



EUROPEAN STUDIES CENTER

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Photo courtesy of Wiki Commons

People sit around a fountain at the Berlin Staatsbibliothek.

LOST AND FOUND IN BERLIN

by Adam Shear, Associate Professor
Department of Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh

Careful readers might recall an article I wrote in for this newsletter in 2009 in which I recounted an experience trying to consult sixteenth-century booksellers’ catalogs at the German National Library in Leipzig. Call slip after call slip came back to me with the notation “destroyed or missing in the war” – a bump in the road for my research on the circulation of early Hebrew printed books in early modern Europe.

Last March, thanks in part to a grant from the ESC, I was in Germany again, this time for a week in Berlin, to attend the annual conference of the Renaissance Society of America (RSA), along with several Pitt colleagues, and to visit the Berlin Staatsbibliothek. Berlin is a dazzlingly cosmopolitan city, and its libraries and museums present an intellectual feast.

But while I was there to immerse myself in early modernity, the twentieth century was constantly present. The Nazi period’s bitter legacy and the traumas of the Cold War division of the city remain ever present in the landscape of Berlin itself. New construction has almost obliterated from view the seam between East

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IN REVIEW



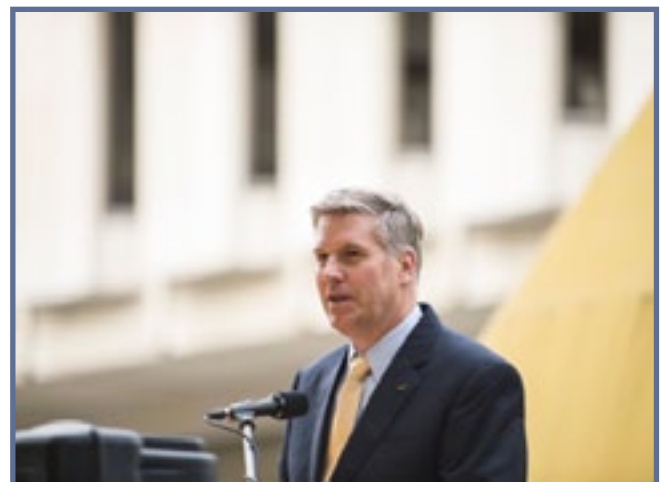
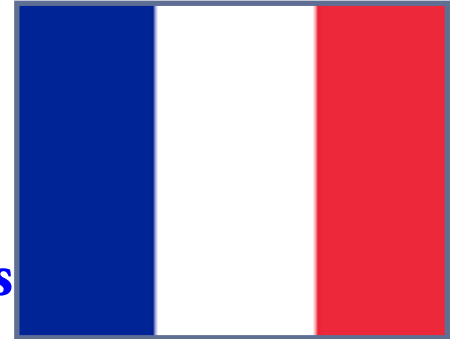
On Nov. 18, the European Studies Center, in conjunction with the University Center for International Studies, held an event in honor of the victims of the Paris attacks on Nov. 13, in the Forbes Quadrangle. The event, called “Hail to Paris: Pitt Stands with Paris,” showed support not only for the victims of terrorism in Paris, but also recognized and honored victims in similar attacks in other cities around the world. Hail to Paris opened with a moment of silence and reflection by a crowd of over 250, and then remarks by ESC Director Ron Linden (left). There also was a musical performance from the Pitt Gamelan and Professor Andrew Weintraub of the Music Department. Photos courtesy of Aimee Obidzinski and Tom Altany of CIDDE.



H2P

Hail to Paris

Pitt Stands with Paris



Speaking at H2P were (sitting left to right) University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Patrick Gallagher, Former Honorary Consul of France Jean-Pierre Collet, who led the “La Marseillaise,” Community Affairs Manager Lex Jones, who spoke on behalf of Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, Honorary Consul of France Jean-Dominique Le Garrec, and UCIS Director Ariel Armony. Chancellor Gallagher (speaking right) also authorized that lights representing France’s flag be shined onto the top of the Cathedral of Learning at night (next page, center).

IN REVIEW



Top left: UCIS Director Ariel Armony speaks to the crowd. Top right: The crowd stands to sing “La Marseillaise,” the lyrics to which are:

*Allons enfants de la patrie,
Le jour de gloire est arrivé!
Contre nous de la tyrannie
L'étendard sanglant est levé! (bis)
Entendez-vous dans les campagnes,
Mugir ces féroces soldats?
Ils viennent jusque dans nos bras
Égorger nos fils, nos compagnes!*

*Aux armes, citoyens!
Formez vos bataillons!
Marchons! Marchons!
Qu'un sang impur
Abreuve nos sillons!*



Bottom left: Paul Miller of Duquesne University plays the viola with the Pitt Gamelan. Bottom right: a woman in the crowd stands with a sign that in English reads: “Flowers and candles protect us.” It is in reference to a viral Facebook video where a French man named Angel Le explains the attacks to his young son, Brandon. “What about the baddies, Dad,” Brandon asks in the video. “They’ve got guns.” “They’ve got guns, but we have flowers,” Angel replies.



COMING UP

EUROPE DAY CONTEST

The ESC's Europe Day Contest is a multimedia contest for students in grades K-12. Students participating in the Europe Day Contest can submit projects using different forms of media related to each year's theme as an individual participant or as a member of a group of two to four students based on the type of project. Selected student winners will be awarded prizes and the opportunity to display their work at the first annual Europe Day Festival on Saturday, May 7, 2016 on the University of Pittsburgh campus. Please visit the ESC website for more details, and if you have any questions, please contact the ESC's Outreach Coordinator, Kathy Ayers, at kma69@pitt.edu. **Deadline: March 30.**

FRENCH IMMERSION WORKSHOP-

The French Immersion Institute offers area secondary school French teachers an opportunity to maintain or improve their language skills, to develop deeper understanding of French culture and its global influence, and to share relevant teaching strategies. The Institute hosts three Saturday workshops through the year and a weeklong workshop beginning in the summer of 2016. For more information, contact ESC Outreach Coordinator Kathy Ayers at kma69@pitt.edu. **8:30 am, 4130 Posvar Hall, on March 5.**

CONVERSATION ON TEACHING EUROPE

For the ESC's second installment of *Conversations on Teaching Europe*, we will connect experts and local K-12 teachers via videoconference to discuss strategies and techniques that infuse information about European cultures, people and history as well as contemporary issues into curricula. For this particular session, we will discuss the use of European art and architecture in classroom lessons with a faculty expert and two local K-12 teachers. For more information, please email Kathy Ayers, Outreach Coordinator at kma69@pitt.edu. **4:00 pm, 4217 Posvar Hall, March 23.**

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and West, but a visitor can still notice an uncanny doubling: two museums, two opera houses, and two buildings for the same state library.

On my first day in Berlin, I spent the afternoon in the beautifully renovated special collection reading room in the East Berlin (Unter den Linden) library. I looked at early Hebrew printed books for my own research on early modern reception of medieval texts and for a collaborative project on the movement of Hebrew books after publication, "Footprints." While I was able to see several books of interest for my two projects, many others were unavailable. As the librarian told me, they were – yes – "lost in the war."

The next day I had an appointment with the librarian in charge of Hebraica and Judaica in the West Berlin building, a modernist masterpiece (or disaster depending on taste), to discuss the "Footprints" project and show her our website. I began, however, by asking about the Hebrew books "lost in the war." Lost, but not missing, she said. The books are in the Jagiellonian Library in Poland along with a number of other important collections from the pre-war Prussian State Library, removed for safekeeping during the war, and then taken by the Soviet Army to Cracow. The German government had no intention of asking for the material to be returned, she told me, but neither was there an inclination to completely remove this material from the catalog. The horrors of the Second World War sent the books to Poland; the ongoing legacy of the Cold War explained why my conversation with librarians took place in two different buildings.

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ESC NEWSLETTER:

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For newsletter announcements, comments, or submissions, please email eucnews@pitt.edu.

ESC would like to thank the European Union for support for the Center.

UNDERSTANDING PARIS' *BANLIEUES*

by Dan Holland

PhD Student, Department of History

Last summer, I traveled to France with the help of an ESC grant to conduct research in the Paris suburbs that are known as the *banlieues*. I stayed in an apartment on the Rue de Magenta, about a mile from where November's terrorist attacks occurred at the Bataclan and not far from the shooting locations along the Quai de Valmy. On my morning run, I passed many of these locations and now: *avant tout, mon coeur se brise pour la France*. One cannot help but to sympathize with the people of Paris.

I was there to draw comparisons between the *banlieues* and inner-city neighborhoods in the United States. Part of my research was archival to determine what historical documents exist that tell the story of the *banlieues* post-World War II development. But I soon realized that, like understanding neighborhood dynamics in the United States, learning about the *banlieues* required an on-the-ground investigation. My research also was aided by attending the "Sixth European Conference on Africa Studies: Collective Mobilizations in Africa" at the Sorbonne in Paris.

The *banlieues* are mostly populated by low-income immigrants from North and Sub-Saharan Africa. During initial news reports after the terrorist attacks, the *banlieues* were described as "troubled" areas with "urban problems." This is similar to how inner-city African American communities are stigmatized by the American media. The discussion is not the only similarity, though. The *banlieues* are identified by high-rise apartments that dot the landscape, which is comparable to many public housing complexes in the U.S. The low-income residents in both countries are often profiled and stereotyped. While doing field work, I learned that most people in the *banlieues* struggle to get by each month. They strive to have their voices heard and provide for their families. Yet,

they face almost insurmountable odds, the least of which is that many French do not consider the residents of these communities to be truly "French," which is to say they do not have pale complexions.

The situation in France is reminiscent of America's Civil Rights movement. During this time, many African Americans wanted to be characterized by mainstream society as worthy American citizens, to challenge racially restrictive laws, and change the conventional wisdom that blacks were somehow more violent or less educated than whites. Many protestors carried signs that read, "I am a man," during Civil Rights marches of the 1950s and 1960s. Yet, even today, fifty years after the Civil Rights Act and other accomplishments, we have fallen short in this country to come to terms with our past and correct former abuses. The same can be said of France. Last summer, the immigrants with whom I spoke described a hostile environment, and now, while still mourning the victims of the attacks, low-income French citizens and migrants have to worry about being profiled. I hope that Paris can heal because when I lived there I found its diversity, specifically the Africans I met in the area around Gare du Nord, to be part of its charm.

The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy reports that France has the largest African population in Europe. The speed at which change occurs in France has been a difficult adjustment for some, creating a variety of reactions, from extreme nationalism to attempts to serve those in need from a constrained social democratic government. However, the participants of the Africa conference provided hope that conditions will improve not only in Africa, but for Europe, as well. In one panel entitled, "Urban citizenship and rights to the city," scholars talked about how streets are important mixing places, how art and music are important cultural outlets for young people, and the ways in which social media has facilitated free speech. Echoes of Henri Lefebvre's "right to the city" were invoked a number of times by speakers from Mozambique,



Dan Holland

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IN MEMORIAM: DAVID MURDOCH

In November, the European Studies Center lost a dear friend and collaborator when David A. Murdoch passed away from pancreatic cancer at his family's home outside Pittsburgh. He was 73.

Born in Braddock and raised in Wilkinsburg, Murdoch was an attorney who served on the ESC's External Advisory Board. He also worked as an Honorary German Consul and as Chairman Emeritus for the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh.

"He was a strong supporter of European Studies at Pitt and especially interested in strengthening our ties with people and institutions in Germany," said Ron Linden, Director of the ESC. "Through his role as Honorary Consul of Germany in Pittsburgh, he tirelessly set up ties and meetings that raised our profile."

Alberta Sbragia, who was Director of the ESC before becoming Pitt's Vice Provost, worked with Murdoch for years and remembers him fondly.

"Always gentle, humorous, and perceptive, he was an energetic supporter of the European Studies Center and of UCIS," she said. "His work with the External Advisory Board was essential in moving both the Center and UCIS forward by offering ideas and moral support. His love of Germany was clear both in his role as Honorary Consul and as a host to German students and visitors."



David Murdoch

While attending Harvard University, Murdoch watched workers raise the Berlin Wall in 1961. He was in Germany again when the Wall came down in 1989. Murdoch earned bachelor's and law degrees from Harvard and became a bankruptcy attorney in Pittsburgh. He was a partner at K&L Gates for 33 years, but never officially retired.

As Honorary Consul, he assisted German citizens in western Pennsylvania with passport applications and other official forms. This voluntary position also involved greeting German government and business delegations, as well as serving as the unofficial spokesman for Germany to the Pittsburgh region. He always seemed to keep Pitt and ESC in his mind while working in this role.

"Dave was more than just a champion for our programs," Linden said. "He backed up his words by consistent participation in our events and by helping us identify others in

the Pittsburgh community who might want to be part of our External Advisory Board."

Sbragia valued Murdoch's advice, describing it as pertinent and thoughtful, and his manners, particularly while chairing a meeting, introducing distinguished guests, or talking to students. She said that Murdoch always spoke in a way that made people feel like they were his honored guest.

"Most importantly, I shall remember him as a warm, sincere, and generous person – a peerless colleague and a very dear friend," Sbragia said. €

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Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Tanzania, Mali, and Ghana.

The conference also inspired me to understand the banlieues through the state of Africa. Many on the continent are displaced through urbanization. As land is privatized by international corporate interests, such as the oil and gas industries, people are frequently excluded from power and access to resources. A lack of food and jobs are serious issues, and some repressive states often put down protests violently, making it difficult for organizers to educate small farmers about the downside of land dispossession. There is also a gender dimension to the problem. Many African women who own small businesses and small farms find it hard to negotiate land rights, let

alone have a voice in community and economic affairs. It is within this context that African communities in France struggle to form an identity.

Many migrants have arrived in Paris feeling unwelcome in the land from which they came, and an *étranger* in France. Many of the cultural forms that emerge in France are a hybrid of African resistance identity coupled with the sense of placelessness they feel in Europe. It is hard for French Africans to feel a closeness to France, particularly on Bastille Day, France's national holiday. African rap music, poetry, and art reflect the language of the excluded, the refusal of norms, and the rejection of globalization. Yet, it is hard not to miss the rich culture that surrounded me on the streets of Paris.

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The destruction of Jewish lives in the Holocaust remains ever present in the consciousness of Berlin. The Holocaust memorial, centrally located along the old East-West seam and near what had been the Gestapo headquarters, is both prominent and powerfully moving. Another memorial, commemorating the book burnings on Bebelplatz, consists of empty bookshelves in a room below the level of the square, visible through a glass floor. I visited this memorial one evening in the company of several conference-goers, scholars whose daily lives are committed to books and learning. The memorial is very near one of the libraries and the site of the conference, the campus of the university named for the great nineteenth-century polymath and proponent of tolerance, Alexander von Humboldt.

The RSA gathers historians and literary scholars. Only a few focus their research on Jewish culture. Yet, at the opening reception, the president of Humboldt University invoked the tragic history of German Jews by proclaiming the RSA conference as a return from exile of the Renaissance scholarship that left Germany in the 1930s with German-Jewish refugee scholars like Ernst Cassirer, Erwin Panofsky, and Paul Oskar Kristeller. For our hosts, the conference was not only an academic event but a symbolic closing of a chapter in Berlin's history.

The vibrancy of Jewish life in 2015 Berlin would probably surprise a time traveler from 1945. After my first day, I was no longer surprised when I heard Hebrew on the street or in coffee shops, especially once I learned that some 10,000 Israelis now live in Berlin. They were preceded by an influx of Russian Jews from the former Soviet Union.

My hosts in Berlin were a couple and their two children, the husband an American who teaches Renaissance intellectual history and Jewish studies at a German university, the wife a German studying to be a rabbi at

the Masorti (Conservative) seminary in Potsdam. When I arrived, I offered them my airplane reading, a copy of the Atlantic with Jeffrey Goldberg's article: "Is It Time for the Jews to Leave Europe?" My historian colleague dismissed Goldberg's thesis as unduly alarmist. On Friday evening, they took me to the synagogue on Pestalozzistrasse, one of the only pre-war synagogues still in use, saved from destruction on Kristallnacht because of its location on an interior courtyard with apartment buildings. The Pestalozzistrasse service is unusual, maintaining its pre-war blend of liberal and traditional elements.

The service was the last for the retiring rabbi, a native of Jerusalem, son of refugees who came to Palestine in the 1930s. He returned to Europe to lead congregations after retiring from his Jerusalem pulpit. A service that would feel like an anachronism elsewhere, in honor of an Israeli rabbi in Germany, marked yet another reminder of both the painful legacy of twentieth-century German history and at the same time invoked a different legacy of Berlin as a cosmopolitan center where Jews and Jewish culture found their place.

As for the books, my contact at the Staatsbibliothek is organizing a collaboration of librarians to catalog the thousands of Hebrew books in institutions throughout Berlin that remain un-inventoried and under-studied since 1945. If her group is successful in securing funding, their project will link to databases and Judaica preservation projects elsewhere in Europe. In turn, those projects will link to projects in Israel and the United States (including "Footprints"). The research and cataloging will ultimately enable us to see Berlin in another light, as a center of Jewish culture and books from the world of Moses Mendelssohn in the eighteenth century to the Nazi period – and then beyond. Scholarship on the history of the book cannot revive lost worlds, but it can play some role in recreating and reconstructing those worlds for generations to come. €

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Women in brightly colored traditional African dress and headwear provided another dimension of style that otherwise would be dominated by fashion wannabes and tourists. The food, smells, and sounds of the African diaspora provided a unique depth to Paris that expands the idea of French identity.

These are turbulent times for Europe, as it strug-

gles to manage the influx of migrants. However, it is important to keep in mind the traumatic conditions that exist elsewhere. To understand what is going on in Paris, Americans can learn a great deal from examining cities in our own country. More research is needed to understand the community-driven efforts not just to resist, but to survive and thrive in the fascinating, but increasingly complicated urban environment of Paris. €

PITT-BRADFORD STRENGTHENS TIES TO GERMANY

The relationship between the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford and Germany's Heilbronn University continues to grow, and the European Studies Center was pleased to support their exchange program this semester by awarding funds that helped Professor Carolin Schmidt travel to America.

Professor Schmidt visited Pitt-Bradford for 13 days last month, and while there, she taught courses on International Finance and Financial Markets and Institutions. It was the fourth time Professor Schmidt has taught at Pitt-Bradford.

"I like teaching in the USA because it reminds me that back in Germany I should constantly try to improve my style of teaching," she said. "What I like most about American students is their curiosity and that they ask many questions."

Professor Schmidt also is co-writing a paper with John Crawford, an Assistant Professor of Business at Pitt-Bradford who is the German program director, as well.

University of Pittsburgh

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Professor Crawford taught at Heilbronn last summer and plans to return this June. Together they are also trying to develop a course that they could co-teach remotely via Pitt-Bradford's ITV classroom.

With ESC support, Professor Shailendra Gajanan taught at Heilbronn twice when he ran the exchange program. He said that roughly 20 Pitt-Bradford students have studied in Germany, and this semester there are eight Heilbronn students enrolled at Pitt-Bradford.

"The cultural and the general experience in Europe opens the eyes of so many of our students in so many interesting ways," he said.

That enlightenment goes both ways. Julia Pietrek, a 21-year old from Stuttgart, Germany, is one of the exchange students. It's her first time in the U.S., and she likes discovering the small differences between the two cultures.

"This is what made me interested in going abroad," she said.

Professor Gajanan called the ESC's support an important step in strengthening the relationship with Germany. "In the future, I see more of our students going there, and many more coming our way," he said. €

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