

Chair's Message

Dear Friends,
Another momentous year for our department is coming to an end, as is my term as chair.

After three years I am returning to my regular role of faculty member, and I do so with mixed emotions: glad to have experienced from within how the university works and to have learned a lot in the process; sad to no longer work on a daily basis with my great staff; but also anxious to return to my research with more time and renewed commitment.

I am passing on the department to my successor, Mark Leiderman, in good health and thriving as ever. My proudest accomplishment as chair has been the hiring of so many exceptional colleagues, and I can boast of a

100% rate of success! We are in enviable position on many counts, with the highest number of full professors in years, healthy enrollments in all our programs, extremely vital graduate programs in German studies, and large margins of improvement and expansion in all areas. As we embark on the university-mandated process of self-review that takes place every seven years, I am confident that we will project a stronger image than ever.

Once I step down mid-August, I will be serving for a year as graduate associate chair in charge of our thriving German graduate programs. Mark Leiderman, as already mentioned, will take on the position of chair, while Ann Schmiesing will be serving as undergraduate associate chair and head of the German program. Ann has been just promoted to full professor and is also taking on the prestigious position of director of the Sewall Residential Academic Program (RAP). She is joining in that capacity Artemi Romanov, who

has been directing the Global RAP since last year. Our most recent faculty addition, Lauren Shizuko Stone will be joining us in the fall on a tenure-track position as assistant professor of German, after serving as lecturer for a year.

Change is also occurring in our staff, with the retirement of our long serving and highly valued Jan Kaufman, who will be now able to devote all the time they need to her grandchildren and enjoy her retirement with her husband John. We will miss you, Jan, and we wish you all the best on this new chapter of your life!

We are delighted to welcome Casey Koehler as our new administrative assistant. Casey, who holds BA, BFA, and MFA degrees from CU Boulder, was already on the CU staff as an administrative assistant for the Conference on World Affairs, and comes to us highly recommended. A warm welcome, Casey, from all of us in GSLL!

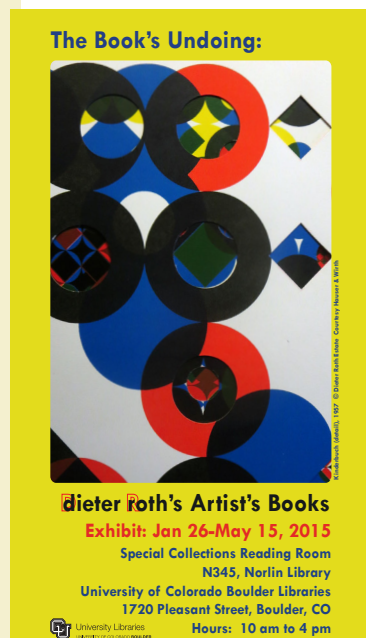
My colleagues were, as always, extremely active in planning and organizing



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 the fall Arne Hoecker hosted an international workshop on the history of knowledge, and journalist Julia Ioffe, senior editor at *The New Republic*, gave the talk "To Russia, With Straight Talk: Media, Culture, and Contemporary Crises," drawing on her knowledge of Russian and



Chair's Message (cont.)



Western media to discuss how the ongoing conflict in that region is playing out in an increasingly restricted media environment. In the spring GSLL co-hosted with the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures the conference Transnationalism and its Discontents, which featured noted Japanese-German writer Yoko Tawada, and the interdepartmental seminar Bakhtin, Formalists, and World Literature, which brought to Boulder three renowned Russian scholars. German PhD candidate Maggie Rosenau curated an exhibition of Dieter Roth's artist's books at the Norlin Library, and I curated an exhibition at the CU Art Museum of artist Michel Fingesten's graphic works. The year

concluded with the second edition of what is shaping up as a great convivial, and not only scholarly, occasion, the Cornell-CU graduate colloquium, which included this time also faculty and students from the Johns Hopkins University.

As you can see even from such a cursory overview, we had a very dense calendar, and one that we intend to replicate in the future, as we want to ensure that our students experience an intellectually stimulating and vibrant environment, but also for the sake of the university and the broader community.

In mentioning my colleagues' accomplishments, I would like to single out Mark Leiderman's reception of the 2014 Award for Outstanding Achievement in Scholarship from the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL). In addition, Mark has been elected as the next President of AATSEEL, starting his term in 2017. Three GSLL faculty members were among the 2014 recipients of the Boulder Faculty Assembly's Faculty Recognition Award for their service to the Boulder campus: Vicki Grove and Elena Kostog-

Iodova, senior instructors of Russian, and Ann Schmiesing, associate professor of German and Scandinavian literature.

I would also like to congratulate doctoral student Emily Frazier-Rath on her receipt of a German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Long-Term Research Grant. Emily will spend five months in Berlin and five months in Heidelberg, Germany, during the 2015-2016 academic year. In Berlin, she will interview members of the refugee communities and spend time with members of the ISD (*Initiative schwarze Menschen in Deutschland*) and *Karawane für die Rechte der Flüchtlinge und MigrantInnen in Deutschland*, two groups that have been at the forefront of the fight for refugee and migrant rights during the last several years. In Heidelberg, she will work with the Feministisches Netzwerk Heidelberg and conduct interviews with members of the feminist

community in Heidelberg and in broader Germany. These interviews will provide the basis for Emily's dissertation, tentatively titled "Precarious in Germany and Europe: Making Feminist Sense of Incomprehensible Lives."

Please make sure to check regularly our new website and our pages on other social media, as we want to make sure you are aware of what we are up to! And please come and join us at any of these events, or just stop by and say hi: we look forward to meeting you and 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
Chair, GSLL



New Faculty in GSLL



Beginning in Fall 2015, Lauren Shizuko Stone will be the new Assistant Professor of German in GSLL. Her research and teaching interests include literature and culture from the late 18th to the early 20th centuries and their points of intersection with the German philosophical tradition since Kant. She received her MA at Johns

Hopkins University and her PhD at New York University. Professor Stone's research is animated by an interest in how literature renders a range of intractable philosophical problems through poetic language. Most recently, she co-edited the book, *Flirtations: Rhetoric and Aesthetics This Side of Seduction* (Fordham University Press, 2015). This volume also includes her essay, "The 'Irreducibly Doubled Stroke': Flirtation, Felicity, and Sincerity," on the problem of sincerity in the figure of the conman in Thomas Mann's *Felix Krull* and in Ordinary Language Philosophy (Wittgenstein, Austin, Cavell). She is presently completing a book manuscript, tentatively titled *The Small Worlds of Childhood: Stifter, Rilke, Benjamin,*



which demonstrates how literary representations of 19th-century bourgeois childhood are able to make epistemological, phenomenological, and aesthetic claims about the nature of everyday life.

Update on Nordic Studies Program

Enrollments continue to be quite strong, and we are now producing over 1000 SCH per semester with large waitlists in all classes.

The number of minors has jumped from 8 in 2012 to nearly 50 today. If we continue the rate of growth from 2014-2015 alone we should pass the program's record number of minors in the coming year or two.

The program is spearheading an effort to establish an undergraduate certificate in Arctic Studies. Our proposal is co-sponsored by ETHN, ANTH, GEOG, IAFS, ENVIS, CEUCE, CIRES, NSIDC, and INSTAAR.

We have expanded Swedish to include fifth and sixth semester courses. This

will allow us to include Swedish as an option in the IAFS major and create a more language-centered track for the minor. Courses begin this fall, and are funded entirely by outside donations.

We are adding Finnish to the curriculum. Courses will begin this fall, and are funded entirely by outside donations.

The biggest news is that we are receiving a new instructor position. This position is funded jointly by CU and the Danish Ministry of Education. The Ministry requires that we hire an instructor from Denmark, and that part of her/his teaching load include Danish language courses. CU and the Ministry have committed to funding the position for



five years, though the agreement can be renewed indefinitely. The new instructor will be hired this summer and begin teaching this fall. We will be working this semester and during the fall to create the Danish language curriculum.

The value of our fundraising this past year amounts to more than \$200,000. We hope that by expanding our language offerings we may be in a position to develop our degree offerings, and possibly pursue a major.

Ben Teitelbaum
Head of Nordic Program

Bakhtin, Formalists, and World Literature



On April 13-15, 2015, GSLL hosted the interdepartmental seminar BAKHTIN, FORMALISTS, AND WORLD LITERATURE. Three leading scholars in Russian literary theory — professors Irina Sandomirskaya, Södertörn University (Sweden), Ily Kalinin, St. Petersburg University (Russia), and Galin Tihanov, Queen Mary Univer-

sity, London (UK) have participated in this 3-day event. Each day was dedicated to one speaker — his or her lecture, followed by an extensive discussion. On Monday, April 13, Irina Sandomirskaya delivered the lecture “Mikhail Bakhtin on the Aesthetics of History: Violence, Parody, Tragedy (‘without a Chorus

and an Author’),” in which she offered a new perspective on Bakhtin’s theory as an attempt to conceptualize the experience of historical catastrophes. On Tuesday, April 14, Ilya Kalinin in his talk titled “The Theory of Literary Estrangement and the Estrangement of Social Practices” continued the line of inquiry proposed by Prof. Sandomirskaya, treating Formalists’ theories and, first and foremost, Viktor Shklovsky theory of estrangement as a positive reworking of historical traumas. On Wednesday, April 15, Galin Tihanov in his lecture “What is World Literature? Answers from Soviet Russia” concluded the discussions by placing Russo-Soviet literary theories into the context of global literary theory of the 1920s-1980s. The event was generously sponsored by a GCAH Special Projects grant, GSLL, and CHA, as well as the departments of Humanities, English, Spanish and Portuguese, French and Italian, and the Graduate Program in Comparative Literature.

CU-Cornell-Johns Hopkins Graduate Student Colloquium

For the second time, the German Program hosted the yearly Graduate Student Colloquium in German Studies in collaboration with Cornell and Johns Hopkins University. This year, our faculty and students were joined by Paul Fleming (Cornell), Elisabeth Strowick, Andrea Krauss, and Katrin Pahl (all JHU) and their graduate students for a two-day intensive workshop with eight inspiring and fascinating talks. Our own PhD students Adi Nester, Franziska Schweiger, and Maggie Rosenau presented their most recent research on Rudolf Borchardt’s modernist attempt to approach the Bible as an epic, on Adalbert Stifter’s materiality, and on the artists’ books by Dieter Roth. Two days of intensive exchange and discussion in a relaxed but focused atmosphere were accompanied by a group hike in the North Boulder foothills and concluded with a well-deserved

BBQ reception. The German Program will continue hosting this event next year and is proud to

establish the Graduate Student Colloquium in German Studies as a CU-Boulder tradition.



History of Knowledge Workshop

In Collaboration with the French Program at CU Boulder and the Competence Center "History of Knowledge/Geschichte des Wissens" at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Arne Hoecker (GSLL) organized the first international workshop on the history of knowledge (October 10-12, 2014). As a field of academic research, history of knowledge has accessed and influenced virtually every discipline in the humanities in the last 25 years. However, a truly interdisciplinary dialogue about methods, approaches, and goals seemed to be lacking so far. As a step toward addressing this lack, the workshop brought together young scholars with



different academic and national backgrounds to discuss the present relevance and the methodological possibilities of an interdisciplinary history of knowledge. During three days of focused discussion, the participants explored the similarities and variations in how different disciplines and

national cultures approach a history of knowledge. Participants came from Switzerland, Germany, France, and the US, and from as diverse disciplines such as literature, history, philosophy, sociology, art history, and science and technology studies.

German PhD Student Maggie Rosenau Curates Exhibit

The Book's Undoing: Dieter Roth's Artist's Books was on display January 26-May 15, 2015 at the University of Colorado Boulder Special Collections Reading Room at Norlin Library. The show exhibited Dieter Roth's *Gesammelte Werke* (*Collected Works*), a 26 volume self-published catalogue of reconstructed versions of his own artist's books. Launched in 1969, its production took Roth 16 years and involved collecting, editing, revising, expanding, and in some cases embellishing unique and previously published works. *Gesammelte Werke* is not a chronological presentation of Roth's activities, but rather an artistic archival undertaking.

Dieter Roth (1930-1998) was a poet, artist, and master printmaker. Born in Hannover, Germany to a Swiss father and German mother, Roth was evacuated at age 13 from war-torn Germany to Zürich. During the several years

he was separated from his parents, his pursuit of art and poetry began. Roth's interests would lead him to collaborate with concrete poet Eugen Gomringer, artist Daniel Spoerri, and many other influential figures in the decades after World War II. His acute fascination with poetry, design, and print compelled him to experiment with the book and with bookmaking.

Roth's innovative use of the book as an artistic medium has contributed to his reputation as one of the most original and imaginative post-war European book artists. His early works, which he thought of as visual poetry, interrogate the book through experimentation with materiality and form. Many of Roth's books function as diaries documenting his daily activities and obsessive creative outpouring. Other books, made by collaging accumulated studio waste, serve as tribute to



the singularity of his own life and artistic pursuits.

The Book's Undoing is the first single curated student exhibit in the Special Collections Reading Room at Norlin Library.

Michael Fingesten's exhibition curated by Professor Davide Stimilli at the CU Art Museum

An exhibition of graphic works by the Czech-Jewish artist Michel Fingesten (1884-1943), curated by GSSL Chair Davide Stimilli, was on view at the CU Art Museum March 15-May 9, 2015. Under the title "Ex-Libris Etc." the exhibition displayed examples of Fingesten's virtuosity as a bookplate designer, along with other pieces

that documented the political and erotic inspiration of his work. Professor Stimilli also delivered a keynote address on Fingesten at the annual meeting of the American Association for Italian Studies (AAIS), which took place in Boulder March 25-28, 2015.



Updates on the Russian Club



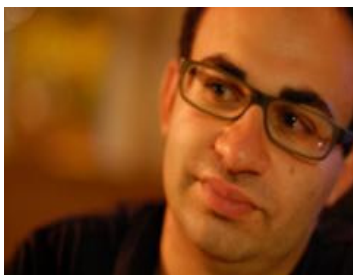
The CU Russian Club had an exciting and productive year. In addition to our regular biweekly meetings, students contributed to the Russian Film Series, the Russian Theatre Club, and the "Famous Colorusians" speaker series, which hosted

award-winning Denver journalist Anastasiya Bolton in January. Russian Club members also planned a number of exciting events, including a celebration of the traditional Russian "Old New Year," and an April Fools' Day event celebrating the hu-

mor traditions of Germany and Russia, co-hosted with the CU German Club. Additionally, club members participated in the spring semester Student Involvement Fair, as well as the annual International Festival, where we introduced visitors to the breadth of Russian culture, and served them borscht! The Russian Club concluded the academic year with elections for student officers: we're pleased to announce that Ben Lourie and Chloe Toscano will serve as the club co-directors in the coming year, and Ryan Stoner will be the club treasurer. We look forward to another great year under their leadership!

-Tom Roberts
Visiting Assistant Professor
of Russian

Faculty Updates.....



-Sasha Senderovich presented at the conference “The New Wave of Russian-Jewish Cultural Production” organized by Columbia University’s Harriman Institute for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies in New York, in December 2014. In January 2015 he presented at the international conference on “The Art of Cultural Translation: Performing Jewish Traditions in Modern Times” at the University of Oxford, UK, in January. In March 2015 he attended the annual conference of the American Comparative Literature Association in Seattle to present a paper on his ongoing research on contemporary literature by Soviet-born American Jewish Writers, as part of the conference

seminar on “Literatures of the Postsocialist European Diaspora in the United States.” His article on these writers, “Soviet Jews, Re-Imagined: Anglophone Literature by Soviet-born American Jewish Writers” will be published in *The Edinburgh Companion to Modern Jewish Fiction* (Edinburgh University Press) in July 2015.

He was invited to moderate three public events with the Russian-American author Gary Shteyngart: at Baruch College in New York City (October 2014), at Lehigh University (April 2015), and at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia (May 2015). He has also taught guest classes on Shteyngart’s *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Little Failure* at Lafayette College and the University of Pennsylvania.

The first chapter of Senderovich’s translation -- a collaboration with Harriet Murav (University of Illinois) -- of David Bergelson’s Yiddish-language novel *Strict Justice* was published in *Pakn Treger*; additional chapters will appear in the new peer-reviewed journal in Yiddish studies, *In geveb*, by the end of 2015. This translation project has been supported by the Amherst, MA-based Yiddish Book Center’s Translation Fellowship.

He will be on research leave during the academic year 2015-2016, supported by fellowships from CU Boulder’s Center for Humanities and the Arts and Harvard University’s Center for Jewish Studies. He has also received a grant from the Brandeis-Genesis Institute for Russian Jewry to support the research and writing of his first book, *Seekers of Happiness: Mobility, Culture, and the Creation of the Soviet Jew*.



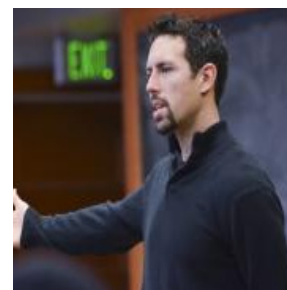
Beverly Weber was nominated for the Outstanding Graduate Student Faculty Mentor Award.

Mark Leiderman (Lipovetsky) was the recipient of the 2014 Award for Outstanding Achievement in Scholarship from the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL). In addition, Mark has been elected as the next President of AATSEEL and his term should start in 2017.



Head of Nordic Program Ben Teitelbaum received the Excellence in Teaching with Technology award: <http://sparc.colorado.edu/students-nominated-nordic-studies-prof-benjamin-teitelbaum-for-asset-teaching-with-tech-award/>

German instructors Berit Jany and Saskia Hintz will lead a workshop (entitled: “Short Films in the German Classroom”) at this year’s ACTFL conference.

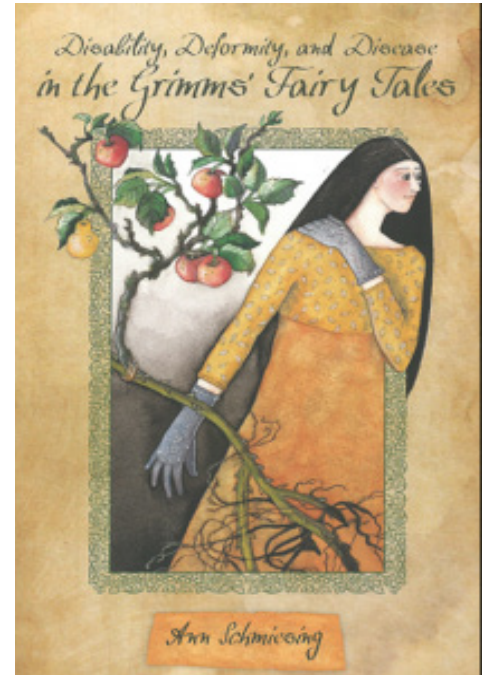


Faculty Books

Ann Schmiesing, *Disability, Deformity, and Disease in the Grimms' Fairy Tales*. Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press [Series in Fairy-Tale Studies], 2014.



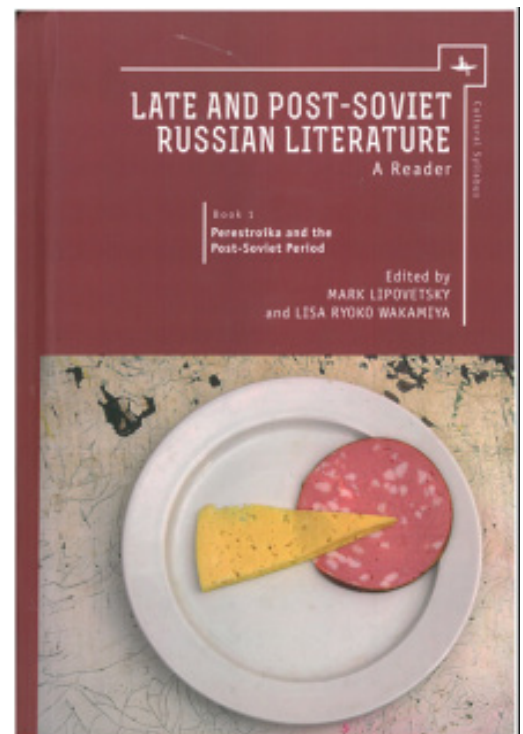
Helmut Muller-Sievers, *The Science of Literature: Essays on an Incalculable Difference*. Walter de Gruyter, 2014.



Mark Leiderman completed a collective project which he worked at since 1997 — a 6-volume history of 20th-century Russian literature. The first 2-volume installment, on Russian literature of the 1950s-1990s, authored with Naum Leiderman, has appeared in 2000. Another 2-volume set, dedicated to the literature of the 1920s, was published in 2010. Finally, in 2014 together with Prof. Maria Litovskya, Mark finished editing and published the last part — two volumes on Russian literature of the 1930s-1950. These six volumes, with chapters written by leading scholars from Russian, USA, and Europe, is the first publication of this scope and diversity since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

By the end of 2015, Academic Studies Press will publish a second volume of the critical reader "Late and Post-Soviet Literature" co-edited by Lisa Wakamiya (Florida State University) and Mark. The first volume was dedicated to literature of the 1990s-2010s and appeared in 2014. The second will go deeper in time and represent literature of the 1960s-80s.

A collective monograph "Russian Literature since 1991" co-edited by Evgeny Dobrenko (University of Sheffield) and Mark, is expected to be published by Cambridge University Press by the end of 2015.



Faculty Articles

Berit Jany

- "And Lights, Camera, Action: Toward Active German Language Learning Through Digital Media Production," *Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German*, 48/2 Fall 2015.

- "United We Suffer: Sixteenth-Century Anabaptism and Twentieth-Century «Auslandsdeutschum» in M. V. Rubatscher's «Das Lutherische Joggele»," *Studia austriaca* XXIII (2015), 65-86.

Beverly Weber

- "Kübra Gümüşay, Muslim Digital Feminism and the Politics of Visuality in Germany," *Feminist Media Studies* 15.5 (2015). Forthcoming.

- "Islam, Feminism, and Agency in Germany Today," *Contesting Feminisms: Gender and Islam in Asia*. Ed. Huma Ghosh. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2015. 251-269. 2015. In press.

- "Precarious Intimacies and Yoko Tawada's Europe," *Journal of the Critical Ethnic Studies Association*. 1.2 (2015). In press.

- "Gender, Race, Religion? Rethinking Intersectionality," *European Journal of Women's Studies*. 22.1 (2015): 22 – 36.

Helmut Müller-Sievers has published two blogposts in *Merkur*:

<http://www.merkur-zeitschrift.de/2015/01/helene-cixous-im-winter/>

<http://www.merkur-zeitschrift.de/2015/02/dekonstruktion-im-rueckspiegel/>

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 GSSL prepares its graduates is very important for our current and incoming students.

Donate to GSSL: 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://colorado.edu/gssl> and click on "Donate."

GSSL Facebook Pages: We've set up Facebook pages 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 pages at :

German Program: <https://www.facebook.com/GermanCUBoulder!>

German Club: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/158545408175/>

Nordic Club: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/11123544743/>

Russian Club: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/curussianclub/>

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://colorado.edu/gssl>, under Newsletter and Alumni News. Please email your updates to gssl@colorado.edu.

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