EU Ambassador to the UN Opens Max Weber Chair Conference

NYU: April 19
By: Carla Westerheide

“In the EU, a crisis leads to deeper integration,” EU Ambassador to the United Nations, Thomas Mayr Harting, told the audience at NYU’s Deutsches Haus. Mayr Harting was giving the opening address to the Max Weber Chair conference, focusing on the global economic crisis as well as Europe’s response.

Mayr Harting said he agreed with a statement made by former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl that the European Union was “like a bicycle and that you cannot stop or you fall down.” However, he joked, he never fully understood the statement, since you “could just put your foot down.”

Jokes aside, the Ambassador emphasized that everyone who studies the EU knows that integration is important. Fiscal integration will be needed in the future and despite continuing disagreement on the issue, he was impressed with the effort leaders have put into solving the crisis.

Moreover, Mayr Harting pointed out that the crisis has drawn attention to European solidarity. Greece has received over 100 percent of its GDP in bailout money, and countries such as Spain, Portugal and Italy are keeping their promises of passing measures to keep their budgets in check.

He concluded his speech by saying that “the EU is probably the largest response to the crisis itself (…) It was created to make peace in Europe possible.”

Turn to PAGE 2 to read an interview with Ambassador Thomas Mayr Harting about the challenges of being a link between two multilateral organizations.
Interview with EU Ambassador to the UN, Thomas Mayr Harting

NYU: April 19
By: Carla Westerheide

Ambassador Thomas Mayr Harting assumed office in October 2011. He previously served as the Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN from December 2008. He also represented Austria in the UN Security Council in 2009-2010.

Q: How do you give 27 member states a common voice in a multinational organization of which the 27 are individual members as well?
A: In a certain sense, it’s not as difficult as it may seem. Especially on foreign policy issues—where there is a constant effort within the European Union to come up with a common position. The European Council already establishes all sorts of common positions on the Middle East, on Syria, on Libya, on sanctions policy, and on the situation in Africa, for example. In the past, it was the role of the rotating presidency to ensure this common European voice. Now—and that is perhaps one of the major changes of the Lisbon Treaty—it is the role and the responsibility of the institutional representatives of the European Union. At the level of the European Council it’s the President of the European Council, at the level of the Foreign Affairs Council it’s the High Representative, who chairs this council. And internationally it is the responsibility of the heads of delegations of the European Union. I think it is an advantage for everyone. There are some areas on which European Union member states agree more than on others— but in general terms I think it works quite well.

Q: When Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Council, spoke at NYU last fall, he was criticized for his and High Representative Catherine Ashton’s lack of visibility during the Arab Spring. He said it was very difficult to represent 27 countries. Can that still be a challenge at times?
A: It’s a process we have to go through step by step. There are some areas where it works better, such as the western Balkans. We have not agreed on everything—including the recognition of Kosovo—but the EU has all sorts of common policies and also a lot of leverage because the countries in question want to join the European Union and that gives it a lot of influence. There are other areas where the EU has an institutional role, for instance the Middle East Quartet. When I still worked as a diplomat for the Republic of Austria and when we held the presidency of the European Union in 2006 and participated in Quartet meetings, the EU was represented by three individual people: Francisco Javier Solana, the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy at the time, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, who represented the European Commission and also the economic dimension, and of course the rotating presidency. With the new system, all three people have been replaced by one, Lady Catherine Ashton. It’s true that it is difficult for her to cope with an incredible agenda and she now does the work of three people, but on the other hand, it gives her the possibility for synergies that didn’t exist before. She can bring the instruments of the European Commission together, and that is where we still—as an organization—tend to have the greatest leverage.

Q: The position of EU Ambassador to the UN is still a very new one. Has your job changed or evolved during your mandate?
A: I have been doing this for five or six months and basically the job description is quite comprehensive and I am quite satisfied that I have been successful in fulfilling it. One has to keep in mind that there is a very important and complex task of internal coordination. 60 percent of my working time is invested in internal coordination, creating the preconditions for a common voice. It means coordination between member states here in New York, it means coordination between Brussels and us here in New York, it means coordination between member states’ capitals back home and to a certain extent of member states’ representatives here. For instance, there is an interesting process on the way on sustainable development and Rio +20. Some of my colleagues negotiate around the clock here at the UN. And when these negotiators come here, I lead three coordination meetings per day between the delegates coming from capitals and the people here. There is also a certain element of coordination that is necessary between the various European institutions within the framework of the European Union. The Secretary General of the United Nations was in Brussels just now where he participated in a very important conference on "Sustainable Energy for All." But he also saw the President of the European Council, he saw Lady Ashton, he saw the President of the European Commission. In those meetings, various aspects of our work with the UN were relevant, and as the European Union is a complex organization, coordinating also means bringing these various strands together.
YEATS cont. from page 1

Each attendee was given a handout copied with drafts of poetry in the Irish poet’s own handwriting, along with the typed versions (Yeats’ penmanship is notoriously difficult to read). Marcus guided the audience through the handout page by page.

One particularly striking poem was written on the birth of Yeats’ daughter, Anne. In “A Prayer for my Daughter,” Yeats writes about what kind of traits his new little girl would need to survive in 1919. However, Marcus claimed that at its root, the piece was about the “innocence we come into the world with.” Indeed, Yeats writes near the end of the piece, “How but in custom and in ceremony are innocence and beauty born,” pondering the creation of new life. However, for all the truth and splendor of the poem, Anne Butler Yeats would later note that the piece set out “an impossible ideal for [her] live up to,” Marcus said.

He also spoke about Yeats’s writing process. Some of his poems took weeks to write and his plays often took years. He was a diligent editor and a perfectionist. He was also obsessed with certain themes throughout his life, such as innocence, gaiety, ghosts and Irish folk culture and politics. His writing showed a “desire to speak universally.” In the end, Phillip Marcus did just that—giving everyone in attendance a wide view of the life and work of the great Irish writer. The Yeats behind the poetry became a little more visible.

Don't Blame Greece, We're All at Fault

NYU: April 19
By: Zachary Dugan

This year’s Max Weber Chair conference theme, “Confronting the Global Crisis: The Role of Europe,” prompted keynote speaker Professor Charles Maier of Harvard University to consider the global economic crisis as a whole - from the United States to Europe; from the middle of the century to the present. His presentation, “Whose Crisis? Germany, Europe, and the Global Economic Transition,” questioned some of the assumptions held by many leaders attempting to steer their countries toward recovery.

“To date, I don’t think we have even one causal framework that accounts for the diverse episodes of economic turmoil since 2008,” Maier said before laying out an overarching framework for understanding the crises. He said that the early days of the recent economic downfall could be compared to 1927, when financial institutions collapsed, causing the Great Depression. Today’s severe sovereign debt crises could then be compared to 1931.

However, the situation in the United States and in Europe “is not the whole story,” Maier continued. He was referring to the long-term stagnation of the Japanese economy, contrasting it with the success of the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) and even that of Turkey and parts of sub-Saharan Africa. These emerging markets were more careful in developing their economy than EU countries and the U.S., which helped them weather the current economic storm.

Still, the economic crisis is felt around the world and has, according to Maier, been a long time coming. “We are living through the consequences of an epoch that began in the 1960s and 70s with the vast expansion of the social state and social welfare and went on into the 1980s,” he said. This epoch encouraged financial risk taking and allowed for the expansion of public and private debt. Though other crises occurred around the world, none hit with the same amount of force.

Maier argued that the European crisis in particular is “a symptom of unbalanced trade” and potentially of a lack of centralized fiscal policy. Lessons from the past could help better Europe’s financial health. Maier pointed to both reparations after World War I and the Marshall Plan after World War II as contrasting solutions to economic difficulties. He said that reparations (as analogous to the current deals with Greece) do not work because “you can’t impose external debt without starting internal depression.” A Marshall Plan, or system of focused development on the other hand, could help rebuild the Greek economy.

Maier concluded that the debt crisis should not be moralized, as Germany has been doing. The global economic crises have no single, discernible starting point. Looking for the moral of the story amid financial turmoil would therefore do more harm than good.
The Difficulty of Transnational Governance

By: Zachary Dugan

The Max Weber Chair Conference’s first morning panel, “Transnational Governance and its Challenges,” moved beyond the question of what or who caused the global economic crisis and examined the question of whether the European Union, and its transnational powers, are helping or hurting recovery efforts in Europe.

The panel, moderated by Christiane Lemke, the Max Weber Chair for European and German studies and conference organizer, had two speakers: Peter Hall, a professor at Harvard University and Damian Chalmers, a professor at London School of Economics and Political Science and currently visiting at NYU’s Straus Institute for the Advanced Study of Law and Justice.

Hall explored the issue of transnational governance via the politics inherent in such a system. He started by asserting that “European politicians have been busy making the problems worse, not better.” He said that the euro was created primarily for political reasons, so the solution will also need to be political. The currency’s origins, he said, lie in an attempt to “bind a resurgent Germany to Europe,” even though the opposite has actually happened.

According to Hall, one of the causes of the euro crisis is that the single currency links vastly different kinds of capitalism. Northern European countries have economies that are organized for export-led growth while Southern European countries are centered on demand-led growth. “Those economies can be successful, but only if they are allowed to adjust their monetary policy,” Hall said. The common European Monetary Policy, however, does not allow that adjustment.

Hall also emphasized that the reaction to the euro crisis has shown the pre-eminence of Germany within the eurozone, as well as Germany’s willingness to protect its own national interest amid the overall EU response to the crisis. Hall said that this was proof of “a changing view of the EU from a grand project to one of the Union as being another instrument” for nations to use to promote their own interests. This in turn reveals limits to European solidarity and a potential backlash of the founding myth of the European Union itself.

Chalmers also discussed the EU’s changing nature. Originally, he said, it was about setting up a regulatory state among the European countries, but it is now a system of wealth redistribution. The Treaty on Stability, Coordination, and Governance in the EMU moves the Union even further into the realm of redistribution.

Both speakers agreed that the euro crisis has created challenges to further integration of the European Union. There was also agreement that the European Union, which has faced economic and political crises before, can and will survive this one as well.

Immigration: From Liberalism to Multiculturalism

By: Carla Westerheide

The second panel of the Max Weber Chair Conference at the NYU Deutsches Haus focused on immigration and was titled “Confronting Diversity: Europe as a Cultural and Political Space.” First speaker Erik Bleich’s talk, titled “Beyond Liberalism: Europe and the Frictions of Diversity,” laid out a new concept driving immigration policy making in Europe: anti-illiberalism.

The Middlebury College professor said that overall, immigration policies across Europe have become stricter and some politicians have even expressed hopes of limiting immigration further. This is directly related to growing anti-Islam sentiment, since Muslims are said to be illiberal. Bleich pointed out that in the Netherlands, for example, immigrants are asked to watch a video of men kissing to show what liberalism in the country means.

Bleich continued saying that “diversity is not just about integrating immigrants; it is also about dealing with the majority.” Anti-illiberalism then targets both groups. Whereas measures concerning immigrants are better known, Europe has taken steps to combat racism, often rooted in anti-illiberalism.

For instance, while a British ballroom was allowed to discriminate based on skin color in 1954 so as to not hurt business, the country overturned that and other practices in the following 20 years. In 1965, it even declared hate speech illegal. “Policies restricting racism don’t belong to a different sphere than immigration policy,” emphasized Bleich.

He concluded by saying that while these are steps in the right direction, the approach is far from balanced. Most policies still target immigrant populations and a member of the majority has to be much more illiberal to be sanctioned than a member of the minority.

The second speaker, Martin Schain from New York University, explored topics of immigration on both sides of the Atlantic, asking “Immigration Policy: Is There Anything We Can Learn from Europe?”
**IMMIGRATION cont. from page 4**

The short answer is no. Schain argued that U.S. laws promote diversity much better than European ones, citing the Green Card lottery as an example of how Washington still encourages immigration. European countries, on the other hand, have expressed increasing desire for a more “homogenized cultural integration.”

The only exception, Schain concluded, is border policy. Because of the Schengen agreement, there are fewer instances of illegal immigration in France, for example, than in the United States. And Europe as a whole focuses much more on its borders.

Both lectures asked the question: Was German Chancellor Angela Merkel right when she declared in 2010 that multiculturalism had failed? Schain said that it is a “strategy, rather than a policy.” Policies were developed to find members of immigrant communities with whom the government could deal directly. There has been little to no change in the area, so then whose failure is it?

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**Civil Service Organizations Strengthen Intergovernmentalism in EU**

NYU: April 20
By: Hannah Wood

The final lecture at the Max Weber Chair Conference was called “Confronting Conflicts: Europe as a ‘Civil Power’?” This seems like a complicated question to answer in a limited amount of time, but Jutta Joachim, an associate professor at the Institute of Political Science at Leibniz University in Hannover, Germany, and Holger Moroff, a European studies and political science professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, helped answer it in a clear and enlightening way.

As Joachim began her discussion of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), she described democracy, foreign policy and civil society as “uneasy bedfellows.” She noted that since 2001 there has been a surge of CSOs and think tanks. This makes her study especially relevant. Her main inquiry focuses on “whether, how and to what extent CSOs improve the democratic quality of decision-making in the Common Foreign, Security and Defense Policy (CFSP).”

To answer this question she looked to three models of democracy: intergovernmental, supranational or federal, and cosmopolitan or regional.

Joachim concluded that on the inter-governmental level, CSOs have a positive effect, adding “to transparency and accountability effective links with constituents.” In terms of the supranational model, the European Commission helps CSOs and “establishes principles and standards for CSO participation.” Finally, the cosmopolitan structure allows CSOs to “organize in loose networks across levels.” In the end she found some hope for CSOs to become a “democratizing force.”

Holger Moroff began his talk with a “thought experiment.” He wondered how to “introduce democracy into foreign policy.” Somewhat surprisingly, he cited Greece, with its current demonstrations against the new austerity as a country that shows the “beauty and potential of direct democracy.” Moroff then contrasted the Greek agitation (which was “directed toward the EU”) with the lack of protests in Brussels itself. He explained that this was because the EU has no minority, “no institutional opposition” wired into its system that challenges the executive. However, the euro crisis has enabled the political opposition to combine its interests and mobilize. He called this civil society a “viable opposition to the EU Government.”

Moroff suggested that the EU is being shaped by the current financial crisis. It could be “a shock that will make the EU’s financial integration complete” or it could create further liquidity problems. The main difficulty comes, he asserted, when “one paper over the structural reasons for the crisis.” Though EU leaders attempt to be calm and cool, Moroff thinks that what the EU needs is a more emotional voice. The EU, at its core, is a “polite diplomatic club” which conducts business behind closed doors. He concluded that an outside force is needed to bring the crisis to a halt and solve the EU “structural dilemma” which has been exposed by the crisis.
NEW YORK: April 19
By Carla Westerheide

It was a sunny morning when students from NYU's Center for European and Mediterranean Studies (CEMS), the UNC at Chapel Hill's TransAtlantic Masters Program (TAM), and Leibniz University in Hannover, Germany met outside the United Nations Visitors Center for a tour. Even though some members of the group already complained of sore feet, everyone was excited to visit an organization so central to many of their studies.

The tour lasted just under one hour and took students to the UN General Assembly. Tour guide Mate explained that member countries are seated according to (western) alphabetical order, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

However, Zimbabwe does not always have to sit in the back, while Afghanistan gets the front row. Instead, the Assembly draws the name of a random country at the beginning of the year’s first session. That country gets to sit in the front for remainder of the year, with other countries seated accordingly.

Next, the tour focused on weapons, since disarmament and making the world a safer place is central to the UN’s mission. However, Mate pointed out that the world’s governments still spend over $3 trillion on arms annually, while only a fraction of that cost would be needed to feed people living below the world poverty line. In addition, she explained that disarmament was much more costly than armament – for example, a landmine costs about three dollars to buy and more than $300 to remove safely.

On the topic of conflict resolution, Mate informed the group that Palestine, or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, has been on the UN agenda since the very beginning of the organization itself (since 1948), and that it was its first peacekeeping mission.

Unfortunately, the Security Council conference room was off limits to visitors since it was meeting on the day of the tour. The Security Council is always in session and can meet whenever needed—during the week, on weekends and even holidays.

Mate said that in 2011, the Council met 213 times. It is the Security Council that decides if or when to send peacekeeping missions or authorize military action. Those missions are then staffed by member countries on a voluntary basis; India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are the largest contributors to such missions.

However, Mate continued, about 80 percent the UN’s peacekeeping efforts are no longer military, but instead focus on humanitarian issues. This is directly in line with the Development Goals set by the United Nations, which include eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

The international poverty line is set at 1.25 American dollars per day, Mate said, and some of the meals provided by the UN cost even less than that. These meals are also used to help further education. About 75 million children worldwide still do not get to go to school. Mate explained that a meal in the symbolic red cup would be given to every schoolchild at lunch. In addition, to increase girls’ attendance (most students in developing countries are boys), they receive two cups—one for themselves and one to take home.

Some of the other goals focused on the health of newborns and mothers. "A paper likeness of UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon."
Diplomats and Activists

issues are particularly worrisome in sub-Saharan African countries, Mate said at the end of the tour.

While most students in the group seemed to have enjoyed the tour, Natalia Dalmer from Leibniz University pointed out that if you have studied the UN, most of the facts and figures mentioned during the tour were nothing new.

The visit to Human Rights Watch in the afternoon, was more informative for everyone.

The talk was presented by Fred Abrahams, special advisor for HRW’s program office, Adrianne Lapar, a TAM graduate now working for HRW, and Philippe Bolopion, UN director of HRW.

Abrahams began the talk by “tease out the truth” and find inconsistencies in order for people to continue to see the organizations assessment as fair.

TAM student Ahmed Elmahdi asked about the impact of Human Right Watch’s reports.

Abrahams answer was clear and concise — a report can have an immediate impact if it is published at the right time. However, most reports are not written just to prompt a short-term solution, but rather, to promote long-term solutions.

Philippe Bolopion continued the talk, adding that he uses the reports and “translates them into change,” by, for example, trying to get the UN Security Council to send observers or peacekeeping missions to problem areas.

Bolopion said these reports were a powerful “ticket in,” meaning he found it easier to get a meeting with a UN diplomat now, than he did when he was covering the UN as a journalist for French media.

He concluded the talk by emphasizing that one of the reasons Human Rights Watch is so trusted is its independence. It only receives funding from private donors and while it agrees to sometimes work with countries, it does not shy away from criticizing those same countries on other issues. That is especially important when dealing with smaller states. They trust Human Rights Watch because it is just as critical of human rights abuses in the United States, Russia, or other developed countries—the “top guys,” as Bolopion put it—as it is of smaller states.

As the day drew to a close, TAM, CEMS and Leibniz students said they had learned a lot. CEMS’s Michael Curry said he was surprised by how hard it was to get a job at Human Rights Watch and how skilled and specialized one had to be. “It’s almost a bit disappointing,” he said. But then again, the day was proof that hard work and interest in a particular country or issue can go a long way in the world of diplomats.
The Irish English Aristocracy

NYU: April 19
By Hannah Wood

The 17th century was a tumultuous period in Ireland, marked by rebellions against English rulers. However, there were some Irish people, notably the aristocracy, who wanted desperately to be more English. Jane Ohlmeyer, a history professor at Trinity College, Dublin, came to the Glucksman Ireland House to discuss her new book, *Making Ireland English: How the Aristocracy Shaped 17th Century Ireland.*

The Irish elite had a “dogged determination to enhance prestige, wealth and political power,” she said. The best way to gain status in 17th century Ireland was to obtain an English parliamentary peerage, which was awarded by the English monarch. A parliamentary peerage granted the right to sit in the House of Lords and, therefore, automatic prestige. During this era, the size of the peerage increased, as many “arrivistes” (or people with the money to purchase a peerage) bought in. Catholics were not excluded either, and by 1628, those owning peerages were half Protestant and half Catholic.

Ohlmeyer gave several examples of Irish aristocracy who participated, including the Earl of Clanricarde. He even posed for a painting while wearing armor to show that he was “a servant of the King.” These elites also overwhelmingly sent their sons to school at Oxford rather than the closer Trinity College. Many of the earls and dukes hungered for status not only through political power, but greater wealth. Ohlmeyer gave the example of Arthur Annesley, the Earl of Anglesey (a Protestant) who “married his children to poor Catholics so that he could take their land.” Whether it was through testaments of loyalty or ruthlessness, “Englishness is something these peers want[ed] to demonstrate over and over again,” Ohlmeyer noted.

However, in death they showed that they still had an attachment to their homeland. Though one-third died in England, Ohlmeyer found that most Irish were buried on their Irish estates or in local church cemeteries. Only the most loyal and ardent converts to Englishness were buried at Westminster Abbey in London.

Professor Ohlmeyer’s research shows that 17th century Ireland had a multi-faceted history. While the lower and middle classes were separated by religion, the very elite did not discriminate in this way. Accumulation of wealth and power was all that mattered, and the way to remain on top was to become English. In a time of globalization, it is hard to imagine status and wealth being tied to maintaining a double national identity, but Ohlmeyer did a great job in painting a colorful picture of this very complicated period.

Forced to Be Alien

NYU: April 3
By Hannah Wood

The riots that roiled London in August of last year were not an historical anomaly. According to Ashley Dawson, the seeds were planted long before. Dawson is a Professor of English at the CUNY Graduate Center and the chair of the English Department at the College of Staten Island. His focus is on cultural studies, postcolonial studies and the literature of migration. He came to NYU’s Center for European and Mediterranean Studies to discuss the history of riots in Britain.

The unrest followed a march in Tottenham protesting the police shooting of 29 year-old Mark Duggan on August 4th. Policed said Duggan was a drug dealer and known gang member, which his family denied. Along with local residents, they marched to the Tottenham police station to get answers. Then, a sixteen year-old girl was beaten by police and riots started.

Dawson suggested that this type of violence had been brewing for a long time. A combination of new austerity measures and a systemic failure to provide support for at-risk youth and their families put lower income people on edge. Long standing discrimination against black immigrants in Britain also played a role.

A panel was formed to investigate the reasons for the unrest. It concluded that the riots (which included looting and arson of local businesses) were caused by “failure to rehab offenders,” bad parenting, and a lack of avenues for young people. In December, funds were allocated to schools to teach reading to at-risk youth and to programs that help young people find jobs. However, Dawson said that the panel has been hamstrung by its “unwillingness to adopt particular [political] positions.”

The British government discussed “evict[ing] the rioters and their families from public housing.” There is also a new plan to tap phone calls and monitor internet usage. According to the Home Secretary, “ordinary people have nothing to fear.” This overreach by the government to monitor and track a particular group of Brits is troubling.

The film, “Attack the Block,” Dawson said, provides an allegory for the tense situation between poor black British citizens and the police. The movie is about a group of multi-ethnic teenagers living in a housing estate in South London. The kids are attacked by aliens and must defend the “block” from the invaders. The story “plays with the way blackness is signified in mainstream discourse.”

Dawson suggested that for class disparity and discrimination to be improved, the British government needs to make an effort to reform the economy and send more funds in the direction of programs to rehabilitate communities. Black and Asian communities also “need to revive the organizations that helped them in the sixties and eighties.” Support from other progressive groups like the Occupy London movement could also help to “counter the hegemonic block.” In the end, Dawson concluded that “what happened in Britain is relevant for other European nations” because the dynamics in other states are similar and ripe for a British style uprising. Just as Britain’s riots came first, hopefully they can set a precedent for ways of recovery.
**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

**INSTITUTE OF FRENCH STUDIES**  
15 Washington Mews. All events take place at the Institute unless otherwise noted. 212.998.8740.  
french.studies@nyu.edu  
http://www.nyu.edu/fas/program/frenchstudies

**DEUTSCHES HAUS @ NYU**  
42 Washington Mews. All events take place at the Haus unless otherwise noted. 212.998.8660.  
http://www.nyu.edu/deutscheshaus

**KING JUAN CARLOS I OF SPAIN CENTER**  
53 Washington Square South. All events take place at the Center unless otherwise noted. 212.998.3650.  
http://www.nyu.edu/pages/kjc

FRIDAY, May 18 at 4:30 p.m.  
**Workshop:** “On Mainstreaming Gender in Political Activism in Kosovo and Albania: How Women’s Groups Contribute to Political Debate and Activism.” A talk presented by Delina Fico, Director for Civil Societies Programs, East West Management Institute, New York, NY, Board Chair, Albanian Women’s Empowerment Network, Women’s Rights Activist, Albania. This is part of the Gender and Transformation in Europe workshop series.

THURSDAY, May 3 at 3:00 p.m.  
**Talk:** “School of Silence—Herta Müller on her Poetic Origins.” Born in rural Romania as part of the German-speaking minority, Nobel Prize laureate Herta Müller has recalled her childhood as a “school of silence,” where the loss of words reflected an inadequacy of language itself. It also resulted from an oppressive dictatorial regime with both communist and nationalistic traits. Writing became a way to break the silence. Don’t miss the rare opportunity to hear Müller speak about these themes. The talk is in German. Translation is available.

MONDAY, May 7 at 7:00 p.m.  
**Writing:** “Creative Writing in Spanish.” This will be the end of the semester session, with a lecture by Mariela Dreyfus and Lila Zemborain.

TUESDAY, May 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
**Lecture:** “Art Museums of the Avantgarde: Life and Work of Alexander Dorner.” A lecture by Dr. Ines Katzenhusen, Leibniz University Hannover. Alexander Dorner (1893-1957) was already one of the most innovative and influential museum directors of the early 20th century Germany before he emigrated to the US in 1937. He was one of the first curators to acquire works of art by international avant-garde artists and was at the height of modern movements and ideas like the Bauhaus when he was forced to leave.

FRIDAY, May 4 at 6:30 p.m.  
**Reading:** “A Literary Safari featuring Peter Schneider and Other Authors.” Take an expedition to observe artists in their natural habitat as we take a rare peek inside Westbeth Center for the Arts Housing, the city’s oldest and largest artist community. Wander the hallways of this converted industrial space, map in hand, to find an entire evening’s worth of literary events. Enjoy intimate readings by Festival participants inside the homes of famous Westbeth residents and end the night hobnobbing over cocktails with your favorite authors at the event’s closing party inside Westbeth’s legendary gallery. Location: Westbeth Center for the Arts, Westbeth Gallery, 57 Bethune or 155 Bank Street, New York.

SUNDAY, May 6 at 1:00 p.m  
**Reading:** “A place out of Time: Gregor von Rezzori’s Bukivina Trilogy.” This event takes place at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, 36 Battery Place, New York City. A Pen festival event with Michael Cunningham, Deborah Eisenberg, Daniel Kehlmann, and Edmund White; moderated by Edwin Frank. Tickets: $15/$10 PEN Members and students with valid ID. Call (866) 811-4111 or visitovationtix.com. In the early 20th Century, what is now Chernivtsi, Ukraine was Czernowitz, Bukovina, part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the birth place of the dazzling writer Gregor von Rezzori.

TUESDAY, May 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
**Discussion:** “DAAD Poets Chair Lecture: Daniel Kehlman in Conversation with Nick Laird.” Daniel Kehlmann was born in Munich. He is the author of Measuring the World and, most recently, Fame. Among his accolades are the Candide Prize, the Literature Prize of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the Thomas Mann Prize. Kehlmann divides his time between Vienna and Berlin.

FRIDAY, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.  
**Talk:** “Baby’s in Black.” Come meet graphic novelist Arne Bellstorf, whose ‘remarkable’ (Booklist) graphic novel Baby’s in Black is
now available for a US audience. “Baby’s in Black” is the story of The Beatles, before they were famous—and of “The Fifth Beatle,” Stuart Sutcliffe, and the girl he fell in love with and left the band for, Astrid Kirchherr. In a first-time appearance to the US, Bellstorf will discuss his research, his creative process, and the story behind “Baby’s in Black”.

**TUESDAY, May 1 at 6:00 p.m.**


**MONDAY, May 7 and 7:00 p.m.**

_Presentation:_ “Le Conversazioni 2012.” Le Conversazioni is a literary festival created by Antonio Monda and Davide Azzolini that takes place annually on the Isle of Capri with the participation of some of the leading lights in contemporary English literature. In the last few years some of today’s great writers have come together to discuss the chosen theme for each year: identity, the relationship between the word and the image, memory, deadly sins, human rights, eros.

**THURSDAY, May 10 at 6:00 p.m.**

_Presentation:_ “In the Name of God: The making of Christianity.” Lupieri’s lively historical-sociological study masterfully weaves together a tapestry of ideas, individuals, and people groups, linking them throughout to present-day realities in often surprising ways. In the process, Lupieri exposes the economic, political, and religious justifications and motivations behind the European conquests and uncovers some of the historical roots of genocide, racism, and just war theory.

**MONDAY, May 14 at 7:00 p.m.**

_Theatre:_ “The Woman in the Wardrobe.” From the screenwriter of _La Dolce Vita_ and _8 1/2_ comes an absurd, ironic, one act play written for “simple, deplorable entertainment.” Yet, with this story of a poet and his hidden secret, Ennio Flaiano gives us so much more. Defying his audience’s expectations once again, Flaiano plays with the rules of the detective mystery, pointing out the iniquities of modern bureaucracies that rule human existence. Echoes of Ionesco, Allen and the Marx Brothers make this one-act play an enjoyable and unforgettable experience. In association with the NYU Glucksman Ireland House.

**WEDNESDAY, May 16 at 6:00 p.m.**

_Talk:_ “AdDRESSing Style: Let’s Sparkle.” Patrizia di Carrobi, author of _Conoscere i Gioielli: come sceglieleri e portarli_ (Knowing Jewels: how to choose them and wear them, Salani, 2011) and_Diamanti: una guida personale_ (Diamonds: a personal guide, Astra, 2010) talks about vintage jewelry and precious stones, reveals the best kept secrets of the trade, and uncovers famous stars’ iconic pieces.

**MONDAY, May 14, 21, 28 at 7:00 p.m.**

_Reading:_ “Writer Hugo Hamilton Reads.” Hugo Hamilton, Villanova’s current Heimbold Chairholder and author of the best selling memoir, _The Speckled People_, grew up with three languages—English, Irish, and German—and a sense of never really belonging to any one language or ethnic group. This acclaimed journalist and fiction writer will discuss place, craft, and language with Fernando Fernández-Savater Martín, one of Spain’s most popular living philosophers, as well as an essayist and celebrated author.

**FRIDAY, May 4 at 9:00 p.m.**

_Concert:_ “The Blarney Concert Series: Robbie O’Connell and Dan Milner.” Robbie O’Connell grew up singing with his uncles, the famous Clancy Brothers, and went on to forge a mighty reputation on his own. Long-time New Yorker Dan Milner is a walking encyclopedia of Irish and maritime song.

**TUESDAY, May 8 at 7:00 p.m.**

_Reading:_ “Kebab.” by Gianina Carbunariu (Romania); translation by Phil Osment; directed by Zenon Kruszelnicki. In this modern fairytale, three young Romanians go to Dublin to find attention, money, and the chance to make art. Their quest takes them into the moral wilderness created by globalization, economic disparity, and the media age. First produced at the Royal Court and the Dublin Theatre Festival, Kebab has also been seen throughout continental Europe. Part of the annual Mondays of May play reading series by the Origin theatre company.

**THURSDAY, May 10 at 5:30 p.m.**

_Talk:_ “Economic Recovery in Ireland: Status, Outlook and Opportunities.” This forum brings together major figures in Irish and American government, finance, and business to analyze and discuss economic initiatives taken and those proposed for the future. Wilbur Ross delivers key note followed by panel discussion with Standish CEO Desmond MacIntyre and NYU Stern’s Prof. Nicolas Economides. Reception to follow. Tickets required.

**THURSDAY, May 16 at 6:00 p.m.**

_Talk:_ “AdDRESSing Style: Let’s Sparkle.” Patrizia di Carrobi, author of _Conoscere i Gioielli: come sceglieleri e portarli_ (Knowing Jewels: how to choose them and wear them, Salani, 2011) and_Diamanti: una guida personale_ (Diamonds: a personal guide, Astra, 2010) talks about vintage jewelry and precious stones, reveals the best kept secrets of the trade, and uncovers famous stars’ iconic pieces.

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**MONDAY, May 14, 21, 28 at 7:00 p.m.**

_Reading:_ Origin theatre company’s eighth annual reading series with four works by contemporary European playwrights. Check Ireland House website for lineup.

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**THE BLINKEN EUROPEAN INSTITUTE**

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

**WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY, May 30-31**

_Workshop:_ “Religion, Legal Pluralism, and Human Rights: European and Transatlantic Perspectives,” organized by Jean L. Cohen, Nell and Herbert M. Singer Professor of Contemporary Civilization in the Core Curriculum, Yasmine Ergas, Associate Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs, and Samuel Moyn, Professor of History. Location: Columbia’s Global Center at Reid Hall in Paris.

**THE HARRIMAN INSTITUTE**

420 West 118th Street, International Affairs Building (IAB), Room 1219. All events take place at the Institute unless otherwise noted.

http://www.harrimaninstitute.org

**THURSDAY, May 3 at 7:00 p.m.**

_Talk:_ “A Talk with Ludmila Ulitskaya.” Ulitskaya will be discussing her upcoming non-fiction book, “Sacred Trash,” about
In the News: Europe in April

April 2: A memorial service in Britain marked the 30th anniversary of the Falklands War, a 74-day conflict during which 255 British servicemen were killed.

April 3: 17 immigrant workers from Tajikistan, living in a Moscow warehouse died in an overnight fire.

April 4: Serbian president Boris Tadić, announced his resignation despite earlier plans to run for election again in May. It is thought to be a tactical move to boost his party’s chances in May’s parliamentary elections.

April 5: Sarajevo residents commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Bosnian War with a special emphasis on its first two civilian victims: Suada Dilberovic and Olga Sucic. The two women were participating in a peaceful rally when they were shot by Serbian snipers.

April 6: Pope Benedict XVI spoke out against a group of Austrian clerics who were backing the ordination of women priests during his homily for Holy Thursday mass.

April 10: The European Court of Human Rights ruled that five suspected terrorists could be extradited to the United States from Britain, despite the men’s claims that their probable detention in an American high-security prison would amount to degrading and inhumane treatment.

April 12: Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti and his government banned gladiator imitators from posing with tourists for money at Rome’s ancient Colosseum.

April 13: Portugal’s parliament approved a European Union pact tightening budgetary discipline. After Greece, Portugal is the second country to ratify such a pact.

April 18: Spain’s 74-year-old King Juan Carlos I issued an apology (a rare act for European royals) for going elephant hunting in Botswana while Spain is enduring the worst economic crisis in decades.

April 19: Italian police seized and incinerated seven tons of cannabis in Genoa, helping to apprehend 13 smugglers.

April 22: François Hollande won the first round of France’s presidential election with 28% of the vote. Incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy came in second with 26.98%.

April 25: Plans to reprint Mein Kampf, Hitler’s memoir, for the first time in 70 years were announced. The book is not banned in Germany, but the Bavarian Finance Ministry, which owns the copyright, has not allowed reprinting of the memoir. With the copyright set to expire in 2015, the new edition will include commentaries on the text criticizing Hitler’s arguments and ideas.

April 30: Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II went on a “walkabout” around Windsor Castle as part of the lead-up to her Diamond Jubilee celebrations set for June.
**EUROPE•NYC Newsletter of the New York Consortium for European Studies**

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