Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and the "EU Diet"

Last month Dr. Larry Wolff, the director of the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies (CEMS), graciously welcomed Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Minister of Foreign Affairs to speak for a special session of Wolff’s Eastern European Workshop. Minister Lagumdžija arrived at the center accompanied by half a dozen members of his staff, and in a gesture of ease, removed his tie before addressing the crowded room.

Lagumdžija started his talk with an anecdote: As a young student he traveled from Yugoslavia to Detroit, Michigan as part of a high school exchange program. There, he ran across a book on global politics in which he discovered a map illustrating the “Communist World.” All socialist countries on the map were identified as oriented towards Russian or Chinese governments apart from one: Yugoslavia. “I was proud of that,” he told the group.

Yet he also sensed that Yugoslavia’s unique orientation would prove disastrous if the geopolitical balance of power shifted. “In the late 80s, when the map was falling apart and the Berlin Wall was going down…when the American president said, ‘Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall,’ I got the feeling that the bricks of that wall were going to hit us in Sarajevo, literally. Three years later, I ended up in a besieged city looking for shelter from snipers.”

For hundreds of years, Lagumdžija argued, Croats, Serbs and Muslims coexisted in relative peace under autocratic political systems—whether it was the Ottoman Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia or Prime Minister Tito and the Communist Party. But when democracy came in the early 1990s, Yugoslavia violently tore itself apart. Does this mean, the minister asked, that we cannot live in shared societies in the 21st century? And what does this imply for nascent democracies in countries like Iraq?

For Bosnia and Herzegovina, peace came in 1995 with the signing of the Dayton Agreement. Lagumdžija insisted that the country has made significant progress in the eighteen years since. “The goal is to prove that it’s possible to have a multi-ethnic, multicultural society, with multiple identities—and protecting those identities with institutions.” In order to secure peace and stability, Lagumdžija emphasized that it was instrumental for Bosnia and Herzegovina to join regional institutions like the EU and NATO. While he believes the country is headed in the right direction, he conceded that it could be moving faster.

The audience was then offered an opportunity to ask the foreign ministers questions. Dr. Wolff asked about the challenges of raising post-Dayton generations to appreciate the horrors of the country’s history while also readying them for a multicultural future. Lagumdžija responded that technological, economical and social progress is creating more competent students with better access to resources. That said, the minister admitted that their current educational system was “a dangerous time bomb…conceptually speaking, it’s set up for a segregated society.” An integrated and universal vision of history is another reason why, the minister suggested, the EU is critical to the nation’s stability.

Dr. Wolff’s question was followed by a request from the audience for the minister to clarify how Bosnia and Herzegovina’s entry into regional institutions would help allay ethnic and cultural conflict. The minister explained that membership in these organizations offers a critical sense of security. “If NATO and the EU were the only things keeping us together, I’d say forget it. But the very fabric of our society has survived. Our gym is NATO. Our dietician is the EU. The best recipe, the best therapy is to follow [our] diet. Then we’ll probably feel better. Then one day, maybe our dietician will hire us as a role model for his diet. You never know.”

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Max Weber Chair Guest Lecture: Informal Governance in the European Union

NYU: September 16
By: Stephen Whittaker

To kick off NYU’s 2013-14 Max Weber Chair Guest Lecture Series, Dr. Christiane Lemke, current Max Weber Chair for German and European Studies at CEMS warmly welcomed her first guest, Dr. Mareike Kleine. Kleine began her presentation by asking attendees a question: why should one care about the EU? She boldly followed her query by identifying the EU as a “vanguard of globalization” and the most economically integrated international organization in the world. The deeper question she sought to address was: how could an entity of such size and scope function as effectively as it does?

A lecturer in EU politics at the London School of Economics, Kleine has accomplished much in her young academic career. She has held visiting positions at Princeton and Harvard, and her doctoral dissertation earned her the Theseus Award for Promising Research on European Integration, in addition to the Ernst B. Haas Best Dissertation Award from the American Political Science Association. Her dissertation was the product of six years of diligent research and refinement and formed the basis for her recent book, *Informal Governance in the European Union: How Governments Make International Organizations Work*.

For Kleine, the study of the EU is equivalent to the broader study of supranational political integration. Her book systematically examines how the massive bureaucracy of the EU can be a positive, functional model for political integration. In short, she determines that informal practices in governance allow the EU to maintain the integrity of its formal structures while ensuring political contentment on a broad national scale.

Kleine followed an introduction of her work by defining so-called “informal governance” as “systemic departures from the formal rules.” Therefore, she noted, the officially defined roles of the Council of the European Union, European Council, European Commission, and European Parliament are not always strictly adhered to. The formal layout of EU agenda-setting provides just one example of this phenomenon. Though the Commission is formally held up as the principle body, the European Council, comprised of the heads-of-state of the 28 member states, acts informally as the primary policy and agenda setter.

Much of the basis of Kleine’s argument rests in liberal regime theory, specifically the idea that formality enables cooperation by enhancing the credibility of an institution. She posits that in order for formal structures to run smoothly and avoid “domestic distributive shocks” that can result from excessive rigidity, informality is necessary to functionally appease individual governments that might suffer from local political pressure regarding specific issues.

Kleine cited a particular case study involving *ebbelwoi*, German apple wine, to emphasize the necessity of informality. In 2007, producers of ebbelwoi were under threat because their product did not fit into a new EU definition of wine as “grape based.” They raised political turmoil in their native Germany, primarily in the region of Hesse, during an election cycle and pressured the German government to take issue with the new EU definition. To keep the political atmosphere stable in Germany, the EU exercised informal governance and agreed to delay implementing the new wine definition until after the German elections. The phrasing was later re-negotiated, successfully mitigating the unreasonable pressure on the German government. According to Kleine, the government’s execution of a so-called “norm of discretion” allows conflicts such as the ebbelwoi case to be resolved in an effective, ad hoc, fashion.

Kleine noted two theories that explain the effectiveness of informal governance. The first, power-based institutionalism, states that informal governance allows powerful states to “eschew commitments” in exceptional times for the betterment of the whole international organization. The second, classical regime theory, understands informal governance as a means of reducing transaction costs that rise in the face of regimented international treaties.

Can informal governance be quantified? Kleine believes so. By analyzing the voluminous amount of data surrounding every EU decision since 1958, she discovered issue-specific variation in the levels of informal governance used to ensure the passing of legislation and the formulation of policy. According to her research, the only exception is the Common Agricultural Policy, which tends to be regulated “by the book.”

After her presentation, Kleine answered questions from the audience on a number of subjects including one on whether informal governance weakens institutional legitimacy. Kleine explained that informality does not create a grand “legitimacy crisis” that undermines the structures of the EU. In fact, she said, informality “seeks to legitimize institutions” and that the two modes of governance are “not mutually exclusive.”

The argument of *Informal Governance in the European Union* is thoughtful and provocative, particularly amidst the backdrop of the European debt crisis. Kleine plans to continue her work on informality as Europe continues to move through crisis and believes that informal governance will be necessary to ensure economic competition and the fluidity of governance in the coming years.
German Elections: Merkel and “Muddling Through”

Columbia: September 20
By: Kavitha Surana

Two days before Germans headed to the ballot box, leading scholars from Germany and the United States gathered at Columbia University’s Blinken Institute to discuss the approaching elections and their significance to Europe in an event titled “Europe and the German Elections.” The panelists included William Drozdiak, President of the American Council on Germany, Dr. Wolfgang Streeck, Managing Director of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies and Dr. Rainer Forst of Goethe University. Dr. Jean L. Cohen, the Nell and Herbert M. Singer Professor of Political Thought at Columbia, moderated the discussion.

The program began with Drozdiak’s analysis of the elections. He characterized the German campaign as “bizarre” for its contrasts: outside Germany, the European community has restlessly anticipated the election on tenterhooks, yet within Germany the campaign is characterized as boring and tedious. He suggested that this is partly because Germany is doing so well, with unemployment low and a booming export sector. He added that the Christian Democrats’ (CDU) Angela Merkel, widely considered a favorite in the election, has often succeeded in “stealing” some of the key policies of opposition parties, such as energy policy, support for working mothers and social housing.

From the European perspective, Drozdiak said, there is not much reason to expect a change of course on austerity policies, even in the likely event that Merkel has to partner with another political party. From his perspective, Merkel has had an attitude of “muddling through” the crisis, and there has been very little deviation from this stance throughout Germany’s political establishment. Though the Social Democrats (SPD), traditionally more pro-Europe, initially flirted with the idea of floating Eurobonds and letting taxpayers eat some of the loss, they quickly backed away from this unpopular plan.

Drozdiak ended his initial analysis with a dismal prediction. “Somewhere in the third term, Merkel’s attitude of muddling through will catch up with her and provoke a very serious governing crisis,” he said. “My final prediction is that she will not finish her third term.”

Though Streeck and Forst did not make any predictions on Merkel’s future political career, they largely agreed with Drozdiak’s main points about the elections. Streeck reminded the audience that Eurozone policy has remained consistent across party lines because German national interests are well defined. The Euro is so undervalued that a highly valued German national currency would be disastrous for the exports sector. Additionally, even if banks in Southern European countries were to fail, German banks would suffer losses and German taxpayers would still have to bail them out.

Despite this, Streeck said that both the CDU and SPD are still committed to a balanced budget that lives up to the recently passed EU budget law. With this in mind, Streeck predicted that distributive conflicts could open up in Germany once expenses to Europe rise and budget cuts in the public sector begin to affect domestic salaries and jobs.

Expanding on Drozdiak’s description of Merkel’s CDU as a “catchall party,” Forst explained that the CDU’s move towards the center has also been supported by its more conservative sister party, The Bavarian Christian Social Union, which manages to corral the most conservative elements in the Christian Democrat cohort while allowing Merkel to embrace a more centrist line.

Forst also appended Streeck’s remark about German uneasiness with distributive policies in the EU. “Germany benefits a lot from the EU system, but many people who would vote for Social Democrats are worried about redistribution schemes,” said Forst. Those people still vote for Merkel because of her reputation for being strict on Europe, even if she has supported redistribution policies. “It benefits her most that she is attacked by Europe, and for the future of Europe that is not a good sign,” said Forst. “If there was a credible anti-EU party, it would pose a serious challenge to Merkel, but the SPD could not take that line.”

Cohen asked a series of questions to consider, including: “What could be an alternative to ‘muddling through’?” Drozdiak replied, “What has been lacking in terms of Merkel’s leadership is that if she had been more visionary, then I think this crisis might not have gotten as bad as it is.”

Many question from the audience centered on the Euro crisis and Germany’s response to it. “I think Angela Merkel has decided, for strategic reasons, to speak in different languages,” said Forst. “On the European level she speaks a language of solidarity.”

But at home, he said, Merkel takes to a different tone. “Many people in Germany do not perceive that they themselves benefit a lot from the EU... so that’s why within Germany she presents herself as someone who disciplines Southern Europeans.”

As the EU prepares to “muddle through” a looming Greek bailout, the international community will surely be attuned to the mood in Germany as well as the perceived and real stakes involved for Merkel.
America’s Thought Police on the Trail of French Existentialists

Columbia: September 18
By: Stephen Whittaker

In celebration of the centennial of Columbia University’s Maison Française, the university’s French department hosted a conversation with Dr. Andy Martin, a Lecturer of French at the University of Cambridge. An expert in French philosophy, Martin recently published a book titled *The Boxer and the Goalkeeper: Sartre vs. Camus* that explores the visits of Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus to the United States immediately following WWII.

With the centennial in mind, Dr. Shanny Peer, Director of the Maison Française, introduced the talk by discussing trips that Sartre and Camus each took to Columbia during their time in New York City. After mentioning that both Sartre and Camus were closely watched by the FBI, Peer brought Martin to the stage to discuss his work.

Martin began by displaying an image of a group of Columbia students having an animated discussion with Jean-Paul Sartre. He joked about the prevalence of whiskey and cigarettes in the frame and speculated about what the eclectic group of young people might have gone on to do in their careers. A quick transition followed to an image of J. Edgar Hoover. Martin shared that while these French intellectuals were traveling across America, the FBI followed close behind.

The FBI fully believed that the philosophers could be plotting an “intellectual conspiracy” and monitored Sartre and Camus with expeditious attention, often mispronouncing and misspelling their names in their haste. The FBI even re-labeled these misspellings as clever aliases to make the two men appear suspicious in official reports. At one point, a group of federal agents actually tracked down a man named Albert Canus (pronounced kay-nus) just to ensure that he had no relation to the similarly named Camus.

Why, Martin asked, was the FBI thoroughly convinced that Sartre and Camus were guilty of some devious crime? The answer resides in the anti-communist fervor of the post-war period. Martin pointed out that J. Edgar Hoover believed that “Reds posed as other things to disseminate their writings” and that the existentialism of the French philosophers was just another front for communist ideology. There was a legitimate fear within the Bureau that Jean-Paul Sartre and his entourage came to the United States as a “battalion of spies” that traveled throughout the country to recruit to their cause.

In an effort to better understand Sartre and Camus, the FBI assigned a number of agents to study their writings. Martin poked fun at the idea of a group of federal agents sitting in a cramped, stuffy room reading and discussing philosophical and scholarly articles. He noted that they often avoided whole books, as they did not quite have the patience to work through them. At the conclusion of their “studies,” the FBI agents reporting to Hoover likened Sartre’s “epic exercises in negative thinking” to communist propaganda and slandered them. James Tierney, one of the agents studying existentialism for Hoover, actually perceived Sartre and Camus as fundamentally American. He posited that Americans might actually be “better off as existential loners” in the isolationist tradition of the United States.

Martin added that there were at least a few individuals trying to understand the philosophers instead of simply slandering them. James Tierney, one of the agents studying existentialism for Hoover, actually perceived Sartre and Camus as fundamentally American. He posited that Americans might actually be “better off as existential loners” in the isolationist tradition of the United States. Naturally, this was not particularly well received by his superiors, but it did prompt Tierney to take up a life-long interest in philosophy.

Martin closed his talk by noting the fundamental flaw in the FBI surveillance of Sartre and Camus. Though they were labeled as conspiratorial communists, they were existential individualists to their very core. The FBI could not have been looking for collusion and deceit in a more unlikely place.

Putin's Olympic Show of Power

Columbia: September 25
By: Michael Zelenko

On Sunday, September 29, the Olympic flame was set ablaze in Ancient Olympia, Greece, setting off a relay that will culminate with the commencement of 2014’s Sochi Winter Olympic Games. Four days before the lighting ceremony, Columbia University’s Harriman Institute organized an event titled “The Sochi Olympics and Sport in Russia” to discuss the games’ significance. Panel speakers included scholars Andrey Makarychev, Robert Orttung, Ray Taras and Sufian Zhemukhov. The conversation was moderated by Kimberly Marten, Deputy Director for Development at the Harriman Institute.

First to speak from the panel was Andrey Makarychev, professor of government and politics at the University of Tartu, Estonia. Makarychev identified sports as an “identity-making milieu” and a means of promoting both nationalism and sovereignty. “It’s been proven that sports are effective for promoting identities: national, transnational and municipal,” Makarychev said. For Moscow, the XXII Winter Games are a means of articulating a vision of Russia as a reestablished world power.

That approach is countered by an international attempt to transform the
Austerity Politics and the “Long Shadow of the 1970s”

Columbia: September 26
By: Kavitha Surana

As part of an initiative to better understand the ramifications of the politics of austerity in the larger historical and geographical frame, Columbia University’s Blinken Institute invited Dr. Adam Tooze, the Barton M. Biggs Professor of History at Yale University, to present his paper “Who’s Afraid of Inflation? Austerity Politics and the Long Shadow of the 1970s.” The event was co-sponsored by Columbia’s University Seminar on Modern Europe.

Tooze began his lecture emphasizing that his paper was serious about the historiographical stakes involved, but was also highly political and an attempt to confront the politics of inflation austerity by revisiting the memory of the 1970s. “What really concerns me in the paper is the unwillingness of the Left in Europe to break away from the dis-inflationary attitude that established itself in the 1980s,” said Tooze.

To illustrate this unwillingness, Tooze launched a rebuttal to The New Left Review and Dr. Wolfgang Streeck, the managing director at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, and his argument in his book Gekaufte Zeit: Die...
vertagte Krise des demokratischen Kapitalismus. According to Tooze, “even deep down in the consciousness of someone like Streeck, an avowed radical thinker of the German left, there is profound discomfort with phenomenon of inflation,” providing a clue to why the German political spectrum has gone along with austerity.

Tooze examined how inflation was excised from European policy toolkits between the 1970s and 1980s. He pointed out that in 1972 Germany’s then-Finance Minister, Helmut Schmidt, openly advocated a policy of “five percent inflation rather than five percent unemployment,” a statement that today would end a German politician’s career. How was this statement possible in 1972?

According to Tooze, four specific circumstances accompanied this moment. One was that Schmidt’s audience constituted the organized working class who had a stake in the unemployment policies he was advocating. Second, the collapse of Bretton Woods meant that nations had a choice in the balance between inflation and unemployment that did not exist under the previous exchange rate system. Third, Schmidt believed that there was a meaningful trade off at stake between inflation and unemployment, represented by the Philips Curve. And fourth, Schmidt also believed that he would make the choice as finance minister, rather than the Bundesbank.

But, Tooze explained, in the span of a few years all of those conditions changed and Germany, along with Switzerland, began to follow an anti-inflation path—a hugely contentious move at the time, though it is now taken for granted as the new norm. “Keynesianism doesn’t go without a fight,” said Tooze, but he argued that this was the moment of the formation of our current situation: “namely, a kind of consensus across the CDU and FDP, and, more interestingly, also across the Social Democratic and much of German labor movement in defense of the German way as somehow distinctive and better and an important antidote to fecklessness of the macro-economic policies of rest of the world.”

Tooze then highlighted the move towards the European Monterey System (EMS) in 1978, which was a hard sell for Schmidt and ended up influencing German monetary policy up to the present day. “To the Bundesbank, it looked like a loss of autonomy and signing up to an inflation reunion,” said Tooze.

Ultimately, Schmidt’s argument rested upon an “iron triangle” that combined geopolitics (the Cold War was at stake), politics of the past (Schmidt reasoned that Auschwitz requires Europe, Germany must lead Europe and Europe needs EMS), and, on the other side, fiscal and monetary conservatism (Schmidt put it into writing that the Bundesbank would never have to bail out French or Italian banks as it had bailed out dollars in 1972 after the collapse of Bretton Woods).

To cap off the flight from using inflation in monetary policy, the US took an anti-inflationary turn with Paul Volker in the Carter administration, virtually securing anti-inflation policy globally. Through re-narrating these events, Tooze hoped to puncture the inevitability of “there is no alternative” rhetoric that the 1970s and 1980s generated. He made the case that these events have influenced Fed policy through to the present. Understanding this is important because Schmidt’s compromise with the Bundesbank set the tone for the EU, which is the largest economic unit in the world.

On this basis, Tooze suggested that inflation should be revisited more seriously as a tool in macroeconomic monetary policy. “We have to acknowledge that the counter-inflationary politics of the 1970s is essentially political and we might have other reasons for choosing inflation,” he said. “There is literally no example of debts at the level currently prevalent in major economies being paid by anything other than the circumstance of inflation.” Even the Trente Glorieuse, he pointed out, experienced high inflation in its first ten years. This inflation worked to bear down on the terrible debt of the war, which then created a basis for low debt levels.

Finally, he closed with an address to the Left. Tooze acknowledged that no one can guarantee the effects of inflationary policy—especially because we don’t know if investment would provide for it or if we could manage inflation once it began. But, he said, “if we are serious about re-agitating distribu-tional politics, then inflation is one of the variables that we may be able to act on.”

From Empires to Nations in Southeastern Europe

NYU: September 26
By: Stephen Whittaker

The 2013-2014 Hellenic Studies Lecture Series at NYU opened with a talk by Professor Paschalis Kitromilides of the University of Athens. He addressed the series theme, “Transitions,” with a discussion of the historical experience of Southeastern Europe. This experience, he believes, aids in addressing certain “controversial questions currently under debate in the theory of nationalism.”

Kitromilides, an esteemed scholar of Greek history, enlightenment and nationalism, stated that he drew many of his ideas for the lecture from the late political scientist Rupert Emerson. He sought to “resurrect” Emerson’s work because of his conviction that one must study nationalism with a deep historiographical understanding of its universal truths rather than by simply following the latest trends. Kitromilides did not elaborate on these “truths” but did offer that the “idea of self-determination in a pluralistic society is at the heart of nationalism.”

Borrowing the idea of historical transitions as a root of nationalism from Emerson, Kitromilides identified two critical transitions in Southeastern Europe that shaped a transformation “from empires to nations.” The first was a transition from Medieval Christian empires to the transcontinental Ottoman Empire and the second was the shift from Ottoman rule to modern states.

The first transition, mentioned Kitromilides, was marked by “changes
in collective identity” in the collapse of Christian empires across the Medieval world. The unique cultures and languages of the various parts of the Balkans quickly asserted themselves in the wake of imperial collapse and a striking “revival of Hellenic identity” took place in the absence of the Byzantines. According to Kitromilides, the rise of strong regional leaders in this new political landscape solidified self-determination and firmly established a transition toward nationalism.

If nationalism was on the rise, how, then, did a new empire seize the Balkans and the Hellenic world? The answer was quite simple for Kitromilides. The fractured state of Southeastern Europe made it a prime target for imperial dominance. With no defined diaspora, one might believe that emergent nationalism could have died with the arrival of the Ottomans. However, Kitromilides surprisingly pointed to the Orthodox Church as the “last vestige of culture” and the institution that would steer nationalist behavior. He elaborated that the region in question was overwhelmingly populated by religious peasants. Therefore, the tolerant practices of the Ottomans allowed the Orthodox clergy to maintain and cultivate their Balkan and Hellenic heritage through religion.

Upon the breakup of the Ottoman Empire, a much shorter transition was possible because of the inherent self-determination protected by the Orthodox. Kitromilides made it clear that once the rampant advance of “19th-century nation-building” reached Southeastern Europe, the region was ripe for the growth of nations. Nationalism “encompassed and transformed society” on every level and “heralded the transition to modernity” in the region.

This “transition to modernity,” stated Kitromilides, imparted a unique feature on the Balkan and Hellenic worlds: authoritarianism. “To understand South-eastern Europe,” he quipped, “one must know their dictators.” With nationalism acting as the mobilizing force for society, strong consensus was necessary for each emerging state to accomplish its goals. This heightened level of consensus, unfortunately, makes it difficult for a democracy to flourish. Kitromilides closed with this troubling sentiment and linked it to the current economic and political crises in the region. Until the connection between regional nationalism and authoritarianism is addressed, he remarked, “questions of the current crisis and who should deal with it must for the moment be suspended.”

Dr. Larry Wolff acted as the respondent to Kitromilides and praised him highly for his remarks. Wolff noted that because the historiography of nationalism is “fundamentally Western,” Kitromilides’ distinctly non-Western work is remarkably refreshing. By “reclaiming the past,” the two hope that the historiography of nationalism can “move beyond” the limiting aspects of a Western paradigm.

Decolonizing Italy's Past

NYU: September 13
By: Kavitha Surana

Last month Dr. Igiaba Scego, a visiting scholar at NYU’s Institute of Italian Studies, presented a talk entitled, “My Home is Where I Am: Remapping My Afro-Italian Identity.” Italian-born but of Somali origins, Scego is a writer, journalist, and activist based in Rome. The title of Scego’s talk was drawn from her newest memoir, My Home is Where I Am, and centered on her experience as a second-generation Somali-Italian.

Much of Scego’s work engages with the concept of “decolonizing” Italy. Partly because Italy has never fully confronted its Fascist past, a “self-absorbing myth” of a gentler colonial history has persists. Scego struggles against this rewriting of history, and recently protested a publicly financed monument to the Fascist general Rodolfo Graziani, erected in a town outside Rome. Graziani was notorious for his cruelty during Italy’s imperialist wars in Africa and was later convicted of war crimes. The monument still stands, but, thanks in part to Scego’s efforts, the flow of public money to it has stopped.

To illustrate the historical burden of stereotypes and prejudices plaguing African-Italians, Scego showed a series of Italian commercials and movie scenes that highlighted problematic stereotypes. In one commercial, a skinny white male is doused with a laundry detergent called “Coloreria” and emerges as a virile muscular African man, perpetuating to the “exotification” of African bodies in Italy.

Finally, Scego explained that the most pressing issue for most immigrant communities in Italy today is legal in nature. Citizenship is transmitted through sanguinity, and as a result many people who are born and raised there cannot easily claim full citizenship. As a result, they feel “imprisoned in their own country.” To close, Scego paraphrased Martin Luther King: “I have a dream, a nation with all people, our people, with rights and freedom… we want to make Italy a country that everyone can be proud of. It’s not easy but we will win this fight.”
__New York University—__

**Center for European and Mediterranean Studies**
285 Mercer Street, 7th Floor. All events take place at the Center unless otherwise noted.
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http://www.cems.as.nyu.edu

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french.studies@nyu.edu

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__Upcoming Events__

**Friday, October 4 at 4:30 PM Workshop:** “The Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Post-Crisis Iceland,” with Thorgerdur Einarsdottir (University of Iceland), Gyda Petursdottir (University of Iceland), Jyl Josephson (Rutgers) and Janet Elise Johnson (Brooklyn College).

**Friday, October 4 at 7:00 PM Discussion:** “The Kraus Project,” with Jonathan Franzen (author), Daniel Kehlmann (author), and Paul Reitter (Ohio State University).

**Tuesday, October 8 at 7:00 PM Lecture:** “Kant in the Land of the Extraterrestrials,” by Peter Szendy (University of Paris Ouest Nanterre).

**Thursday, October 10 at 7:00 PM Lecture:** “St. Denis, the ‘most glorious Patron’ of France and its Kings,” by Charlotte Daudon Lacaze (The American University of Paris).

**Monday, October 14 at 7:00 PM Talk:** “French Literature in the Making” with Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt (playwright, novelist, screenwriter) and Olivier Barrot (writer, journalist, television producer and host). This event is in French.

**Tuesday, October 15 at 7:00 PM Lecture:** “Malraux et la Résistance: le roman qui manque à l’appel,” by Philippe Roger (NYU). This event is in French.

**Thursday, October 24 at 7:00 PM Talk:** “artpress, 40 ans. Une revue d’art très littéraire,” with Catherine Millet (founding editor of art press) This event is in French.

**Tuesday, October 29 at 7:00 PM Lecture:** “Après Derrida: la reconstruction,” by Yves Charles Zarka (Sorbonne, Université Paris Descartes). This event is in French.

**Friday, Saturday, October 18 & 19 Film series and roundtable:** “Spain in Crisis: The Spanish Crash and the ‘Indignados’ movement,” with Bryan Cameron (NYU), Germán Labrador (Princeton University), Pablo La Parra (NYU) and Luis Moreno-Caballud (University of Pennsylvania).

**Friday, Saturday, October 26 at 6:00 PM Performance:** “Brecht, Music and Culture: Hanns Eisler in Conversation with Hans Bunge,” by Paul Clements and Sabine Berendse.
GLUCKSMAN IRELAND HOUSE
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THURSDAY - SUNDAY, October 3 - October 6
Film: Irish Film New York at NYU's Cantor Film Center, 36 East 8th Street. Tickets on sale now.

FRIDAY, October 11 at 8:00 PM Concert: The Blarney Star Concert Series: Emmett Gill and Jesse Smith.

THURSDAY, October 17 at 7:00 PM Lecture: The Ernie O'Malley Lecture: "Mother Jones: From Ireland, to America, Back to Ireland," by Elliott J. Gorn (Loyola University of Chicago).

SATURDAY, October 19 at 1:00 PM Discussion: "The Fabric of Daily Life in East Central Europe (Then and Now)." Panelists include Patrick Patterson (UC San Diego), Malgorzata Mazurek (Columbia), Attila Pók (Columbia), Vangelis Calotychos (Columbia) and Adrian Majuru (Universitatea de Arhitectură și Urbanism Ion Mincu). At the International Affairs Building, Room 1512.

MONDAY, October 7 at 12:00 PM Lecture: "Politics and Public Policy: New Trends in Russia," by Robin J. Lewis (Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration) and Timothy M. Frye (Columbia). At the International Affairs Building, Room 1219.

TUESDAY, October 15 at 6:00 PM Discussion: "Sex and Gender Politics in Putin's Russia," with Valerie Sperling (Clark University), Janet E. Johnson (Brooklyn College), moderated by Kimberly Marten (Barnard College). At Garden Room 1, Faculty House.
THURSDAY, October 3 at 8:00 PM
Talk: "Ghostly Apparitions: German Idealism, the Gothic Novel, and Optical Media," by Stefan Andriopoulos (Columbia University) and Devin Fore (Princeton University).

THURSDAY, October 10 at 8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, October 16 at 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, October 30 at 7:00 PM
Concert: Konstantin Soukhovetski performs his own piano arrangements of "Capriccio" by Richard Strauss and "La Traviata" by Giuseppe Verdi (premiere). Directed by Tabitha Holbert.

TUESDAY, October 15 at 6:00 PM

TUESDAY, October 17 at 7:00 PM

THURSDAY, October 24 at 7:00 PM
Forum: "Prospects for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership," by Patrick C. Reed (Baruch College, CUNY). Participants must register at www.euromatters.org by October 23, and be current members of the business or academic community. At CUNY Graduate Center, room 9207. To register, go to www.euromatters.com
In the News: Europe in September

September 6: The Supreme Court of the Netherlands ruled that the Dutch state is liable for the deaths of three Muslim men from the Bosnian city of Srebrenica during the 1990s conflict. The men had sought refuge in the compound of the Dutch mission, which was under the command of the United Nations Protection Force. After being turned away the men were killed by the Bosnian Serb army.

September 9: Former presidential aide and interim mayor of Moscow Sergey Sobyanin won Moscow's mayoral race against blogger and anti-corruption activist Alexey Navalny, though the race was far closer than expected.

September 9: The Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam announced the discovery of a newly identified painting by the master artist, a landscape titled "Sunset at Montmajour."

September 10: The investigation into the Spanish train crash that killed 79 people in July was expanded to include top officials of the state railway infrastructure company.

September 11: Thousands of Spaniards formed a 400 kilometer-long human chain to protest in favor Catalan secession, demanding a self-determination referendum by the end of 2014.

September 13: News emerged that the disgraced former head of the IMF, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, has been tapped by the Serbian government to act as the country's economic adviser.

September 13: Thirty-seven people were killed in a fire at a psychiatric institution in Russia.

September 17: Nineteen months after the cruise liner Costa Concordia ran aground off the Tuscan island of Giglio, it was set upright in a process known as "parbuckling."

September 19: Pope Francis surprised the world when he was quoted as saying that the church had grown “obsessed” with abortion, gay marriage and contraception, perhaps signaling a new era at the Vatican.

September 20: The Greenpeace icebreaker Arctic Sunrise, carrying 30 activists against Arctic drilling, declined a demand by the Russian government to turn toward the port of Murmansk. As a result, the ship was boarded by the coast guard and commandeered at gunpoint.

September 23: Germany's Christian Democratic Union and the Christian Social Union garnered 41.5 percent of the vote in that country's parliamentary elections. The bloc, headed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, was within two seats of obtaining a super majority.

September 25: Officials discovered 30 suitcases filled with cocaine in unregistered bags on an Air France flight from Venezuela. The 1.3 tons of cocaine are estimated to be worth $270 million.

September 27: Charles Huber of the Christian Democratic Union and Karamba Diaby of the Social Democratic Party of Germany became Germany's first black lawmakers.

September 28: Italy's former prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, threatened to pull his party out of the governing coalition and bring down the government, causing tension within his party and setting off political crisis in Italy.

September 28: Following the stabbing death of a popular Greek musician, the leader of Greece's extreme right wing Golden Dawn party and four lawmakers were arrested and charged with forming a criminal gang.
EUROPE•NYC

Newsletter of the New York Consortium for European Studies

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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editors:</td>
<td>New York University</td>
<td>Columbia University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavitha Surana</td>
<td>285 Mercer Street, 7th floor</td>
<td>School of International and Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Zelenko</td>
<td>New York, NY 10003</td>
<td>420 West 118th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writers:</td>
<td>Telephone: 212.998.3838</td>
<td>New York, NY 10027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Whittaker</td>
<td>Fax: 212.995.4188</td>
<td>Telephone: 212.854.4618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fax: 212.854.8808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Wolff, Director</td>
<td>Erika Harris, Administrative Aide</td>
<td>Victoria de Grazia, Director</td>
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<td>Lily R. Glenn, Program Manager</td>
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Center for European and Mediterranean Studies
285 Mercer St, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10003

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