



Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

With the two senior members of the department retiring at the end of this semester, this academic year is marked by important transitions.

Professor Thomas Hansen joined Wellesley's German department in 1977, serving as the first male faculty member in the department's history. Professor Jens Kruse arrived at Wellesley six years later. Back then, our department was still located on the bottom floor of Founders Hall, now occupied by the English department. Both Professor Hansen and Professor Kruse brought to our department a deep commitment to German life and letters and to the teaching of the German language.

Their pedagogical, administrative, and scholarly achievements are too varied and numerous to list here, their dedication to our department and to Wellesley College too deep to be put in easy terms. I can only encourage you to visit their websites to get at least a glimpse of their past and current work, and to join me in applauding them on their many achievements – and we wish them the best of luck for their future endeavors!

To be sure, it will take some time for us to regroup as a department while we have already started in revising and redesigning parts of our curriculum. We are looking forward to welcoming Mark Römisch as our new Visiting Lecturer; Mr Römisch taught for us already in the fall and it may be of interest to you to learn that – aside from being a most engaging language teacher – he is a prolific artist with portfolios both in acting and in photography.

We also added an entirely new dimension to our department: A slate of very attractive summer internships for students who speak German. Among our new partners are world-renowned institutions like the Stiftung Frauenkirche Dresden and the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Sachsen as well as the Entwicklungspolitisches Netzwerk Sachsen, an umbrella organization devoted to social issues. These competitive internships are generously supported by grants from our Center for Work and Studies.

Among the highlights of the department's events was a well-attended talk, organized by the German Club, that featured Dr. Ralf Horlemann, Consul General of the Federal Republic Germany, who addressed the "European Migration Crisis and Germany's Role in the World." And in April we hosted the Israeli Stage which performed Strawberry Girl, a play written by German-born Israeli playwright Savyon Liebrecht.

Let me conclude these remarks with heartfelt thanks to the members of the German Club for all their exciting work, and with best wishes to our accomplished majors and minors who have done an amazing job pursuing their studies both here at Wellesley and in their studies abroad. We all wish them the very best for the years to come!

*-Thomas Nolden*

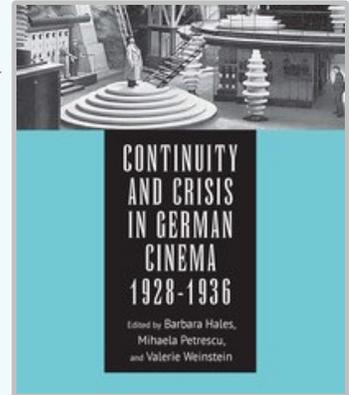
## Focus on Faculty

### Anjeana Hans



Anjeana Hans was given tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in fall 2015. This year, in addition to continuing her departmental work with students, she began directing the First-Year Seminar program. Her teaching this year has focused on intermediate language and intermediate/advanced level literature, and she's been busily planning new courses to be taught next year at the advanced level of the curriculum, as well as beginning work on a blended learning project, supported by Wellesley College, in which she will create an on-line grammar component for a course on German Fairy Tales scheduled for the fall. As always, she's enjoyed working with students in her classes and in the department to help plan their further studies and potential time abroad.

In addition to her teaching, she was able to continue moving forward her research agenda. She took part in a German Film Institute at the University of Michigan in the summer of 2015, a great way to reconnect with colleagues in her field of research and prepare to continue developing her current projects. The first of these, focused on images of 'the gypsy' in early German film, led to the completion of a book chapter that will be published in a forthcoming volume, *Continuity and Crisis in German Cinema, 1928-1936* (forthcoming with Camden House, October 2016). She continues work on the second, examining the transition from silent to sound film in Germany. In addition, she completed a chapter on Käthe Kollwitz's work in the context of discussions of gender and war for an exhibition catalog released in conjunction with the Kollwitz Exhibit shown at Wellesley's Davis Museum in fall 2015 (*Käthe Kollwitz and the Women of War*, which features essays by curators from both museums as well as original research from professors at both Wellesley and Smith Colleges). She looks forward to spending the summer in Berlin working on research and enjoying the city with her family.



### Thomas Hansen

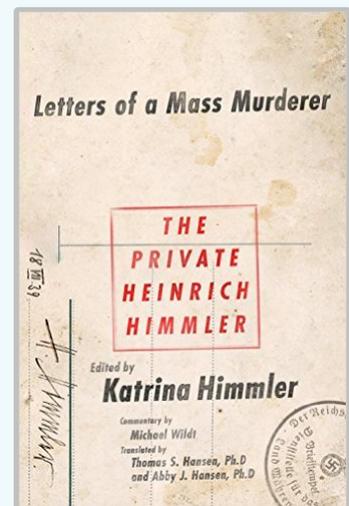


This past fall semester I had the pleasure of teaching a section of German 101 as well as an intermediate-level course, Love in German Literature. I always enjoy beginning language classes because this is the moment in the learning curve when students can make the most startling discoveries about language. It is the moment at which some students get hooked on the language. I have taught the literature course more than once but am always interested in the fact that literary tales of love are almost always fables with tragic consequences. However, I doubt that anybody has ever interpreted the course as warning about human affection.

I have been working hard as a translator both during the summer months and during this semester of leave. My wife and I are a translating team, which is very practical.

Our English version of the private correspondence of Heinrich Himmler has just appeared with St. Martin's Press (*Letters of a Mass Murderer. The Private Himmler*, 2016). The American edition unfortunately omits the original family photographs, which correlate with the letters written by husband, wife, and young daughter. What sort of content emerges from a soldier whose job it was to establish death camps? Himmler's private correspondence avoids the topic and focuses on family matters, although the underlying mean-spirited tone of these adults betrays their essential character while accentuating their daughter's innocence.

I have also worked on a scholarly book of art history. Hans Belting's history of the human face will appear in a couple of months English as *Faces and Masks. A Human History*. Belting brings anthropology to his interdisciplinary approach. The work scans the earliest stone masks from the Neolithic to Andy Warhol's Mao series. Translating is both linguistically challenging and personally rewarding, which makes it the perfect endeavor to pursue in retirement, which after 39 years at Wellesley beckons on the horizon.



## Focus on Faculty

### Jens Kruse



As of July 1, 2016, Jens Kruse will be fully retired from the college. He thanks 33 years of students for working with him and contributing to an interesting and fulfilling life at Wellesley College.

He now lives on Orcas Island in Washington State where he continues working on various writing and other projects. Some of them are described here: <http://www.wellesley.edu/german/facultystaff/kruse>.

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

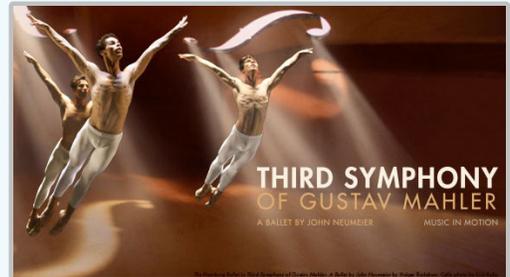
### Thomas Nolden



Thomas Nolden led a group of students to Berlin during winter session in January and created an exciting internship program for students in Dresden. In the fall term, he taught his course “From Berlin and London to Hollywood” to Brandeis University, and offered two new courses at Wellesley: a seminar on “New Media” and a course on “Cultural Capitals: Berlin, Vienna, and Prague.”

In October, Prof. Nolden took a group of students to see Boston Ballet's production of Music: Third Symphony of Gustav Mahler. As chair of the Committee of Language and Literature Departments and Programs, he worked on closer

cooperation between Wellesley's language departments and Babson College and Olin College. He is finishing up an essay, “Paris sans voix,” discussing how French collaboration silenced the French capital during the so-called *années noires*, and is looking forward to heading to Vienna and Prague in May as part of the senior excursion.



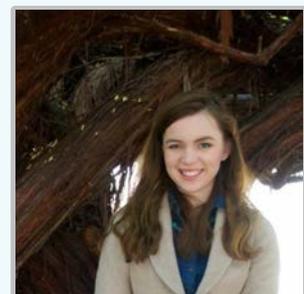
### Our Graduating German Majors and Minors



Lisa Rodon: Studio Art and German double Major



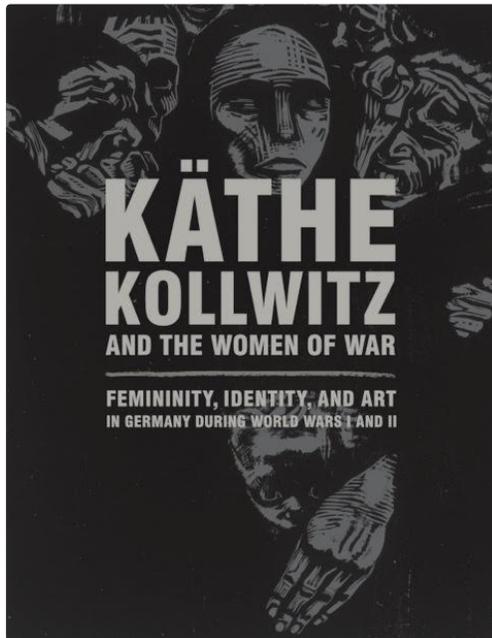
From left to right: Gillian Beltz-Mohrmann: Astrophysics Major, German Minor; Sarah Pangburn: German and Biology double Major; Katharine Starke: German and Art History double Major; Lori Rash: Philosophy Major, German Minor.



Emma McMahon: Economics Major, German Minor

# The Arts and Germany at Wellesley

## The Krieg-Cycle: Käthe Kollwitz and World War I



Recent publication about German artist Käthe Kollwitz in the context of the World Wars and the Weimar Republic featuring new scholarship by curators and professors at Wellesley College and Smith College.

*Käthe Kollwitz and the Women of War: Femininity, Identity, and Art in Germany during World Wars I and II*

In the Fall of 2015, the Davis Museum presented the exhibition *The Krieg Cycle: Käthe Kollwitz and World War I*. This temporary exhibit was curated by Wellesley's Associate Curator, Claire Whitner with generous support from Wellesley College Friends of Arts, The Claire Freedman Lober '44 Davis Museum Program Endowment, and The Judith Blough Wentz '57 Museum Programs Fund.

Following the death of her youngest son in World War I, Käthe Kollwitz's mourning motivated her to seek universal images that communicated the devastation wrought by war, not only in the trenches but in society at large. In the eight years following her son's death, Kollwitz produced sketches, etchings, lithographs, and woodcuts, editing and distilling her imagery in preparation for what would become one of her seminal series, *Krieg* (War). This famous work is comprised of seven powerful woodcuts depicting wartime widows, mourning parents, and fatherless children left behind as combatants march off in the company of death.

This exhibition offered visitors the opportunity to experience impact of Käthe Kollwitz's groundbreaking print series, *Krieg*. The seven woodcuts from *Krieg* were displayed alongside lithographs and sculpture, as well as her rare preparatory drawings and trial proofs. This exhibition explored Kollwitz's artistic development alongside her process of mourning—one that proceeded from very devastating, personal grief to a perspicacious meditation on war and its cost to society.

## The Strawberry Girl

This April Wellesley's German Department, in collaboration with the Jewish Studies Department and Wellesley Hillel, invited the theatre group Isreali Stage to campus to perform Israeli playwright, Savyon Liebrecht's *The Strawberry Girl*.

Liebrecht was born 1948 in Munich to Holocaust survivor parents and is one of Israel's most beloved playwrights. Her short-story-turned-play *The Strawberry Girl*, directed by Guy Ben-Aharon and performed by Nancy Carroll, tells the story of a German woman whose husband works at a "factory." Her life changes after she meets a Jewish girl from the 'factory' who grows strawberries, as big as a man's fist. The play deals with the confrontation of blissful ignorance and a tragic personal intimacy.

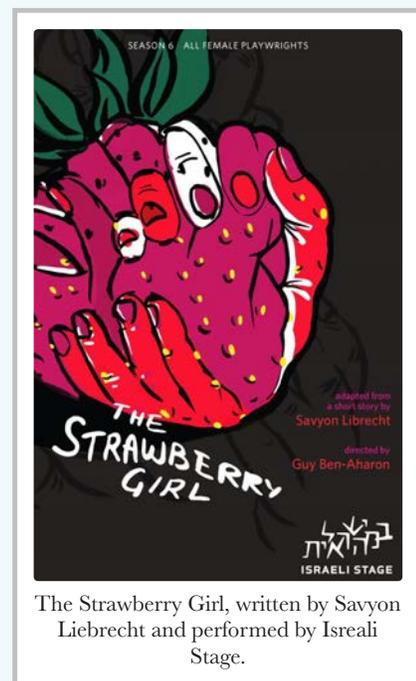
Isreali Stage is currently in its sixth season, which it has dedicated to the performance of pieces by exclusively female playwrights.

For more information on the Kollwitz exhibition visit:

<https://www.wellesley.edu/davismuseum/whats-on/past/node/64251>

To learn more about Israeli Stage and their upcoming performances visit:

<http://www.israelistage.com/>



The Strawberry Girl, written by Savyon Liebrecht and performed by Isreali Stage.

# Impressions from Abroad

## Wintersession in Berlin

I was panicking internally as I boarded the plane to Germany. I had never been to a foreign country before and had no clue what to expect. I was so relieved to find that in many places, German and English were spoken, so I didn't have to spend my two weeks there too linguistically overwhelmed. Even so, it was more of a challenge to use my German skills than I had expected. The first day, it seemed that people knew we were American before we even opened our mouths. I don't know if I ever made it all the way through a German sentence without messing something up, but it was funny and also helpful how willing Germans were to take the time to help correct me.

I loved Berlin. The other Wellesley 202 students and I would hop on public transportation in a moment and go explore. My orchestra director always said that hearing the Berlin Philharmonic perform was on his bucket-list, which I was able to go experience! I also really enjoyed going to the opera, which was much more enriching given that I could actually understand the words they were singing. I'm ashamed to admit it now, but I took German 101 only because the Spanish class was full! I had no idea that I would end up going to Berlin, minoring in German, and studying abroad next year in Bremen!

*-Rachel Wulff '18*

Throughout my German courses I've always had a lot of trouble speaking German out loud. It was a combination of fear of making mistakes and also being unable to quickly translate spoken German in my head. My biggest fear going to Berlin was all of the spoken interactions that it would involve. And as it turned out, Wintersession went extremely well. Most people were surprisingly patient with my slow and nervous German. One shopkeeper pulled me aside after she saw me eyeing a cat postcard and she quickly started telling me about a German poem about 52 kittens. She could tell I was having trouble understanding, so she repeated herself with plenty of enunciation and hand gestures.

The other shopkeeper stood there trying to translate it for me into English. They were both so kind and patient and understanding and strangely supportive, it's such a nice memory to look back on. My only regret is that I unfortunately forgot to ask the poem's title and haven't been able to find it again. Overall, I found that it was much easier speaking to strangers in German because it was all very temporary. Of course, some people laughed at my German, in fact this one museum worker wouldn't stop laughing even after I walked away (oh well). But it was all so much fun and I learned so much. I was sad to leave but happy I went.

*-Lauren Futami '18*

## Year Abroad in Mainz

In February I completed my first semester of my year abroad in Mainz, Germany. My time abroad has given me many cultural insights and I've come to appreciate certain aspects of the United States and Germany more now. I have been enjoying my daily experiences in a new country, ranging from successful interactions at the bank, to trying the marvelous range of dairy products in the supermarket. Studying at a German university and living with German students has shown me similarities and differences between us. It is interesting to see their perceptions of the United States and our culture's influence on them. I sometimes feel that they know a lot more about my country than I know about theirs, though I suspect that some of their information only comes from movies and television!

Additionally, I have learned more about the German school system and university culture, which is quite different from that of the U.S. I am lucky to be able to witness such a significant time in the history of Germany, as refugees flood into the European Union. It is interesting to observe changes in political and public opinion, especially in response to events such as the New Year's Eve attacks in Cologne and other cities. I hope that my next semester in Germany contains as much learning and new experiences as my first one has.

*-Divya Alukal '17*



## German Club

This year has been full of exciting events and fun memories for members of the German Club. We continue to share German culture with Wellesley as part of a larger community of cultural organizations that celebrate diversity on campus. This past October we hosted our annual Oktoberfest in Punch's Alley and had a good turn out of students outside of the club, which is always exciting.

The largest event of the Fall semester was the lecture we organized, with the generous help and support from the German and Economics Departments, inviting the the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ralf Horlemann, to Wellesley's campus to give a talk about the European migration crisis and Germany's role in the world.

Ralf Horlemann spoke about Germany's response to the Syrian refugee crisis and crisis intervention at large. Horlemann has been part of the German Foreign Service for more than two decades and has experience in international security, transatlantic relations and Asian affairs. He described Germany post WWII as possessing a generous philosophy and sense of responsibility towards international humanitarian crises. Therefore, when the Syrian refugee crisis and subsequent migration ensued, Germany welcomed them with open arms giving them food, shelter and a chance to learn the German language.

Horlemann described the refugees as contributing quite a bit to the nation's economy and population. In the past decade, Germany has experienced declining birth rates and a lack of willingness for citizens to fill skilled labor jobs. The incoming group of Syrian refugees offers a chance to stimulate that sector of the economy. This ideology comes into conflict with narratives of refugees depleting a nation of their resources, which Horlemann argues is simply untrue.

The main struggle in the future, however, will be integration of the refugees who choose to stay even after their home country is stabilized. Language courses and developing a sense of German culture will be integral to their success in the country. Many other nations in the EU have not extended as much help, with Germany far and beyond accepting the most refugees. Horlemann urges more unity among EU nations to shift the burden more equally. Wellesley was happy to be able to host Ralf Horlemann for this important discussion and many students took away key pieces of information.

Carrying on this momentum in the Spring term, German Club hosted a Fasching party in collaboration with French Club, which took place in Wellesley's *Maison Française*. Fasching, also known as 'Karnival', celebrates the last "hoorah" before Lent. Many students from the 202 Wintersession in Berlin class attended and reminisced on their time in Germany.

-Gretchen Parmley '16



Wellesley German Club celebrating Oktober Fest at Punch's Alley



Professor Hans and Consul General Ralf Horlemann visiting the Kollwitz exhibit



Consul General Ralf Horlemann with Wellesley's German Club



Consul General Ralf Horlemann lecture

# Faculty Recommendations

Thomas Hansen

**Eat:** Ilona Stüberl (Bräuner Str. 2, Vienna) is a charming and authentic Hungarian restaurant in the city center, just around the corner from the imposing baroque Plague Column. This is a family-run business with very tasty food from a range of central European specialties.



I also recommend Café Eiles an authentic Viennese coffeehouse that has not been redecorated for tourists. A great place to come to after the art museum closes and try your first Wiener Schnitzel. Located just outside the Ring, Josefstädter Str. 2, corner of Landesgerichtstr., Vienna.

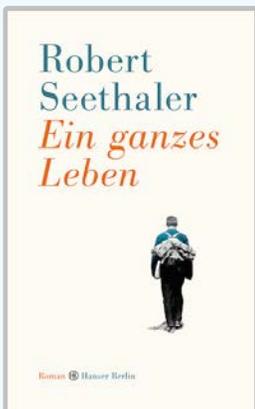
**Listen:** German tenor Jonas Kaufman. This young singer is taking the world by storm. If Italian repertoire is your preference, then you will love his recordings of Verdi and Puccini. But don't miss his German operatic arias, and especially his interpretations of Wagner, which are as lyrical as they will ever get.



**Learn:** Wellesley students leave college knowing Goethe's "Erlkönig," but I also recommend "Der Fischer" and "Der Zauberlehrling," also by Goethe, which tell short suspenseful stories. Schiller wrote fine ballads, often with surprise endings such as "Der Taucher" and "Der Ring des Polykrates."

Thomas Nolden

**Read:** Among his favorite books that he 'read' last year is Otto Nückel's *Schicksal. Eine Geschichte in Bildern* (1930); please check out the book to understand why you can't read this book in the conventional sense of the word. Another favorite: the yet-to-be-translated novel *Ein ganzes Leben* by Austrian writer Robert Seethaler.



**Watch:** And he can't wait for the US-release of Maren Ade's new film *Toni Erdmann*.

Anjeana Hans

**Listen:** Remember Nena, of "99 Luftballons"? She's still around. I like this song, from her latest album: *Genau jetzt* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvolE5GHLss>

**Eat** (cake, in Berlin): Coming from a part of Germany where 'Kuchenkultur' is much more developed, I'm always on the lookout for a place to get good cake in Berlin. Nothing quite reaches the level of the bakeries I grew up with, but here's a short list of my recommendations, all three in Prenzlauerberg, Berlin:

Sowohlalsauch: Try the Käsekuchen or the Russischer Zupfkuchen! Great coffee. Kollwitzstrasse 88.

Franz-Karl Kuchenkultur: Austrian coffee and desserts. Lecker. Böttzowstrasse 15.

Bekarei: In the mood for something less German? Try this Portuguese bakery-café. Dunckerstrasse 23.

**Read:** Christopher Kloeble's *Unter Einzelgängern* (2013) and *Meistens alles sehr schnell* (2015). The latter is available in English translation (Almost Everything Very Fast, 2016).



**Learn:** Great history site: <https://www.dhm.de/lemo>. This has material including video, audio, images, and primary texts and first-hand accounts of historical events. A great site to explore if you're interested in German history and culture.

**Watch:** Deutschland 83: Spies, coming-of-age, and Germany in the 80s – how could this not be good? This German television series from 2015 aired on SundanceTV. Worth watching!



# Alumnae Aktuell

Elizabeth Silvers

It has been such a pleasure to live in Boston and have the opportunity to stay in touch with the department as well as take part in German club events over the past couple of years since graduating, but I will soon pack up and head to Yale to begin my studies to become a pediatric nurse practitioner. I'm excited to take a trip in the meantime to visit a fellow major, Emily Bell '13, in Berlin and my grandparents in Switzerland to brush up on my German -- they inspired me to pursue German Studies at Wellesley, so I feel I have come full circle!

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