

# EUROPE • NYC

Newsletter of the New York Consortium for European Studies

November 2011

## Graverobbers: Poles and Plunder of Jews during WWII

NYU: October 28  
By Zach Dugan

A photo of European farmers relaxing behind their crops stared down at the packed room, waiting for Jan Gross of Princeton University to begin his European history workshop talk on “Killings and Pillage of Jews by their Neighbors in Nazi Occupied Poland.” Upon further reflection and upon Gross’s instruction, it became clear that the photo was nothing near what it seemed. Instead of a farm, it took place on the site of a mountain of 80,000 cremated Jewish bodies, instead of crops, the picture showed human bones, and instead of farmers the audience stared back at grave robbers finished digging for leftover gold, jewelry, and other valuables.

“Stripping the Jews of their property [even after death] was seen as protecting the nation because the property could stay within the national population. Otherwise it would be claimed by the Nazis,” said Gross. His talk focused on how the activity of killing and plundering of Jewish



Professor Jan Gross

Poles was conducted by other Poles as a socially sanctioned activity.

He began the workshop hosted by NYU’s Center for European and Mediterranean Studies by defending the use of memoir and diaries as historical evidence. “The record keeper’s role is to present what happened,” said Gross. And, in the case of the Holocaust, he argued that

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## Giving Some Perspective on the Euro Crisis

NYU: September 30  
By Hannah Wood

Comparing the euro crisis to M.C. Esher’s drawings – labyrinthine, complicated and “representing [an] impenetrable object,” was sure to get the audience’s attention. Then, moderator Frédéric Viguier asked noted scholars Damien Chalmers, Marc Flandreau, Grigore Pop-Eleches, Christiane Lemke, Jeanne Lazarus and George W. Ross to decipher the puzzle during the panel

discussion “Common Currency, Divided Nations: The Euro and its Future.”

George W. Ross, the Jean Monnet Chair at the University of Montreal, suggested that the euro crisis could be blamed upon the structure of the European Union itself, and that the EU and the European Monetary Union had “allowed a controllable crisis to get out of control.” But there was little agreement on how to solve it.

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## Who rules the Mediterranean?

NYU: October 27  
By Carla Westerheide

“I’m not sure if I’m really talking about a work in progress, all I know is that it’s not finished,” Wolfgang Lepenies joked. A “Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin,” Lepenies had come to NYU to share with students and faculty how he believes the Union for the Mediterranean is a good example of French-German tensions.

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is a multilateral partnership that encompasses 43 countries from Europe and the Mediterranean Basin: the 27 member states of the European Union and 16 Mediterranean partner countries from North Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans. It was created in July 2008 as a relaunched Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

Lepenies quoted French President Nicolas Sarkozy as saying: “A dream has come true; the Mediterranean Union is a reality.” He then gave a brief history of French-German tensions, saying that President Charles de Gaulle always agreed with Henry Kissinger when he said that France would be the biggest loser after the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989). Because, de Gaulle said, “France could only be France through greatness. But greatness will be measured against Germany.”

In short, tension between the two countries runs deep. Lepenies pointed out that former German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer said he would always “let the French President step onto the red carpet first.”

Here Lepenies looked up from his paper and said that that hasn’t changed. He referred to a letter sent to the European Council

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Marc Flandreau, Professor of International History and International Economics at the University of Geneva, stated that the EU needs fiscal rules "with teeth," while Damian Chalmers, Professor of European Law at the London School of Economics, suggested that EU governments had to figure out strategies to urge more people to pay taxes.

Grigore Pop-Eleches, Assistant Professor of Politics and Public and International Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, compared the current situations in Eastern and Western Europe. Though all EU member states are tied together, many Eastern European countries have not been hit as hard because they do not have the euro.

Jeanne Lazarus, a Research Fellow in sociology at Sciences Po in Paris, explained that there are too few bank notes to feature every eurozone country on the money. The bank notes, she said, "have no roots." This eurozone,



*Noted scholars desiphering the euro crisis at the NYU Maison Francaise*

a community tied together by little pieces of paper, does not always evoke unity or confidence among its citizens.

Christiane Lemke, the Max Weber Chair of German and European and Mediterranean Studies at NYU, CEMS, closed out the talk, offering some "German perspective" on the eurozone crisis. "Money separates and

unites us," Lemke said, as she went into the national politics that played out as German Chancellor Angela Merkel changed her position from a "No" vote on the Greek bailout package, to a "Yes" when persuaded by France. The EU, Lemke concluded, needs institutional reform. "Europe cannot fall back into nation-states," she said.

## Outlaws or In-laws: Gay Rights in Scandinavia

**Columbia: October 11**

**By Zach Dugan**

October 11 has commonly been marketed as a "National Coming Out" day for gays in the U.S.

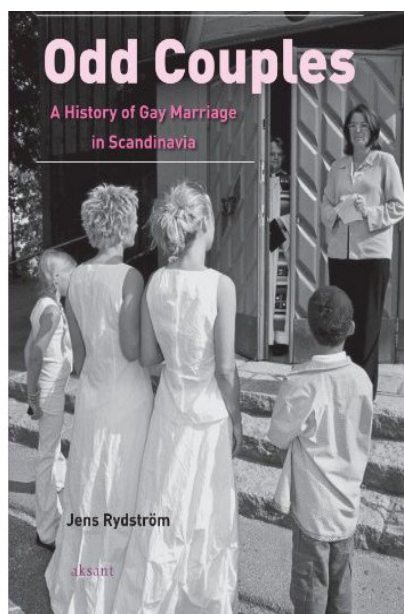
In his talk "Outlaws or In-laws? Effects of Gay Marriage in Scandinavia," Jens Rydström, an Associate Professor at Sweden's Lund University, covered the development of the gay movement in Scandinavian countries and the various movements pushing for gay marriage.

He opened the discussion by speaking of his own connection to gay Scandinavian culture. He is not an activist, but is legally married to his partner.

For him, the story of "Outlaws or In-laws" begins in the late 1960s with a host of socialist party initiatives that began advocating gay rights. Denmark and Sweden were most active, while Norway's gay movement saw little support outside of the gay rights movement. Initially, there were no clear movements in Finland or Iceland, because the two countries were too homophobic for gay rights groups to operate.

Despite the early beginnings, activists and advocates of gay marriage

didn't see results until 1989 when Denmark legalized it but with three exceptions: no church marriages, no adoption, and no marriage to foreigners. Norway followed suit in 1993, Sweden in 1995, Finland in 2002, and finally Iceland in 2010. Denmark, Norway, and Sweden all allowed gay marriage before other European states such as the Netherlands, Germany, and France.



Today, the Faroe Islands are the only Nordic country to have a law allowing either registered partnerships or gay marriage to its citizens.

Legalizing same-sex marriage had some interesting effects. Until 2000, more male couples than female couples tied the knot, but that trend changed in 2000. Rydström hypothesized that this may have stemmed partially from a "lesbian baby boom" as adoption laws were relaxed through the 1990s. Another major effect was visible in the realm of religion. Each state experienced a split in state-recognized churches, mainly because the Lutheran faith doesn't recognize same-sex couples marriage.

Other effects included a general growth of societal acceptance of homosexuals and gay couples.

Gay marriage allowed married homosexual Scandinavians to receive the same legal benefits and rights as married heterosexual couples. Also, gay marriage in the Scandinavian countries has served as an example around the world that same-sex marriages can be legally recognized without turning society inside out.

*MFU cont. from page 1*

amid bailout discussions at the end of the month, reading “Dear Chancellor Merkel, Dear President Sarkozy, Distinguished leaders...” He pointed out that Sarkozy—not to mention other countries—were upset over the hierarchy given to the recipients. That is why, Lepenies says, Merkel let Sarkozy speak first during their joint press conference.

He also discussed the power struggle over the name of the Mediterranean Union—a name proposed by Sarkozy. It was Angela Merkel who put down her foot, pushing for it to be called the Union FOR the Mediterranean and said all EU members had to be members of the UfM as well.

Lepenies said he’s rather disappointed with the outcome. Instead of being based in Barcelona as agreed upon, the UfM gets its orders from Brussels. In hindsight, he said, if it had been a true Mediterranean Union, “we could have been able to detect and solve [those countries’ financial] problems earlier and save the economy.”

He also believes that the current name undermines the union’s potential, because it seems as though EU countries are minimizing the UfM members’ ability - something Lepenies doesn’t think should be the case.



*Commentator David Stasavage and speaker Wolf Lepenies at the Remarque Institute*

“It is wrong to say that, for example, countries like Tunisia and Egypt are catching up with European ideals. The Arab Spring is not the same as the 1989 Europe... We cannot assume that these revolutions lead to a place we already are.”

Lepenies is a firm believer that a true Mediterranean Union could have worked and could have even helped solve the Israel-Palestinian conflict. He quoted Hannah Arendt, who, in the 1920s in New York, said that solving that dispute would be the first

step towards a European Union.

“A European Union was eventually founded, but the conflict remains unsolved,” Lepenies sighed.

In conclusion, Lepenies says, he would like to see a type of “Marshall Plan” be put in place. According to him, it would work because if a country wants financial aid, it is forced to cooperate with the benefactor. Yet he remains pessimistic, saying that: “I do not have any illusion that it might actually become a reality.”

## There's No Place like Home

**Columbia: October 21**

**By Hannah Wood**

During the War in Kosovo, thousands of ethnic Serbs living in Kosovo fled to Serbia. One of the main goals of the Independent Liberal Party in Kosovo is to bring them home. Speaker Slobodan Petrovic is the party’s leader and one of five Deputy Prime Ministers of Kosovo. He is also an ethnic Serb.

There are currently 120,000 Serbs in Kosovo. Most of them live in the north, close to the border with Serbia. According to Petrovic, the Independent Liberal Party works to “promote interests (...) of people living in Kosovo,” specifically Serbs, by helping to obtain jobs, build infrastructure and otherwise “realize their interests.” It is difficult to make any kind of progress, however, when

the amount of Serbs who vote in Kosovo elections is so low. A number of Kosovo-Serbs do not recognize Kosovo as a state and boycotted the 2007 Kosovo election. Voter turnout among

Serbs was only at 5%. Tensions recently flared in northern Kosovo; Serbians erected barricades in defiance of the declaration of Kosovo statehood and independence from Serbia in 2008.

The barricades stand on territory which both Serbia and Kosovo claim as theirs. Petrovic believes that the division of Kosovo would be problematic for the region and his party strives for a unified state. This Kosovo should be a place to which Serbs displaced in 1999 want to return.

To make Serbs want to return, more jobs have to be created, apartments and houses need to be built, and security enforced. Serbians need to be integrated into communities, rather than living in isolated enclaves. European Union laws and conditions are also being implemented to ensure that Kosovo remains a fully recognized state. With new elections on the horizon, Petrovic and his party are optimistic that Kosovo will be a more attractive place for the displaced. “Possibilities are endless,” Petrovic concluded.



*On the right: Slobodan Petrovic and his translator*

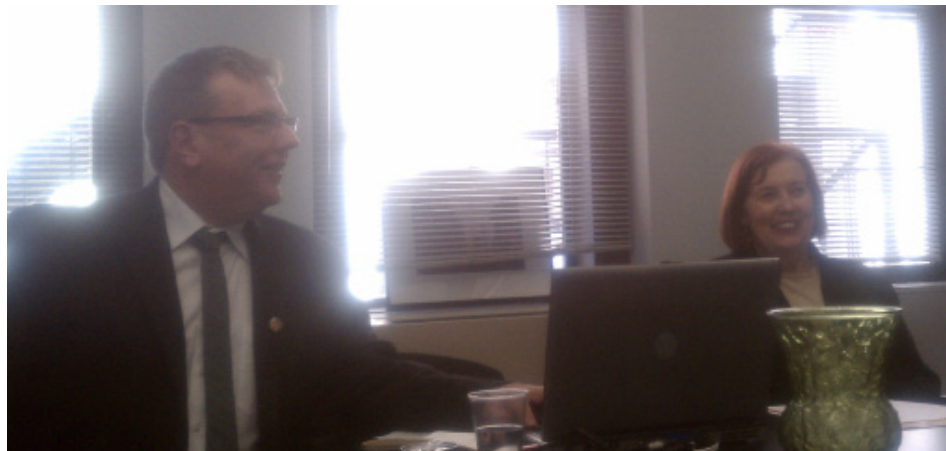
## Art on the Walls or in the Room?

NYU: October 26  
By Hannah Wood

Nikolaus Bernau loves museums. He said so himself when he came to present his doctoral thesis project. Bernau, a writer for the German newspaper “Berliner Zeitung,” is concerned with how Islamic art and cultural items have been displayed in European museums and museums around the world. Islamic art was only deemed worthy of exhibition by westerners in about the mid-nineteenth century.

Bernau’s presentation, entitled “Islamic Art, or Art: Islamic Culture or Cultures?” focused on how Museums made our Image of the ‘Islamic’ World.” It was a comprehensive visual study of how and where Islamic art has been exhibited since 1850. The 1851 “Great Exhibition” in London, otherwise known as the first World Fair, put Islamic art on the map as something worthy of collecting. The quality of the textiles and pottery astonished Europeans. They were attracted by the bright colors and mesmerizing shapes characteristic of Islamic art. Two years later, these objects were considered to be a part of “high culture.”

At first, museums were unsure of how to display their Islamic collections. They had everything in one room. It was not until the early twentieth century that they began to separate pieces by category and material.



Bernau and moderator Christiane Lemke-Daempling. A plastic vase sits on the table as an example of ornate Islamic vases.

This was not only a popular convention, but a necessity. The 1910 Munich Exhibition displayed 4,400 objects, and in 1932, the Pergamon Museum built new rooms for its art, with cooler toned lighting and white walls to let the objects stand out and tell the story. However, after WWII, the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art turned everything on its head by creating rooms by period and putting color back into the walls. Museum directors and curators wanted to “bring life with color, life with lights,” after the austere interwar years.

Today, the Met is in the vanguard again, Bernau said, with its gallery dedicated to Islamic art, set to open on November 11th. He got a sneak peak of the exhibition and

included some of his own photos of the new gallery in his presentation. What is so new about this exhibit, he asserted, is the way that the rooms themselves are constructed. Indeed, the architecture itself – from the white columns, to the open courtyard style space – is Islamic. Bernau hopes that one day this “archeological” style of museum exhibit construction will be implemented in Europe.

At the end of his talk, Bernau referred to a Met display of an old, yellowed and dirty prayer rug. “Daily life has been put in the gallery of art,” he said. This new perspective is something that he sees as an interesting development in art, and perhaps something to watch for in the future.

## Interview with Tommy Graham

NYU: October 3  
By Hannah Wood

*Tommy Graham is a history professor in the Tisch Dublin program. He came to NYU Tisch to give a talk called “The Celtic Tiger: My Part in Its Collapse.”*

**Do you think that the relief funds from the IMF/ECB/EU in November 2010 have made a discernible difference in the Irish economy?**

**Tommy Graham:** This money was essential for the day-to-day running of the government. The problem was that ‘Ireland Inc.’ was seen as such a bad investment that the rate at which the Irish government could borrow in the bond markets was going through the roof. Nevertheless,

provisions have been made to fund the government into the middle of 2011, yet we were forced to accept this ‘bailout’. The money must be paid back well above what, say, the German or US governments pay. And we were forced to agree to cutbacks in health, welfare, education, etc. in order to get it. Something like €20 billion in government spending has already been taken out of the Irish economy, which is depressing the domestic economy. So in a sense we were damned without the ‘bailout’ & damned with it.

**Do you think that Ireland is viewed differently in the eyes of the European community post-collapse?**

**TG:** I think there is a view that ‘we all partied’ (to quote a former minister of

finance), which is very unfair on the vast majority of Irish people who didn’t live high on the hog during the Celtic Tiger years. Serious reputational damage was done to the Irish financial sector because of “cavalier and sharp practice.” For instance when things began to go pear-shaped in the spring of 2008, the Anglo-Irish Bank (‘the bank that ate Ireland’) was secretly trying to lend money to individuals to buy back the bank’s shares, then in free-fall. This is straightforward criminality, yet no one has gone to jail.

**How does it affect you in daily life (if at all)?**

**TG:** Not too much in my case, apart from a 5% drop in income due to tax hikes and levies. My wife, a teacher in the public

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there was a real worry about what posterity would think of the events and whether or not future generations would believe the amount of devastation. With this in mind, he reads the first-hand accounts as accurate because they would have no need to exaggerate; the damage and death tolls were already high enough.

From here, Gross discussed how “entire villages were in solidarity with the murders of Jews” and how the “direct motive to kill the Jews was to plunder them.” Local elites often took an active role in murdering the village’s Jewish members. The murders often happened in the middle of town or on the outskirts, while inhabitants watched and took part in the event. Despite the obvious guilt of the murderers, they remained in good standing in the village.

“Torture and intimidation were also used to discover where the Jews keep their valuables before killing them,” said Gross. The Jews, once rounded-up, would be taken to a house with the women in one room and the men in the other. “The women were raped and the men tortured,” he continued. In one case a woman escaped and was brought back to the torture house by someone who “dragged her by her hair” through town, Gross told his audience.

The “how?” is especially important in these events and trends because the evidence is anecdotal. Gross argued that this “anecdotal evidence is evidence of a greater shift in shared norms toward Jews.” It is also important to note that Gross sees these trends as true across the Nazi occupied countries, from Vichy France to the eastern reaches of Nazi territory.

## A Eurasian Backlash Against Human Rights

**Columbia: October 6**

**By Zach Dugan**

How do former communist countries deal with human rights issues? This was a question the “Strategic Backlash Against Human Rights in Eurasia” panel, moderated by Alex Cooley of Columbia University hoped to answer.

The panel - made up of Graeme Robertson of University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Christopher Walker of Freedom House, Hugh Williamson of Human Rights Watch, and Robert Templer of International Crisis Group - took a critical look at trends in several post-Soviet states toward authoritarianism and restriction of human rights.

Robertson began with a short lecture on the types of authoritarianism seen in today’s post-Soviet states. He said that eight of the twelve non-Baltic post-Soviet states can be considered authoritarian, dividing these states into three categories: closed authoritarian regimes, hybrid regimes, and non-democratic regimes that allow some competition. Most worrisome is that he classified Russia and Belarus as hybrid regimes and, less worrisome but still concerning, Moldova and Ukraine are included among the non-democratic states.

Much of the panel focused on Russia, Ukraine, and Central Asian countries.

Robertson said that much of Russia’s authoritarian power stems from the government’s ability to control elections via ballot-stuffing and a varied menu of other ballot control measures designed to force votes for one candidate despite the small pool of allowed opposition candidates. Walker added that other key features of Russia’s ability to maintain dominance are its use of nationalism, management of mass media, and pursuit of an illiberal education curriculum and system to protect the regime as well as indoctrinate the public. He pointed out that Russia’s petrodollars made it even easier for the government to maintain control.

Walker noted that Ukraine too is headed in the wrong direction and that it seems to be following more in Russia’s footsteps than moving toward the models provided by Baltic States or several Central European countries. However, Robert Templer added later, Ukraine may be brought back toward a more liberal regime through the European Union’s pursuit of trade agreements. The EU’s Eastern Partnership program could also help bring Ukraine, as well as countries like Moldova, Georgia, and Belarus, into the realm of liberal democratic states.

The panel concluded with a few thoughts on what can be done to stop

*EURASIA cont. on page 10*

sector, has taken a 15% hit. The big problem is those who have lost their jobs and are saddled with huge mortgages. Unlike in the US where, if a bank forecloses and repossesses a property, it draws a line under the debt, in Ireland the property is sold in a fire sale, the funds raised deducted from the outstanding amount owed, and the borrower is still liable for the difference. Unemployment has jumped from less than 5% pre-2008 to nearly 15%. People are very sore that while the banks have been bailed out with billions of tax-payers money, individual mortgage-holders have not.

**Are people by and large behind the Prime Minister, or is there a call for another administration switch?**

**TG:** Fianna Fáil, Ireland’s main governing party since 1932, and in power since 1997, was almost wiped out at the general election

earlier this year. But the new government has inherited the IMF/ECB/EU deal, so it made little difference. Nevertheless the current government still has grudging support if only because the feeling is that nothing could be as bad as the previous lot!

**What was the biggest mistake the government made in the run-up to the crash?**

**TG:** Promoting policies that over-heated the property and construction sector. But this was inevitable because of Fianna Fáil’s long-standing closeness to the construction sector, particularly for funding. Ireland is very small; these people all play golf and socialize together.

**What was the biggest mistake Irish people made in the run-up to the crash?**

**TG:** Believing the hype that real estate values could only go up and up. Since the

height of the market in 2006 they’ve dropped 50%, and are still dropping.

**Do you see improvement in the near future?**

**TG:** Strangely enough our export sector (especially IT and pharmaceuticals) continues to thrive. But a high proportion of the profits are repatriated by the multinationals involved. Whether this will be enough to drag the dead-weight of debt is an open question. So far we have been meeting the IMF/ECB/EU targets. I’m a natural optimist. Economic crisis is the norm for Ireland; we’ve been here before. Ireland’s problems are only a small part of a worldwide economic crisis. It behooves all of us, particularly artists and intellectuals, to address these problems (although I’m not offering any solutions myself!). We live in interesting times!

## A Story of Innocence and Violence

NYU: October 18

By Carla Westerheide

“Now, you’ll only know this if you speak German,” Roy Grundmann began his talk, “but the subtitle of this film is actually ‘A German children’s story.’”

In “The White Ribbon (Das Weisse Band),” a small village in northern Germany is overcome by “a spell of violent incidents” on the eve of WWI, many of which are never resolved. Children play a central role. Grundmann described them as “listeners, bystanders and eavesdroppers who respond to obedience and travel in packs like a secret society. No one is ever sure how much the children know and how much they actually understand.”

Grundmann, a Professor of Film Studies in the Department of Film and Television at Boston University, is one of the leading experts on Michael Haneke, the

director of “The White Ribbon (2009).” According to him, the film portrays the “children’s ideology as perversion to show what’s wrong with the world.” At first glance, nothing is what it seems.

Grundmann also analyzed previous Haneke films, to give the audience more information about who the director was and about his philosophy.

Michael Haneke was born in 1942 in Germany, but grew up in Austria. He also worked in television and as a stage director. Grundmann pointed out that most of his Austrian-produced films were based on literature, while most of his German productions were original scripts.

“The White Ribbon,” Grundmann says, could be described as a “fake literary adaptation,” because while it discusses day-to-day reality, “it is too modest in that it portrays the reality that is life.”

Grundmann’s presentation was fol-

lowed by a conversation about the film, moderated by the Max Weber Chair for German and European Studies at NYU, Christiane Lemke and the Director of the NYU Deutsches Haus, Martin Rauchbauer.

One of the main questions was what the movie is actually trying to tell its audience. “Is the movie trying to tell us that [the little boy] is perverted by his upbringing and that is why he plays a role in the Nazi society?” Rauchbauer asked. And though that question has been raised in many film reviews, Grundmann doesn’t believe that the film can explain “why Germany chose social nationalism.”

In fact, Grundmann continued, Haneke “doesn’t put emphasis on history and explanation of history (...). He doesn’t just want us to accept or give us answers that he does have, but make us more responsible consumers. It’s almost that, if we can watch this to the end, there is something wrong with us.”

## Murder, Mystery and Russian Ballet

NYU: October 19

By Carla Westerheide

The room was filled to the max. Elizabeth Kendall, a professor at New School came to NYU CEMS to talk about a new book she’s writing, entitled “George and Lidochka: Ballet, the Balanchine Revolution and the Lost Muse (working title).”

Kendall said she would have liked to write the book only on Lydia Ivanova, but that there was just not enough for her to go on, even after spending a great deal of her time in archives in Russia.

Instead, she chose to focus on the George Balanchine as well, a famous choreographer of his generation. “They were classmates who became muse and creator, but were separated early by death.” Lydia was supposedly murdered before being

able to go on “a summer trip” with Balanchine and three other dancers.

Kendall spent much of her talk on Balanchine’s childhood, and how he was never meant to become a dancer. He attended the Imperial Ballet School in Saint Petersburg, Russia. It was actually his little sister who wanted to be a ballerina, though she was never invited back after the first “trial” year.

She talked about teachers, dancers, classmates and even new ways of teaching, and performing, pirouettes, which NYU professor Jennifer Homans demonstrated for the audience.

But most of all, Kendall drew in her audience by telling them about her quest for information.

Balanchine was from Georgia, and

Kendall had visited the family estate there. She said that “it’s all about running into the right people, like local amateur historians who pointed me in the right direction.”

But getting information wasn’t always easy. Kendall said she was able to find two of Lydia’s relatives, but “one can’t think about the past. When she does, she becomes a five-year-old girl, sitting in a dark room, waiting for her mother during the blockade.”

The other relative did not help her either. Kendall travelled to Munich to meet her. “We did many things together,” she said. “I took her to dinner, she gave me presents... But when I showed her pictures of her family; nothing.”

Despite all of the hurdles, Kendall remains convinced that this is a book that needs to be written, a story that needs to be told.

“She was supposed to be a world famous ballerina and the first to come out of the Balanchine generation,” she explained. “We should know about her. And murder and mystery always make a good subject.”

This talk was the first of a series of events on the history of dance, hosted by the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies in partnership with the Center for Creative Research.



Speaker Elizabeth Kendall and NYU distinguished scholar Jennifer Homans at the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## —NEW YORK UNIVERSITY—

### CENTER FOR EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES

285 Mercer Street, 7th Floor. All events take place at the Center unless otherwise noted.  
212.998.3838  
<http://www.cems.as.nyu.edu>

FRIDAY, November 4 at 12:30 p.m.

**Talk:** “Broken Lives/(Re)constructed Biographies: German Jewish Historians of the Renaissance in Wartime America.” A talk by Anthony Molho, 2011-12 Global Distinguished Professor at NYU and Emeritus Professor at the European University Institute

FRIDAY, November 11 at 12:30 p.m.

**Workshop:** “The Pope’s Dilemma: Blood Libel and Papal Power in Poland and Italy.” The workshop will be led by Magda Teter from Wesleyan University.

MONDAY, November 14 at 4:30 p.m.

**Workshop:** “Sex and the State: The Disappearance of Turkey’s Legal Sex Trade.” The Gender and Transformation in Europe workshop will be led by Anna Louise Sussman, a freelance journalist for the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

### INSTITUTE OF FRENCH STUDIES

15 Washington Mews. All events take place at the Institute unless otherwise noted.  
212.998.8740  
[french.studies@nyu.edu](mailto:french.studies@nyu.edu)  
<http://www.nyu.edu/fas/program/frenchstudies>

TUESDAY, November 1 at 12:30 p.m.

**Talk:** “French Voter Preferences Five Months Before the Election.” Nonna Mayer, a senior research fellow at the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*, looks at for whom the French are likely to vote in May 2012. The candidate lists are still being finalized.

WEDNESDAY, November 2 at 7:00 p.m.

**Talk:** “The war on Terrorism: why Democrats want Human Rights?” A talk by Samy Cohen, a senior research fellow at the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (CERI), Sciences Po. He specializes in foreign affairs and defense, and works

on the relations between states and non-governmental actors, and democracies at war with terrorism. The talk will focus on how democratic states have justified their interventions and invasions in the name of democracy, while often criticized and accused of abuse of human rights.

TUESDAY, November 8 at 12:30 p.m.

**Talk:** “Categorizing Ethnicities and their Relations to Politics.” A talk by Camille Hamidi, an associate professor of political science at the Université Lumière Lyon II. She is the author of “La société civile dans les cités. Engagement associatif et politisation dans des associations de quartier (2010).”

WEDNESDAY, November 9 at 7:00 p.m.

**Talk:** “National Front Voters and Marine Le Pen’s Leadership.” In January 2011, Marine Le Pen, the youngest of Jean-Marie Le Pen’s daughters, succeeded her father as president of the National Front. Almost immediately, several polls showed her matching or outpacing Nicolas Sarkozy before the run-off in the 2012 presidential elections. Analysts have wondered about her ability to refresh the image of the party and garner the vote of new constituencies with more leftist economics. The presentation explores National Front voters and voting under the leadership of Marine Le Pen. A talk by Nonna Mayer, a senior research fellow at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique.

TUESDAY, November 15 at 12:30 p.m.

**Talk:** “France’s Democracy and Foreign Policy.” It will focus on the international military campaign in Libya, intergovernmental bargaining at the EU level and foreign policy towards African countries. A talk by Samy Cohen, a senior research fellow at the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (CERI), Sciences Po.

TUESDAY, November 29 at 12:30 p.m.

**Talk:** “Free the Slaves: Discourse and Politics in French Colonies following the Abolition of Slavery in 1848.” A talk by Céline Flory, a historian at the *Centre National de la Recherche Sur Les Esclavages* (CNRS).

### LA MAISON FRANCAISE @ NYU

16 Washington Mews. All events take place at the Maison unless otherwise noted.  
212.998.8750  
<http://www.nyu.edu/maisonfrancaise>

TUESDAY, November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

**Lecture:** “Secrets and Cryptic Tongues.” Presented by Daniel Heller-Roazen, Professor of Comparative Literature, Princeton University; author of *Echolalias: On the Forgetting of Language*; *The Inner Touch: Archaeology of a Sensation* (Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize, MLA); *The Enemy of All: Piracy and the Law of Nations*.

FRIDAY, November 11 at 4:30 p.m.

**Reading:** “Contemporary Poetry and Translation.” Led by Julien Marcland, poet, actor; director and author of *Neiges*; *Parole et musique*; *Amitiés à Perec*, as well as Molly Lou Freeman, a poet and author of “In Wind: A Paper.” Marcland and Freeman have translated American poets Barbara Guest, Jorie Graham, Geoffrey Nutter, and James Tate, among others, and French poets Suzanne Doppelt, Dominique Fourcade, and Jean-Christophe Bailly.

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, November 18-19 at 9:30 a.m.

**Conference:** “In the Tracks of Memory.” Guest list available online.

TUESDAY, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.

**Discussion:** “New Scholarship in 18<sup>th</sup>-Century French Art History.”

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TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, November 15-16 at 6:30 p.m.

**Lecture:** “Sepharad-Spain-New York: from Al-Andalus to Multiculturalism.” The discussion will explore the fundamentals of the “Convivencia” in al-Andalus where for centuries Muslims, Jews and Christians

lived together and created a culture of tolerance and prosperity that became the leading cultural center of Europe. From Cordoba to the Cairo Geniza, panels will examine the flourishing Jewish communities of the Arab world to shed light on a “golden age” of often idealized tolerance, in the hopes that a greater understanding of the past might help us better recognize the challenges of today’s growing multicultural world.

WEDNESDAY, November 30 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Discussion:** “The Spanish Civil War Photographs of Agustí Centelles (The French Suitcase).” With the participation of **Mike Nash** (NYU Tamiment library, co-curator of the exhibit), **Sebastiaan Faber** (Professor and Chair Department of Hispanic Studies, Oberlin College President of ALBA); **Jordana Mendelson** (NYU Department of Spanish and Portuguese, visual studies specialist); **Susie Linfield** (NYU Department of Journalism); and **Juan Salas** (NYU Graduate Student, specialist on photography and the Spanish Civil War).

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TUESDAY, November 1 at 6:30 p.m.  
**Reading:** “Salon with John: Meet Clemens Meyer.” Clemens Meyer is seen by many as the shooting star among young German writers. He is a born storyteller. He won a number of prizes for his first novel *Als wir träumten* (As We Were Dreaming), published in 2006, in which a group of friends grow up and go off the rails in East Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

TUESDAY, November 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
**Talk:** “When Barack Met Angela: Perceptions and Misperceptions in US-German Relations.” Focusing on German-American relations, the talk will explore perceptions and misperceptions in current transatlantic relations. Why did the early infatuation for Barack Obama give way to disenchantment and rifts in policy preferences, ranging from environmental issues to coping with the global financial

crisis? What is the relationship between the two key actors, Angela Merkel and Barack Obama, and how does it shape relations between Europe and the United States? A talk by Christiane Lemke.

MONDAY, November 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
**Talk:** “Thomas Mann and Bertolt Brecht: Antipodeans in Exile. A talk by Dieter Borchmeyer.” Despite their mutual opposition to the National Socialist regime, a great divide grew between Brecht and Mann, which manifested itself in their individual stances regarding the “German question.” For Thomas Mann, Germany was collectively responsible for the crimes of the Nazis. Brecht, however, believed that the German folks were the first victims of the fascist ruling class. Brecht believed in a “different Germany” that was in the majority while for Thomas Mann, there was only one Germany. Mann’s Germany was a nation in which good and evil were inseparable and therefore, the guilt had to be shouldered by all.

TUESDAY, November 15 at 6:30 p.m.  
**Talk:** “Art goes Public.” Stih & Schnock are Berlin based conceptual artists, exploring how memory functions in the social sphere and in museums as containers of memory, and how it is reflected symbolically in urban spaces.

THURSDAY, November 18 at 6:30 p.m.  
**Talk:** “The Crisis of the Humanities and Prospects for Language Students in the US.” A talk by Russell Berman.

#### CASA ITALIANA

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 212.998.8730  
[casa.italiana@nyu.edu](mailto:casa.italiana@nyu.edu)  
<http://www.nyu.edu/pages/casaitaliana>

TUESDAY, November 1 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Talk:** “A Conversation with Erri De Luca.” The US premiere of the short film “Di là dal vetro” (Beyond the glass, 2011) will follow the talk.

THURSDAY, November 3 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Musical Reading:** “Discovering Fabrizio De Andrè.” With Ferdinando Molteni and Alfonso Amodio, Authors of Controsolo.

FRIDAY, November 4 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Presentation:** “Mamma Mia.” This is a book presentation of Beppe Severgnini’s book. He asks what is it in the operatic Italian psyche that allows (indeed forgives, even applauds) Italy’s premier for conducting a lifestyle as decadent as a Fellini extravaganza, while organizing an ongoing string of questionable behaviors and politically incorrect gaffes not seen since the days of Nero? All this, and yet Mr. Berlusconi remains completely “understood” by so many of his countrymen. Some of whom keep coming back for more!

TUESDAY, November 8 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Film:** “Sleeping Beauty in the Fridge.” A 1979 film, based on Primo Levi’s short story > In Italian w/English subtitles.

WEDNESDAY, November 9 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Exhibition:** “Hemmingway’s Veneto.” A photographic exhibition depicting the great author’s love story with Venice and the Veneto region.

THURSDAY, November 10 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Lecture:** “Towering Ambitions: From Private to Public in Renaissance.” San Gimignano’s architectural splendor dates mainly from the 13th and 14th centuries. This talk will explore highlights of San Gimignano’s later history, providing a context for the current FAI restoration project of the 13th-century Palazzo Campatelli from urban stronghold to historic house museum.

TUESDAY, November 11 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Music:** “Lei Dunque Capria,” a play by Claudio Magris.” Followed by a discussion with the author and Ingrid Rossellini.

TUESDAY, November 15 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Recital:** “Shakespeare and Italy.” Shakespeare-inspired vocal music in Italian and English, including recent works by Justine F. Chen, Michael Dutka and Henry Papale. Sung by Tara Bobiak, Maurizio Casa, Pamela Stein, and Juliana Valente

TUESDAY, November 30 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Film:** “O’Mast.” This film is a journey inside the tradition of bespoke tailoring in the city of Naples. It’s a story that wants to celebrates the people and their craft. There are some key words to this documentary: excellence, dignity, beauty, work, elegance, passion.

**GLUCKSMAN IRELAND HOUSE**

1 Washington Mews. All events take place at the House unless otherwise noted.  
212.998.3950  
<http://www.irelandhouse.fas.nyu.edu>

THURSDAY, November 3 at 7:00 p.m.

**Talk:** "A History of Ireland 431AD–2010, in 45 Minutes: The Long & the Short of It." A discussion led by Thomas Bartlett, Chair of Irish History at University of Aberdeen and author of *Ireland: A History*.

FRIDAY, November 4 at 9:00 p.m.

**Music:** "The Blarney Star Concert Series: Brian Conway and Tony DeMarco." Great New York fiddlers Brian Conway and Tony DeMarco celebrate the 30th anniversary of their historic debut recording, *The Apple in Winter*.

THURSDAY, November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

**Talk:** "Nothing Quite Like It: An American Irish Childhood." Raised in Chicago and Wicklow, Nicholas Grene, Professor of Literature at Trinity College Dublin, launches his new memoir.

SATURDAY, November 12 at 1:00 p.m.

Seminar: "Irish Language Day." Discover the richness and beauty of the Irish language in a program designed for learners of all levels and led by NYU Irish Studies Language Lecturers Pádraig Ó Cearúill and Hilary Mhic Suibhne.

THURSDAY, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.

**Talk:** "After the Celtic Tiger: Picking up the Pieces." *Irish Times* Environment Editor and author Frank McDonald delivers the fifth annual Irish Institute of New York Lecture.

## —COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY—

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420 West 118th Street, International Affairs Building (IAB), Room 1228. 212.854.4618.  
All events take place at the Institute unless otherwise noted.  
[europeaninstitute@columbia.edu](mailto:europeaninstitute@columbia.edu)

THURSDAY, November 10 at 5 :00 p.m.

**Lecture:** "On the Political and Legal DNA of the Union and the Current European Crisis: Bringing Back Political Economy: Europe, Ground Zero." Speaker: Joseph Weiler, Joseph Straus Professor of Law, New York University.

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TUESDAY, November 1 at 12 :00 p.m.

**Lecture:** "After Ethnic Cleansing: Lessons from Bosnia for the Caucasus." The phrase 'ethnic cleansing' was given meaning by the Bosnian war of 1992-95. The Dayton Accords that ended the war created the possibility of reversing the demographic consequences. Ostensibly, the Bosnian returns process was a success. Over one million people returned to their homes, almost half to places where they were an ethnic minority population. But no one claims to have reversed ethnic cleansing. This talk considers whether the Bosnian experience has lessons for protracted displacement in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorny Karabakh.

THURSDAY, November 3 at 12:00 p.m.

**Lecture:** "The Work of the Carnegie Endowment in the Balkans after World War I: The University of Belgrade, 1919-1926." Among the significant features of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP), was not only the study of the causes but also of the impacts of the wars on civilian populations. Following WWI, the Carnegie Endowment revitalized its effort to promote international conciliation and undertook major works of reconstruction throughout Europe.

THURSDAY, November 3 at 6:30 p.m.

**Reading:** "When Courage Prevailed: The Rescue and Survival of Jews in 'The Independent State of Croatia,' 1941-1945." Esther Gitman, author of the book on which the documentary is based, received a Ph.D in Jewish Studies. The book is based on her efforts to understand the circumstances under which some Jews managed to survive in "The Independent State of Croatia," (including herself) from the Nazis and the Ustasa.

WEDNESDAY, November 9 at 7:30 p.m.

**Discussion:** "Women in Central Asia, 2011." The Harriman Institute and OASIES are pleased to invite you to a panel presentation that will discuss several issues facing women in Central Asia.

THURSDAY, November 10 at 12:30 p.m.

**Lecture:** The Politics of History: Ukrainian Refugees and the Cold War Now, 1944-2011." From 1991-1996, Dr. Dyczok lived in Ukraine, where she conducted research for her doctorate, worked as a journalist for The Guardian and Radio Canada International, and lectured at the University of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy. She has published three books.

WEDNESDAY, November 16 at 12:00 p.m.

**Lecture:** "Violence After Stalin: Comparative Perspectives." The presenters will introduce an international research project on physical violence in late socialism which involves researcher from throughout Europe and the former USSR. The focus is on the relationship between physical violence and state legitimacy from the 1960s up until the revolutions of 1989 and 91.

MONDAY, November 21 at 6:00 p.m.

**Lecture:** "South Asia in Eurasia: Afanasi Nikitin in the 15th Century." A talk by Professor Hari Vasudevan, Director of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies in Kolkata, India.

**DEUTSCHES HAUS @ COLUMBIA**

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212.854.1858.  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/german/dhaus>

TUESDAY, November 1 at 8:00 p.m.

**Film:** "Alice in den Städten" (Alice in the Cities, 1974), a film by Wim Wenders. Philip Winter, a journalist with writer's block, becomes the guardian of eight year-old Alice when her mother leaves the girl with him briefly at an American airport, only never to return. Back in Germany, an unlikely friendship develops between the two as they embark on a journey to find Alice's grandmother. Wenders presents a stark but witty account of the changing face of Europe, the onset of global consumerism and the influences of American pop culture. Location: 717 Hamilton Hall

TUESDAY, November 8 at 8:00 p.m.

**Film:** "Palermo oder Wolfsburg" (Palermo or Wolfsburg, 1980), a film by Werner Schroeter. Young Nicola leaves his hometown of Palermo, Sicily, with its

bad economy and high unemployment, for a better life in Wolfsburg, Germany. He lands a good job at the VW plant, but he struggles to integrate into German society. Nicola falls for a pretty local girl, but happiness eludes him as he becomes entangled in a situation that quickly spins out of control. Location: 717 Hamilton Hall

WEDNESDAY, November 9 at 7:00 p.m.

**Lecture:** "Sweden's Most Puzzling Nonfiction Murder Mystery: Who Killed Prime Minister Olof Palme? And Who Was His Unlikely Assassin?" Hans Hederberg is a Stockholm author and director who started his journalistic career as a film critic, studied the history of films at the British Film Institute, then went into radio and TV and published books. In the employ of Swedish Television from 1966 to 1994, he produced and directed cultural and current affairs programs. From 1977 to 1987, he dealt almost exclusively with the theme of terrorism — in television, film, and books (fiction and nonfiction).

TUESDAY, November 15 at 7:00 p.m.

**Lecture:** "Alternative Publishing in Germany and America: A Public Discussion." A talk by Hans Magnus Enzensberger and André Schiffrin.

TUESDAY, November 22 at 8 :00 p.m.

**Film:** "Bilder der Welt und Inschrift des Krieges" (Images of the World and the Inscription of War, 1989), a film by Harun Farocki. Location: 717 Hamilton Hall

WEDNESDAY, November 2 at 6:00 p.m.

**Lecture:** "State Nobility Revisited: Elite Education in France Today." Twenty years after Pierre Bourdieu's *La Noblesse d'Etat*, what are the main features of the French system of elite education today? What are its specificities compared with the American system? Social reproduction and elitism are still prevalent, but new

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<http://www.maisonfrancaise.org>

debates, new stakes, and new realities have emerged that are changing the shape

of elite education in France.

THURSDAY, November 10 at 6:00 p.m.

**Discussion:** "Whither Political Islam?" In the unfolding movements of the "Arab Spring," the people leading revolutions and overthrowing dictatorships in Tunisia, Egypt, and now Libya have often done so in the name of values such as democracy, liberty, and equality that many consider universal. This raises a question: what place will political Islam occupy in the new landscape? Bachir Diagne and Jean-Pierre Filiu examine the historical and philosophical origins of political Islam in the Middle East and question its current and future role.

FRIDAY, November 11 at 7:30 p.m.

**Music:** "Performance by Franco-American Folk Singer Michele Choiniere." Born into a musical Franco-American family in northern Vermont, Michele Choiniere began performing traditional Franco-American music at an early age. Michele is an award-winning Smithsonian Folkways recording artist, with a radiant, compelling voice. Her music and artistry capture a delicate sensibility, overlaying a raw authenticity.

TUESDAY, November 1 at 4:10 p.m.

**Lecture:** "The Sixth Day of the 'Decameron': The Triumph of the Word." Presented by Teodolinda Barolini.

SATURDAY, November 19 at 8:00 p.m.

**Music:** "Fall Concert Series." A concert of chamber music by Nino Rota, in honor of the centenary of his birth.

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MONDAY, November 28 at 1:10 p.m.

**Lecture:** "Women in Pompeii," presented by Kristina Milnor.

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THURSDAY, November 3 at 5:30 p.m.

**Talk:** "The Identity Trap: The Search for Belonging as a Challenge to European Integration." A talk by Richard Wolin, a distinguished Professor of History and Comparative Literature at the CUNY Graduate Center. **Reservation required.**



Poland, with its white and red flag, currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**EURASIA cont. from page 5**

the trend toward authoritarianism in post-Soviet states. Robertson saw the elements of the hybrid states as very vulnerable to street protests such as the Arab Spring. He also noted that Russia works hard to make authoritarianism "look sexy," but that it keeps a toehold in democracy to maintain its dignity as an international player. He suggested connecting human rights to dignity to get authoritarian regimes to take human rights more seriously. Alex Cooley mentioned a rethinking of transitional governments and priorities to ensure protection and maintenance of human rights. Instead of pushing for elections, aid organizations and democratic countries could provide more basic services such as electricity, water, schools, and sidewalks to show that democracies can care for their citizens.

The panel discussion can be viewed in full at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFWbOPpAkOI>.

## IN THE NEWS: EUROPE IN OCTOBER

- October 1:** Shoppers in Denmark will pay extra kroner according to the saturated fat levels of certain foods. It's being called "The Fat Tax."
- October 3:** Greece presented a 2012 austerity budget that includes sharp increases in taxes and spending cuts amid a fourth year of recession.
- October 4:** France announced it will maintain a ban on fracking until there is proof that shale gas exploration will not harm the environment or "massacre" the landscape.
- October 5:** The Spanish Labor Department released figures showing that unemployment went up by 95,000 in September, blaming the anemic state of the Spanish economy and austerity measures.
- October 6:** Moody's lowered its rating on Italy's bonds by three notches, saying it saw a "material increase" in funding risks for eurozone countries with high levels of debt and warning that further downgrades were possible.
- October 10:** Denmark's new Prime Minister, Helle Thorning-Schmidt, launched the new Global Green Growth Forum with 200 world leaders to focus on growth in key areas of energy and transport, cutting across the pertinent themes of finance, regulatory frameworks and international markets.
- October 12:** The EU awarded Serbia candidate status, a step toward eventual membership. But actually joining the EU will require one compromise Belgrade has been unwilling to make: recognizing Kosovo as a sovereign state.
- October 14:** Authorities in Switzerland called in the army to help evacuate people and livestock from villages cut off by heavy flooding in the Alps which is estimated to have caused millions of Swiss francs in damage.
- October 18:** Poland's first transsexual lawmaker vowed to campaign for the rights of gender minorities and make predominantly Catholic Poland more receptive to transsexuals and homosexuals.
- October 18:** The European Court of Justice ruled out the possibility of patents in any process involving stem cells taken from human embryos.
- October 20:** An outbreak of hepatitis A has been detected in Estonia since the beginning of August 2011, with majority of the cases being reported in Viljandi county.
- October 21:** The Irish Data Protection Commissioner launched a "comprehensive" investigation against Facebook Ireland for allegedly creating "shadow profiles" on both users and nonusers alike.
- October 25:** The European Court of Human Rights unanimously ruled that the recognition of the Armenian Genocide cannot be criminalized in Turkey. The verdict stemmed from a case brought to the court by noted scholar Taner Akcam.
- October 26:** Hungarian legislators considered slashing the pensions of leaders who ran the dictatorship; their pensions are often much higher than the average €300 (\$418) per month given to Hungarian retirees today because of the high salaries the apparatchiks paid themselves.
- October 28:** Germany accepted more than 300 wounded Libyans for treatment in German hospitals.

# EUROPE•NYC

*Newsletter of the New York Consortium for European Studies*

**EUROPE•NYC Newsletter Staff**

**Editors:**

**Carla Westerheide**

**Zachary Dugan**

**Writers:**

**Hannah Wood**

**CENTER FOR EUROPEAN AND  
MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES  
New York University**

285 Mercer Street, 7th floor  
New York, NY 10003  
Telephone: 212.998.3838  
Fax: 212.995.4188

**Larry Wolff**, Director  
**Jennifer Denbo**, Assistant Director  
**Erika Harris**, Administrative Aide

**THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE  
Columbia University**

School of International and Public Affairs  
420 West 118th Street  
New York, NY 10027  
Telephone: 212.854.4618  
Fax: 212.854.8808

**Victoria de Grazia**, Director  
**Nancy Walbridge Collins**, Research  
Director  
**Lily R. Glenn**, Program Coordinator

**New York University**

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