterman's co-authored book *The Worlds of Russian Village Women* and to Instructor Ben Teitelbaum's dissertation 'Come Hear our Merry Song': *Shifts in the Sound of Contemporary Swedish Radical Nationalism by Germany's Institute for the Study of Radical Movements*.

Chair's Message (cont.)

In January I visited again the headquarters of the Max Kade Foundation in New York to provide an update about the progress of our brand new PhD program in German studies and to secure additional support. We have now selected our second and very promising class of PhD students, who join us from as far away as India and Israel and as close as the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming them to Boulder and to mentoring and preparing them for the academic profession or any other career venue they may want to pursue. Our PhD is garnering much attention, including an entire page in the recently released MLA Report on Doctoral Study (<http://news.commonsmila.org/2014/05/28/new-mla-report-on-doctoral-study/>) and the interest of the Chronicle of Higher Education, which recently requested an interview, and we are fully aware of the high expectations that we have to meet, but also very much excited by the challenges ahead of us.

We had a very high number of graduates this year and the May

graduation ceremony was a particularly full one. In seeing so many students entering the real world, 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 continues to have.

The year that begins is my last as chair and I look forward to completing my term and passing on the department to my successor, who is going to be elected in the fall, in good health and thriving as ever. I am especially hopeful that 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, will be finally launched at the end of the year. That would be a tremendous achievement for the whole department.

The new year promises to be an exciting one, with an international workshop on the history of knowledge and the visit of journalist Julia Ioffe in the fall, a new edition of the Conversations in the Mountains and the visit of noted Japanese-German writer Yoko Tawada in the spring and a variety of events that you will find advertised on



our website, which is being revamped as I write, and on other social media, as we want to make sure you are all aware of what we are up to! Please come and join us at any of these events, or just stop by and say hi: we look forward to meeting you 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,
Davide Stimilli

New Faculty in GSLL

GSLL has a new supervisor of German language instruction, Berit Jany. Born in the beautiful city of Dresden, Berit completed her M.A. in Cultural Studies, Education, and German as a Foreign Language at the Technical University Dresden before joining the German Department at the Ohio State University where she completed an M.A. in Literature in 2009 and received her PhD in 2013. In addition to her dissertation and publications in the field of Anabaptist and Pietist studies as well as early German-American history, her research

interest focuses on second language acquisition and technology in the foreign language classroom. In 2013/14, she served as Interim Director of Undergraduate German Language Instruction at the Ohio State University and has taught second-year language courses as well as general education and writing classes on the topic of German-American cultural relations. She has also worked for a number of full-immersion programs including most recently for the German Summer School of Middlebury College where she taught classes on Ger-



man culture and dance. Starting in the fall semester, Berit will coordinate the first- and second-year German language program at GSLL and organize outreach projects and German Club events as well as serve as a tester for the "Goethe-Zertifikate".

New Faculty in GSLL (cont.)

My name is Lauren Shizuko Stone and I will be joining the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures this fall as a Lecturer. I am originally from Los Angeles, but attended graduate school at Johns Hopkins University (M.A.) as well as New York University (Ph.D.), where I just completed a Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship. As a CU alumna (Class of '04), I'm very excited to be returning to McKenna's halls and, of course, to come home to the beauty of Boulder after a decade on the East Coast.

My research focuses on literary representations of marginal practices

and figures in quotidian culture from the early 19th-century through the turn of the century. In general, my work is animated by an interest in how literature renders a range of intractable philosophical problems through poetic language—from the re-appearance of Leibniz' monad in early 20th century representations of childhood to the construction of gender in expressions of female same-sex desire before Freud. Although my research and teaching draw on philosophical ideas, my methodology consistently combines close readings with cultural and historical context.



Tom Roberts holds a PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Stanford University (2010). Before joining the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures at CU, he was a postdoctoral fellow in Stanford's Thinking Matters program, teaching freshman humanities curricula, and a visiting assistant professor of Russian at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His research focuses on nineteenth-century Russian literature, as well as related topics in religious studies (particularly Russian Orthodoxy) and literary theory. Tom's current project, based on his doctoral dissertation, explores the aesthetics of transcendence in nineteenth-century Russian prose fiction, consider-

ing how authors in the Realist tradition (Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Leskov, Chekhov) pioneered literary techniques to convey heightened states of religious and noetic experience, at once challenging and expanding the Realist representational program. He is presently developing a book manuscript on this topic, titled *Translating Transcendence: Realism and Revelation in Nineteenth-Century Russian Fiction*, as well as separate articles on Gogol and Leskov. Tom also researches Russian and Soviet cinema, and has published articles and short essays in this field, with particular attention to the work of contemporary filmmaker Kira Muratova.

Update on the German Studies PhD

In the first official year of our German Studies PhD program, our PhD candidates secured prestigious grants, participated in national conferences, and engaged in internship and service learning activities. Ross Etherton received a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Research Grant for Doctoral Candidates to conduct dissertation research while a Visiting

Junior Fellow at the Internationales Kolleg für Kulturtechnikforschung und Medien Philosophie at the Bauhaus University in Weimar, Germany, in the 2014-2015 academic year. Ross also co-organized a panel at the Modern Language Association conference in January, curated an exhibit in the Norlin Libraries Special Collections Department in fall 2013, received



Update on the German Studies PhD (cont)

the GSLL Graduate Student Teaching Award, and served as our ALTEC liaison. In fall 2013, Franziska Schweiger presented a paper at the German Studies Association conference, and she will be conducting grant-supported dissertation research in New York in summer 2014. Emily Rath received a Max Kade Fellowship, served as liaison to the Colorado European Union Center of Excellence, and will

be in Germany in summer 2014 to conduct grant-supported research on Turkish-German feminist blogs. Maggie Rosenau is pursuing her secondary concentration in Museum Studies will be curating an exhibit on concrete poetry at CU in fall 2014. All current PhD students presented papers at a joint Cornell-CU graduate student symposium held at CU in May. Our spring 2014 recruitment

was a tremendous success, and we look forward to welcoming a very diverse and international group of PhD candidates into our program in August 2014. We thank the Max Kade Foundation, Tom and Jeanne Baur, and the George Scherer Fund for their generous support of our PhD program.

-Ann Schmiesing
Graduate Associate Chair

Russian Culture Week



Russian Culture Week was held April 21-25th and was attended by more than one hundred students and members of the community. The week's events consisted of Russian charades, a film night, Russian Idol competition with solo and group singers and plays, an egg painting workshop, two lectures by Russian-American journalist Masha Gessen, and

the concluding outdoor spring festival by Varsity 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.

-Laura Osterman
Associate Chair

Update on Nordic Studies Program

2013-2014 was a year of growth for the Nordic Studies program. We are adding courses, and the number of students minoring in Nordic continues to increase. We are particularly pleased with the success of our new Swedish program, where enrollments exceeded expectations. Further, we recently secured additional outside funding that will allow us to offer multiple levels of Swedish each semester, and in collaboration with the Swedish Women's Educational

Association we established a new scholarship to support students taking these courses.

This has also been a year of success for our personnel. Nordic GPTI Avedan Raggio received the Top Teaching Assistant Award from the United Government of Graduate Students. Avedan will be returning in the fall to teach two courses for the program. Benjamin Teitelbaum's dissertation (Brown '13) won the research award from the Institute for

the Study of Radical Movements in Berlin. It is the dissertation's second award, and a related manuscript is now under contract with Oxford University Press.

-Ben Teitelbaum
Head of Nordic Program

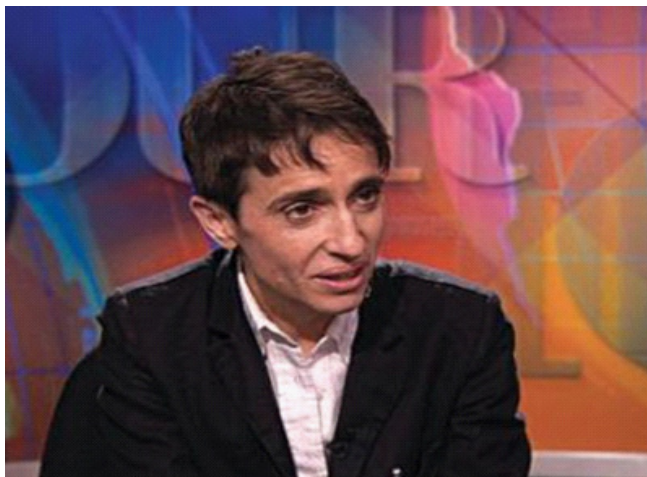
Boulder gets look at Russia's views on gays, controversial punk band

As part of Russian Culture Week, Russian-American journalist Masha Gessen gave two public talks at the University of Colorado on April 24, 2014.

Gessen discussed Russia's anti-gay movement in a talk titled "Russia, the New Anti-Gay Capital of the World," and the punk band Pussy Riot in a talk titled "Words Will Break Cement: The Passion of Pussy Riot".

The journalist was born in the Soviet Union and, as a teenager, immigrated to the United States with her parents. She returned to Russia in the 1990s, but after anti-gay legislation adopted by Russia in 2013, she moved back to America.

Read more at http://www.dailycamera.com/lifestyles/ci_25594835/journalist-masha-gessen-discusses-russian-views-gays-pussy-riot



CU-Boulder students exploring Crimean annexation in 'Russia Today,' other classes



When University of Colorado junior Eric Lange enrolled for classes last fall, including one called "Russia Today," he had no idea he'd be taking the class during a pivotal moment in Russian — and world — history.

The course, taught by senior instructor Tatiana Mikhailova, introduces students to post-communist Russia,

and the country's cultural, political, religious and social values.

Read more at http://www.dailycamera.com/cu-news/ci_25549304/cu-boulder-students-explo

Noted Satirist Gary Shteyngart Brings His 'Interplanetary Journey' to CU

Bestselling author Gary Shteyngart read from his new memoir, "Little Failure," and engaged in a conversation with Professor Sasha Senderovich on February 20, 2014.

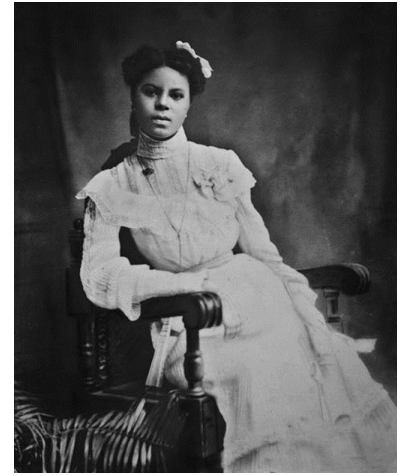
Read more at http://www.dailycamera.com/entertainment/ci_25147433/author-gary-shteyngart-will-speak-at-cu-boulder



New Biography of Lucile Berkeley Buchanan

A new biography of first African-American woman to graduate from CU Boulder and German major Lucile Berkeley Buchanan was announced this spring. Read more at

http://www.dailycamera.com/features/ci_25038231/lucile-berkeley-buchanan-first-black-woman-graduate-university-colorado-boulder



Lucile Berkeley Buchanan as she looked at about age 18 (Photo courtesy Polly McLean)

Contemporary Russian Poetry Festival

On January 23-24, 2014, GSLL hosted a festival of contemporary Russian poetry. The poets Polina Barskova (Hampshire College), Vera Pavlova (Moscow/New York), Maria Rybakova (San Diego State University), and Evgenii Slivkin (Denver University) participated. All of them are accomplished writers,

authors of many books, winners of numerous awards. The poets read from their work – in Russian with translation into English and participated in a round-table about the place of poetry in contemporary (Russian) culture. Besides the events that took place on campus, there was also a joint poetic

concert at the Innisfree Poetry Bookstore and Café. The event provided a rare chance to get in touch with true heirs to the great tradition of the Russian poetic revolutions.

-Mark Leiderman

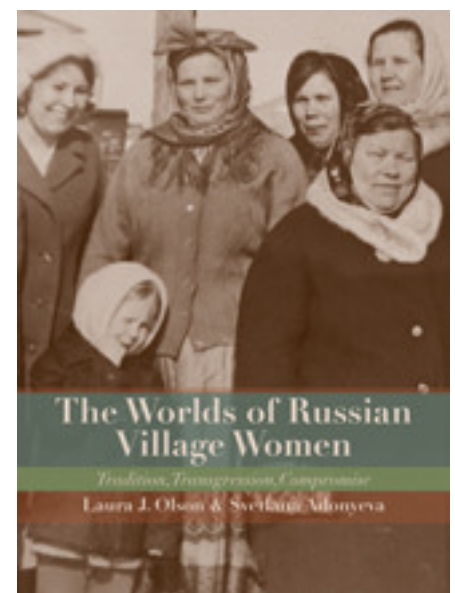
GSLL Professor Laura Olson Osterman awarded prestigious prizes from American Folklore Society

Based on nearly three decades of fieldwork, from 1983 to 2010, *The Worlds of Russian Village Women* by Laura Olson Osterman, associate professor of Russian, and Svetlana Adonyeva, professor of folklore and theory of literature at St. Petersburg State University in Russia, has won the 2013 Chicago Folklore Prize, the oldest and most prestigious international book award in folklore studies, established in 1904. It also was awarded the Eli Köngäs-Maranda Prize for folklore studies of women. Both awards were announced at the annual conference of the American Folklore Society last October in Providence, Rhode Island.

The book 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. In a major contribution to folklore studies, Olson and Adonyeva document the ways that women's tales of traditional practices associated with marriage, childbirth, and death reflect both upholding and transgression of social norms. Romance songs, satirical ditties, and healing and harmful magic reveal the complexity of power relations in Russian villages.

In accepting these awards, the authors commented, "We invite all who read our book to enter into dialogue with us, especially about the theoretical topic we care most about: how best to treat the words of others, how to weave the stories of others into

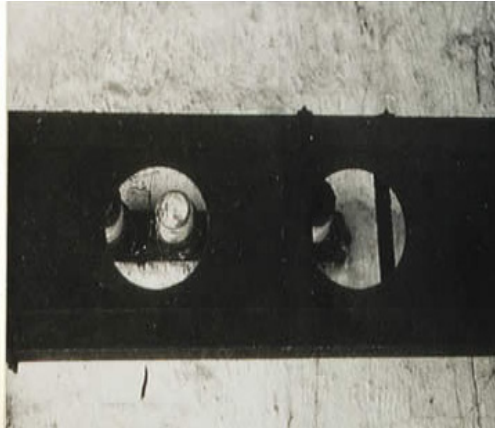


an overarching narrative in a foreign language, without diminishing the power and value of the original words."

Museum exhibition curated by GSSL Professor Patrick Greaney.....



The photographer and poet Heimrad Bäcker (1925-2003) dedicated his life to documenting the remnants of Nazism and the Holocaust. Bäcker's photographs look away from the scenes usually associated with the Shoah—



barracks, gates, train tracks—and focus on the minute and incidental traces left behind in the Austrian landscape: indentations in stone, twisted steel rods, and concrete foundations. His examination of Austrian history is also a

self-critical reflection on his enthusiastic participation, as a teenager, in the Hitler Youth and the Nazi Party. The exhibit *Landscape M* focused on Bäcker's works related to Mauthausen, the largest concentration camp in Austria. It was curated by Patrick Greaney, associate professor of German Studies, and was on view at the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver until Jan. 5, 2014. It was the first of Bäcker's work in the US and was the first to show the body of work left behind after his death. Additional information is available at <http://mcadenver.org/heimrad-baeker.php>

CU-Cornell Graduate Student Colloquium.....

From May 10-12, the German Program hosted four PhD candidates and Professor Paul Fleming from Cornell University for the first CU-Cornell Graduate Student Colloquium. The four students from Cornell were joined by our own PhD students Franziska Schweiger, Emily Frazier-Rath, Maggie Rosenau, Ross Etherton and by recent graduate Joseph Haydt in presenting and discussing their current work in a two day workshop with Professors from CU's German program and Paul Fleming from Cornell. Presented papers covered a wide array of topics, from Gottsched and Goethe to Jimi Hendrix and Glee, from the philosophy of nature to futurity and pop-feminism. After two days of productive and inspiring discussion in a relaxed but focused atmosphere, the group hiked up Boulder's Mount Sanitas and concluded the innovative colloquium with a well-deserved BBQ reception in North Boulder. The German Program hopes to continue this productive exchange with Cornell on a yearly basis.



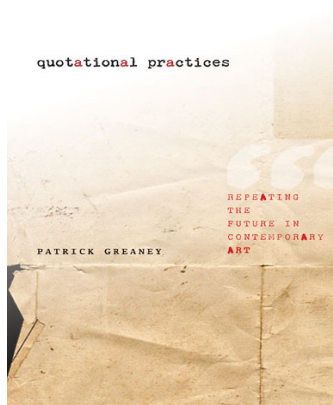
Professor Greaney awarded CU Integrity Award

This award is presented every year to one faculty member on the Boulder campus who has demonstrated high levels of integrity in the classroom. Nominees represent the ideals and values expressed in the CU Honor Code and have demonstrated their consistent dedication to teaching or living

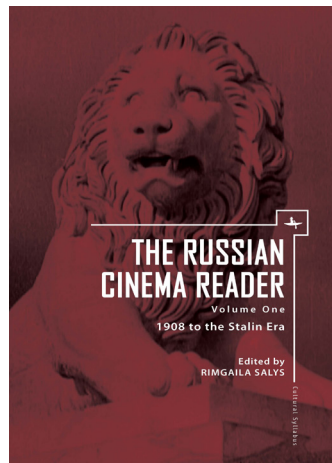
the virtues of academic integrity. Nominees hold high moral character and are constantly working to enhance the culture of integrity at CU. The Honor Code chooses the recipients of this award. Congratulations, Patrick!



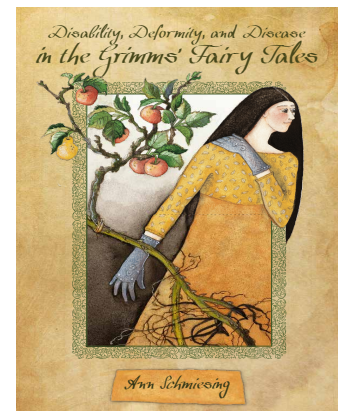
Faculty Books



Patrick Greaney, *Quotational Practices: Repeating the Future in Contemporary Art* (Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota Press 2014)



Rimgaila Salys, ed., *The Russian Cinema Reader*, vols. I-II (Brighton, MA: Academic Studies Press, 2013)



Ann Schmiesing, *Disability, Deformity, and Disease in the Grimms' Fairy Tales*. Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press [Series in Fairy-Tale Studies], 2014. (Will be published in fall 2014; currently in production)

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 gsll@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://gsll.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://gsll.colorado.edu/>, under Newsletter and Alumni News.

Please email your updates to gsll@colorado.edu.

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