

Wellesley Wegweiser

Liebe Leserinnen,

We've had a busy year in the German Studies Department! Since the retirements of Thomas Hansen and Jens Kruse in 2016, we've remained a smaller department, but, with the invaluable help of our visiting lecturer, Mark Römisch, have worked to offer our students a strong curriculum and look forward to continuing to do so.

This year we've been lucky enough to host a number of fascinating events. In the fall, we were able to bring the *Yellow Ticket Project* to Wellesley, a wonderful event in which renowned klezmer fiddler Alicia Svigals and pianist Marilyn Lerner perform Alicia's original score to a screening of the 1918 German silent film *Der gelbe Schein* (*The Yellow Ticket*). The screening was a success and our students were doubly pleased to be able to have dinner with Alicia and get to know her. We also hosted Philipp Stiasny, who spoke to students in our class on "Cultural Capitals" about "Abstraction, Montage, and Visual Music in Ruttmann's Berlin," and then joined us for a lively lunch in which students were able to continue their discussion. And, Mark Römisch's class on "Language. Culture. Theater." performed the play "Verrücktes Blut" ("Mad Blood") to a packed audience at the end of the fall semester.

This spring, we welcomed German filmmaker Doris Dörrie, the most prolific and best-known German woman filmmaker, to Wellesley after taking our students to Brandeis for a screening of her most recent film, *Grüße aus Fukushima* (*Fukushima Mon Amour*, 2016). Doris spoke to students in Mark Römisch's course on "Deutschlandbilder," then joined a larger group for lunch and an informal and lively conversation. In April, we took a group of students out for traditional German food at "Bronwyn" in Somerville before continuing to the Harvard Art Museum to see the special exhibition "Inventur: Art in Germany, 1943-1955."

Our students have worked hard this year, and, among our graduating seniors, we have two who wrote honors theses. Both Emily Moore and Annie Schnitzer received funding from Wellesley to do research in Germany during January, and have finished the year strongly after completing their projects.

We wish our graduating majors and minors and all of you a wonderful summer!

Herzliche Grüße aus Wellesley!

Anjeana K. Hans

Focus on Faculty

Thomas Nolden

Thomas Nolden hosted, together with Prof. Marjorie Agosin from Wellesley's Spanish department, an [international conference](#) on the Chilean-born novelist and poet Robert Bolaño (1953-2003). The conference took place on Wellesley campus and was co-sponsored by many programs, departments as well as the Newhouse Humanities Center.

In the fall semester, he was invited to join the English Department at Brandeis University to teach a new course on "Digital Media and Culture," and contributed an essay on the French writer Georges Perec to a volume to be published next year. He joined the Mellon Dissertation Fellowship Committee of the Council of European Studies at Columbia University and continued to serve on the research editorial committee of the journal [EuropeNow](#).

In January, he took yet another group of students to Berlin in winter session to introduce them to the many aspects of Germany's past and present. He is looking forward to accompanying our accomplished graduating seniors on their senior excursion to Munich and Innsbruck in May.

Mark Römisch



Besides teaching two sections of intermediate *German 201* this past fall semester, Mark Römisch was very excited to introduce his new course *German 233: Language. Culture. Theater*. The course revolved around post-immigrant theater in Germany and the production of an acclaimed, highly controversial German play by a Turkish playwright from Berlin. Both of the final performances received great reviews from the audience who praised the students for their nuanced and brave performances in German. Mark is looking forward to continuing the course with a new play in 2019. He will be attending the theatre festival *Theatertreffen* in Berlin in early summer to explore new trends in contemporary German and European Theater.

In spring, Mark taught *German 202* and *German 258: Imagining Germany*, a course focusing on the depiction of Germany in German literature, film and visual art. He was very enthusiastic when the German Department hosted acclaimed filmmaker and author Doris Dörrie who also visited his class. The stimulating and lively discussion between Dörrie and students was certainly a highlight this semester.



Most recently, Mark's photographic series *Broken*, an examination of torture methods in the 21st century, has been featured in the journal [EuropeNow](#) published by the Council for European Studies. Additionally, his large-scale piece "Garten der Lüste" has been selected for multiple exhibitions in the US and Europe.

Anjeana Hans

This year, as always, has brought on new opportunities to learn and develop my work. I spent last summer in Vienna, where I worked in the *Film Archiv Austria*, screening most of the Austrian exile films, movies made by directors, writers, and actors who were forced to leave Germany after Hitler came to power in 1933. While I originally thought this would be part of a larger project on the transition from silent to sound film, I found the films so rich and the topic so fascinating that it has grown into the next book project, *Trauma, Disruption, Reinvention: Exile Film in Austria, 1933-1937*. I presented on parts of this research at the German Studies Association in Atlanta in October and at the annual conference of the Society of Cinema and Media Studies in Toronto in March, and am revising one paper, on the exiled actress Franziska Gaal, for publication in a forthcoming volume on *Rethinking Jewishness in Weimar Cinema*. I'm returning to Vienna this summer to continue work and hope to make real progress on my manuscript. I'm hoping to work quickly, so that I can get back to my second big project, focused on representations of „the other“ in early German film. I also have a few smaller projects I'm working on, including a paper on the Nazi-era propaganda film *Wunschkonzert (Request Concert, von Borsody, 1940)* and a conference talk on women as producers in Weimar-era film that I'm preparing for presentation in October.

At Wellesley, I've enjoyed teaching both literature and language this year. I took over as department chair and am trying to learn the ropes quickly. I've also continued as director of the First-Year Seminar Program, and am looking into ways to develop that in conjunction with some other initiatives aimed towards strengthening students' first-year experience. With a lot happening at Wellesley these days, I've been able to be involved in the College's work towards constantly expanding the scholarly, cultural, and professional opportunities we offer our students. I'm looking forward to returning to campus in the fall and continuing to do so.

Professor Emeritus Jens Kruse

Jens Kruse is enjoying his retirement. He continues working on various writing and other projects. Some are continuations of earlier scholarly projects, some are new. In that vein, he is currently, under the auspices of the Orcas Island Public Library, teaching a seminar on Dictatorship Imagined: Novels of Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism. (For more information:

<http://www.orcaslibrary.org/docs/Kruse-seminar.pdf>)

He has also taken courses on poetry and memoir writing and is beginning to work in those forms.



He remains engaged with members of the Wellesley College community and encourages students and alums to stay in touch via e-mail at jkruise@wellesley.edu or Twitter at [@jenskruse2](https://twitter.com/jenskruse2).



Professor Emeritus Margaret Ward

Margaret Ward now marks eight years since her retirement in 2010. I continue to split the year roughly between Southwest Florida and Southwest New Hampshire. In late summer and fall 2017 my husband and I spent six weeks in Europe, including an excursion on a Hurtigruten ship up the Norwegian coast beyond the Arctic Circle, a stay in Amsterdam and several weeks of train travel in northern Germany, primarily to visit relatives and friends in Bremen, Hamburg, Salzgitter and Berlin.

Day trips to Lüneburg, Braunschweig, Erfurt and Lutherstadt-Wittenberg rounded things out. While in Berlin, I managed to see Margie Berle Nubbemeyer „74. Then in February 2018 we spent time with family in Costa Rica. I continue to teach English as a Second Language to immigrants while in Florida, this season an advanced conversation course. I have had students from Venezuela, Brazil and Colombia, as well as from Central America and Mexico. And I continue to sing in two choirs and participate in two book clubs, as well as the Naples Council on World Affairs. Facebook has helped me keep connected with some of my former students. I can be reached in that way or via email. Hope to see you sometime soon.

German 202W Takes over Wellesley Instagram



Impressions from Abroad

Freie Universität Berlin, Germany '17- '18 – Lucy Tiblier '19

My study abroad experience in Berlin has been more exciting and enriching than I could ever anticipated. To briefly begin, I live in a neighborhood in central Berlin called Alt-Moabit and I'm studying Political Science at the Freie Universität, Berlin. When I first got to Berlin, I spent a few weeks at the German Language School in Prenzlauerberg -- one of the most beautiful and hip neighborhoods in the city. I spent a lot of time at first in this neighborhood; I went to the modern art KW museum, got beer with friends in the Prater Beer Garden, and ate lots of vegan Thai food at my favorite restaurant in the area. Then in mid-October, I began classes at the Freie Uni, which is located about 40 minutes outside of central Berlin. I took classes



in the fall on the history of the DDR, German foreign policy post reunification, and a class on comparative structural governance. In this time, I learned a considerable amount about myself, independence and how to adjust to this new experience. I was immersed in German in my class, and I learned so much about the city around me, how to navigate public transit, and how to thrive in a very independent setting. This growth was not without difficulty and struggle, however! For instance, I quickly came to appreciate the extent to which the German teaching approach puts the responsibility of learning on the student. I learned how to better reach out for help, instead of just waiting for someone else to ask what I needed to know. Despite the inevitable struggles of studying and living abroad, I have also thoroughly enjoyed my life here in Berlin.



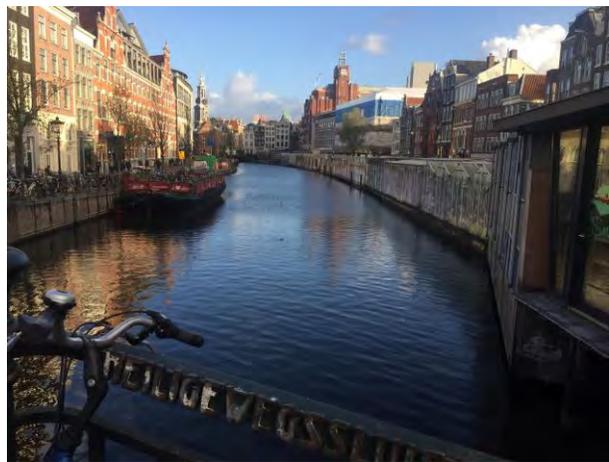
Some of my most fun memories from the fall include celebrating Gay Oktoberfest in Berlin, going to a concert in Schloss Charlottenburg, seeing a baby panda at the Berlin Zoo, riding bikes

in the German countryside with friends, spending all day at the Frei Bad, throwing dinner parties in my little apartment, and going to Olympia Stadium for a Berlin Hertha soccer match.



I've also been able to travel in Germany --I've visited Hamburg, Weimar, Osnabrück, and Mainz so far. When I'm not travelling, I often host friends from Hamburg, Mainz, Wellesley, and Austin (my home town). In my day-to-day life, I love reading on my balcony, spending time at the park (Tempelhof is my favorite), or meeting friends for a beer on the river Spree. It's not always easy to meet people here, but I have met several of my closest friends while out in Berlin. While the atmosphere at the University can be fairly intense, Berlin itself is so open and friendly. It's unlike any city I've been to before and I look forward to the coming summer months.

Okay one last thing: I had a sense before I left for Berlin that I generally understood Germans and German culture, but of course there are many instances along the way that have totally challenged what I thought I knew. These moments of surprise are always fun, and I remember one time around December, when my friend from western Germany was coming to visit and we started talking about our New Year's Eve plans. I was so amused when I learned for the first time that on New Year's Eve, Germans all over the country sit down and watch this totally obscure little British skit from the '60s called Dinner for One. It's a black and white, ~10 min long sketch, funny and very British. What's also crazy is just how popular the sketch is in Germany, not in England. This skit and the tradition have this cult popularity in Germany but the sketch itself is relatively unknown in the UK. I watched it with my friend, and it's actually really funny, but I mostly just love how much Germans love this random British skit. (Just ask a German: "The same procedure as last year, madam?" and they'll think you're very fun).



Wintersession in Berlin 2018 – Sophia Ashebir ‘21

I am Sophia and I am a first year at Wellesley College, and I had the pleasure of attending Wintersession this past winter in Germany!! All around it was an amazing trip where I got to improve my German as well as experience German culture. It was really cool to actually use my German in real life situations outside of the classroom. One of the best parts of the trip was seeing all the different types of architecture that Berlin had to offer. Some of my favorites were the Berlin Konzerthaus and the Reichstagsgebäude. Overall the trip was a blast and I would highly suggest it to anyone who is considering going in the future!!!



*****Stiftung Frauenkirche Internship in Dresden Summer 2017 – Maddie Taylor ‘19*****

This summer, I was the first Wellesley student to intern at the *Stiftung Frauenkirche* in Dresden. About two hours south of Berlin and just a little ways from the Czech border, Dresden is well-known for the Allied destruction that ravaged the city in 1945. The *Frauenkirche*, which suffered particularly notorious damage from the bombing, was finally reconstructed as of 2005. I had the exciting opportunity to work in and next to this monument all summer long!

At the foundation, I completed a number of German-English translation projects and was given the opportunity to work with the in-house architect. This was an exciting summer to be at the *Frauenkirche* because it was the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, so there were several special events taking place. In fact, in conjunction with my internship, I also got to spend three weeks in Wittenberg working at the Worldwide Exhibit for the Protestant Reformation and living right down the street from where Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses! When I was not at work, I was hanging out with German friends whom I met during my stay, spending evenings on the banks of the Elbe and weekends hiking in the *Sächsische Schweiz*.

The most formidable but rewarding aspect of my summer experience was definitely being constantly immersed in German-speaking work and social environments. This full German immersion was intimidating at first, but I loved the challenge. In just three months, my German skills improved drastically. I am immensely grateful for such an amazing experience abroad, which has also helped me jump ahead in my German coursework at Wellesley. I miss Dresden every day and cannot wait until I have a chance to visit again!



German Club Year in Review

German Club president, Lauren Futami '18, helped lead yet another successful Oktoberfest during the fall semester. In addition to several movie nights, including *Victoria* and *Babylon Berlin*, the group also took a trip to the Harvard Art Museum to see an exhibit called *Inventur—Art in Germany, 1943–55*. Curated by Lynette Roth, *Inventur* deals with the cultural response to post-World War II. The pieces originate from Harvard's own Busch-Reisinger and Fogg collections as well as various public and private ones from the United States and Germany.



Unsere Language Assistant Laura Reeder

“My time here as the Language Assistant in the German department has been very rewarding. My work includes tutoring and holding the weekly German conversation table, as well as participating in cultural events and helping with corrections. A personal highlight for me in the fall semester was acting in the German play "Verrücktes Blut" that Professor Römisch's class performed. In winter session, I was very happy to work with the students that went to Berlin and

accompany them as they explored the city that I grew up in. I also had a wonderful time on a day trip to Dresden. This semester, my favorite moment was when I was able to substitute for Professor Hans and teach one of the lessons of the German 102 course.

Studying here at Wellesley has also been a great experience. The philosophy course that I took last semester has sparked interest in a whole new field of study for me. The motivation and dedication with which Wellesley students in general pursue their studies is impressive.

In the holidays, I have had the chance to travel around the United States and get to know how big and multifaceted this country is. I am very grateful to everyone in the German department, it has been a pleasure to work there. I am also very thankful to all the students, whose hard work has shown some real progress over the year, and whose interest in the German language and cultural traditions has been a cause for joy. Leaving this summer, I will take a treasure of experiences home with me.”

Faculty Recommendations

Professor Römisch:

Hören: Element of Crime - Romantik

Don't get fooled by the band's name. This is German pop- and rock music at its best. It's often times melancholic but always catchy. The lyrics by front man Sven Regener (who is also the formidable author of several novels) are superbly composed, humorous, smart and poetic, and his husky, deep voice is one of a kind. Only Element of Crime manages to elegantly include the line "Der Verfall der guten Sitten im Bereich des öffentlichen Nahverkehrs" (The decline in morality in the area of local public transportation) in a poetic reminiscence of days filled with friendship, weltenschmerz and philosophizing ("Alle Vier Minuten").



Essen: Munich is famous for its dining scene.

Stadtcafe - Are you in the mood for some of the best cakes and pastries in Munich? Do you want to hang out with journalists from the Süddeutsche Zeitung, film enthusiasts, and local intellectuals? This is the place to go! It's located in the heart of Munich, next to the Münchner Stadtmuseum and the renowned Filmmuseum. If you are lucky, you may even bump into some famous international filmmakers who are screening their work at Filmmuseum. They also have a beautiful courtyard Biergarten tucked in the back! Sankt-Jakobs-Platz 1

Cafe Maria - Great breakfast - Klenzestraße 97

Cafe Pini - Fantastic Coffee, homemade juice and more - Klenzestraße 45, 80469 München

In the mood for Italian? Try Trattoria Bellini - Nymphenburger Str. 120

And, of course, the most important: Munich's most famous ice-cream parlour. Eiskonditorei Saracetti - Nymphenburger Str. 155

Anschauen: Hanami: Kirschblüten (2007, 127 min)

When Rudi's wife Trudi suddenly dies, he travels from his provincial Bavarian town to Japan and attempts to fulfill her dream of being a Butoh dancer. Doris Dörrie's tale about love, grief and cross-cultural discovery lives through its tender and emotional storytelling, the sublime acting by Elmar Wepper and Hannelore Elsner, and the discovery of pure visual poetry. Keep your tissues at hand!



Language Assistant Laura Reeder:

Entdecken Berlin:

Freiluftkino: In the mood for watching a good movie but the weather is too good to stay inside? Check out Berlin's open-air cinemas at <http://www.freiluftkino-berlin.de/> The best: You can bring your own food and drinks, or purchase snacks there. If the weather does not cooperate, be sure to check out the program of the Yorck Kinogruppe. They show a wonderful collection of non-mainstream movies in Berlin's most beautiful and very comfortable movie theaters. <https://www.yorck.de/>

Schlachtensee: In summer, you have to visit one of Berlin's most popular lakes, the Schlachtensee. People swim, sun-bathe and play or listen to music. It can get a bit crowded there but it is lots of fun anyways. S-Bhf. Schlachtensee, Berlin.

Flohmarkt am Mauerpark: Berlin has many markets but this might be the biggest: the flea and arts market that takes place every Sunday in the Mauerpark Berlin. In the afternoon, you can sing Karaoke there or listen to other Karaoke singers, too. The park is also historical as it was part of the Berlin Wall. Bernauer Straße 63, 10435 Berlin.

Lesen: "Die Känguru-Chroniken" by Mark-Uwe Kling. Absurd but hilarious story about a "Kleinkünstler" that finds himself living in a shared apartment with a communist kangaroo. It takes place in Berlin and includes many characters that are in themselves typical for Berlin. It's especially funny to listen to the audio books where Kling reads the story aloud but for students it might be easier to understand if they can read it themselves.



Hören: My favourite German singing band, AnnenMayKantereit. I love their songs and the lyrics are usually very relatable, so make sure that you understand them. You find most of their songs on YouTube, for example "3. Stock" <https://youtu.be/keZDP9ETm4s>

Professor Hans:

Anschauen: German television series are enjoying a rise in popularity. Watch the hit series *Babylon Berlin*, directed by Tom Tykwer, Achim von Borries and Henk Handloegten. Set in Berlin during the Weimar Republic, the gritty crime series is based on the popular books by Volker Kutscher.



Essen: Vienna is well known for its *Kaffeehauskultur*. You won't be disappointed by any of the big names, but grab a *Melange*, the Viennese version of a cappuccino, and a plate of the sweet *Buchteln*, sweet yeast dumplings, and settle in for a chat in a historic place.

Erfahren: With more and more national libraries digitizing key parts of their collections, Austria is certainly doing the same. Poke around through a wide range of papers and magazines going back to the 16th century at their easy-to-navigate site: <http://anno.onb.ac.at/>

Alumnae Aktuell

Ley Muller „10

I'm a 2010 grad currently living in Oslo, Norway. I received my PhD at the University of Oslo in December 2017, made much more fun by a fellowship at the University of Hamburg. The German spoken there, Plattdeutsch, sounded almost Norwegian, and quite different from the Austrian German I was used to. I was able to speak Norwegian fluently after one year, which is directly a result of speaking German. Germans are supposed to be fluent in three months. And because I spoke Norwegian, I got my PhD position that required data collection in Norway, so really, it was my German that got me my current research career. I'm (now) furiously writing applications for research money from the Norwegian government to design an eHealth intervention to reduce alcohol use and HIV-risk behavior among university students in Botswana. However, I miss speaking German terribly, and am always on the lookout for short- or long-term opportunities in any German-speaking country that I could convince my partner to join me on. Latest book recommendation: what I think will be one of my favorites, *Aller Tage Abend* by Jenny Erpenbeck.

Katie Van Adzin, „11

After graduating from Wellesley, I lived in Munich briefly before returning to Boston and beginning a career in B2B tech content marketing. My German skills have served me in some way in every job I've had since graduation, from editing articles written by execs at SAP or doing SEO keyword research for HP's German blogs. I got married in 2015 and live in Arlington, MA with my husband, our 1.5-year-old son, and two cats, none of whom speak German. I compensate for this by binge-watching *Babylon Berlin* and reading *Eva Almstaedt Krimis*. As a result, I'm pretty rusty with small talk, but I can talk about crime scenes all day. I miss Wellesley and the German dept. in particular, and hope everyone is doing well!

Jennifer (Faa) MacDonald „12

I have been gorging on vegan schnitzel and 'Gemischter Satz' for the past 6 years. In 2013, I completed my first year as an English language assistant, under the auspices of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, in Burgenland, Austria. My supervisor even taught me how to produce wine on his vineyard! In 2015, I completed my MSc in Environmental Technology and International Affairs at the Technical University Vienna. I then worked for an environmental consultancy, Envicient Consulting, in the area of food waste, working with the Department of Environmental Protection of the City of Vienna and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water. Currently, I work as a Technical Project Manager at the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA). Our projects focus on implementing integrated solid waste management programs in developing countries. In my free time, I have picked up homebrewing and brew a variety of beers, most recently a mango IPA and coconut stout. This past summer, I met Professor Hans, her husband, and her two beautiful daughters in Vienna and hope they return soon for another visit. I cannot believe how much learning German at Wellesley has changed my life and helped me grow. I will always have some of my fondest memories at the Department.

Helen Korte „17

It definitely doesn't feel like almost a year since I graduated - it was only last May but here we are with the first signs of spring in Boston!

While the time has moved quickly, I have had a super busy year. Since graduating, I have been working at a consulting firm in Boston - our clients are mostly large telecom companies across the US and EMEA, but we have expertise across the telecom and technology sectors. My day-to-day is comprised of data management, developing reports, and brainstorming business strategies. My colleagues are all fabulous, young professionals and we often enjoy happy hours - it makes the famously long consulting hours worth it.

I must say I've missed the German Department - there's nothing like tea, cookies, and a cozy couch on the fourth floor of Founders! I don't get to speak in German very often these days, and try to squeeze in at least one news article a day to make sure it doesn't get too rusty. That being said, it has come in handy to know German - it just so happened that one of our projects required some hard-to-find German census data, and I was the only one who was able to find it!

Congrats to the graduating seniors, and cheers to the end of another academic year!

*Congratulations to our German Studies Department
Prize Winners, 2017-2018:*

The Natalie Wipplinger (Senior) Prize

- Emily Moore
- Annie Schnitzer

The Ethel Folger Williams (Sophomore) Prize

- Carla Adams
- Paige Calvert
- Eleanor Willard
- Yuxi Xia

The Elizabeth Vogel Falk Prize

- Paloma Soriano „18
- Maddie Taylor „19

Class of 2018 German Studies Majors and Minors



Emily Moore
German Studies & Studio Art
Double Major



Annie Schnitzer
German Studies Major



Paloma Soriano
German Studies and International
Relations Political Science
Double Major



Karley Bussow
Chemistry Major
German Studies Minor



Jaki Galyon
History Major
German Studies Minor



Rachel Wulff
Neuroscience Major
German Studies Minor

The Department of German Studies

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