Life in Libraries: A Project in Scotland

by Prof. Andrew J. Strathern and Dr. Pamela J. Stewart

Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh

Strategies for survival undertaken by many libraries often involve projects of digitizing materials and making these available on websites. The Google Books project, for example, makes an increasing number of previously difficult to find works available electronically. While we ourselves, as authors, are involved actively in these processes of digitizing materials and publishing in electronic venues, we have also started this summer (2010) a new multi-year project in Scotland, targeting local libraries, archive centers, and privately held historical collections that contain materials not digitized and which need therefore to be accessed locally. The twin foci of our explorations relate closely to two conferences we co-organized with the European Union Center of Excellence (EUCE) at the University of Pittsburgh, one on farming issues in 2008 and another on minority languages in the European Union region in 2009. The longer term history of farming and the work of local poets and writers of prose in Scots dialects constitute the dual primary interests of our library work, for which we received a small grant of support in 2010 from the EUCE.

The libraries and archive centers we have targeted to date for this project are in the two main areas where we have carried out long term fieldwork, that is, Ayrshire (extending into Dumfries and Galloway), and Perthshire and Angus in the Glens area farther to the north at the intersection between the Lowlands and the Highlands of Scotland.

Initially we named four library centers with which we already had some acquaintance, two in Ayrshire, and two in Perthshire and Angus. The two in Ayrshire were the new Burns Memorial Center in Kay Park, Kilmarnock, and the Library in Ardrossan on the Ayrshire coast. In Angus we were interested in the Restenneth Library, now the Angus Archives repository (plus holdings in the Forfar Library); and in Perthshire the Innerpeffray Library near Muthill and Crieff. As it turned out, the historical backgrounds and contemporary problems of these libraries and Centers proved to be as interesting an ethnographic exploration as their fascinating contents.

The Innerpeffray Library, for example, was founded by a Trust established from the Drummond family estate in its neighborhood in 1680 and is protected from sale or disposition under the terms of the Trust. However, the Trustees must continue to find new ways of meeting the costs of running it in addition to the original bequest. The current Library Manager is seeking ways to make the Library better known and to raise funds by holding functions in the famous garden of the Drummond Estate nearby. Originally, the patronage of the Drummond family was aimed at establishing a lending library—seemingly Scotland’s first of its kind—to allow local farmers, among others, to borrow books, and the Library has the log books recording borrowings made in this way from its inception. The farmers could borrow books on farming practices and...
Thursday, September 16th
Lecture: “The Aesthetics of the Question”
Bernadette Malinowski, University of Augsburg. 12:30 p.m., Cathedral of Learning 602. For more information, please contact Victoria Duerr at vad16@pitt.edu. Sponsored by: Humanities Center.

Wednesday, September 22nd-Saturday, September 25th
International Week
International Week aims to expand the awareness of and interest in global learning opportunities by celebrating the intercultural diversity of campus life. This annual event also promotes collaboration of various divisions and departments as well as student groups on campus and strengthens the University of Pittsburgh as a center for international education. Each day has been selected to reflect different global issues, such as global economy, global security, global health, global education, and international law. In addition, each day showcases the wide variety of cultural events that the University of Pittsburgh has to offer. For a full schedule of events, please visit www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/intlweek.shtml. Sponsored by: Global Studies Program and Office of Cross-Cultural and Leadership Development.

Wednesday, September 22nd
Videoconference with Vaclav Klaus
Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic, will give a lecture via videoconference on the topic “Europe, the Systemic Consequences of the Slowly Abating Crisis and the Need to Reformulate the Case for Capitalism.” 12:00 noon, 211 David Lawrence Hall. For more information, please contact Karen Lautanen at kal70@pitt.edu. Sponsored by: European Studies Center, European Union Center of Excellence.

Thursday, September 23rd
Colloquium: “If Memory Serves: Remembering (and) Sexual Subculture”
Chris Castiglia, Liberal Arts Research Professor of English and Senior Scholar in the Center for American Literary Studies, Penn State University, with responses by: Thomas Dunn, PhD student in Communication; Lester Olson, Professor of Communication and Chancellor’s Distinguished Teacher, and Cathy Hannabach, Visiting Lecturer, Women’s Studies. 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Cathedral of Learning 602. For more information, please contact Victoria Duerr at vad16@pitt.edu. Sponsored by: Humanities Center.

Monday, September 27th
Information Session: DAAD
Scholarship and Grant Information
DAAD (German Academic Exchange Services) will hold information sessions for undergraduate students, graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and faculty about funding opportunities for study and research in Germany. Previous knowledge of German is not required for these awards. 12:00 noon, University Center Pake Room, Carnegie Mellon University. For more information, please contact Judy Zang, Director of National Scholarships, Honors College at 4120-624-6881 or reilly@pitt.edu. Sponsored by: European Studies Center, European Union Center of Excellence.

Tuesday, September 28th
Lecture: “On the Dialectics of Secularization: the Cases of Jacob Taubes and Carl Schmitt”
Martin Treml, Zentrum für Literatur und Kulturwissenschaft Berlin. 1:00 p.m., Cathedral of Learning 602. For more information, please contact Victoria Duerr at vad16@pitt.edu. Sponsored by: Humanities Center.

Wednesday, September 29th
Lecture: “Bauhaus Ghost Stories: Spirit and Photography versus Abstraction and Modern Design”
Elizabeth Otto, Assistant Professor of Visual Studies, SUNY Buffalo. 5:00 p.m., Cathedral of Learning 602. Reception will follow. For more information, please contact Victoria Duerr at vad16@pitt.edu. Sponsored by: Humanities Center.

Thursday, September 30th
Lecture: “Rethinking the Amistad Rebellion”
Marcus Rediker, Distinguished Professor of Atlantic History, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh. 5:00 p.m., Cathedral of Learning 602. For more information, please contact Victoria Duerr at vad16@pitt.edu. Sponsored by: Humanities Center.
As a Russian native, I have always been intrigued by the complex nexus between Russia and Europe. What role does the new Russia, empowered by its vast energy resources, play in Europe? Is it simply “divide and rule,” as often observed in the media, or is the picture more nuanced, as is usually the case? And what are the processes shaping the Europeans’ response to Russia’s newly acquired power and assertiveness? Why can’t Europe speak with a single voice?

Last academic year, due to the generous support of the European Studies Center, I was able to delve deeper into these questions, especially as they pertain to one of the most important EU members, Germany. I spent a productive year studying the German language and taking classes on European politics from both GSPIA and the Political Science Department and trying to deal with the puzzles of Germany’s relationship with Russia.

My fascination with Germany’s role in Europe started when I was studying for my Master’s degree at the International University Bremen. This is when I began to understand the profound transformation that the German self-understanding was undergoing. The World Cup hosted then by Germany saw the public manifestation of fresh German patriotism, and the ensuing discussion questioned the desirability of such a reaction. Watching this debate revealed to me the immense generational shift occurring in German society where younger Germans lacking the memories of WWII years are, perhaps, less inclined to be ashamed of feeling national pride.

It is usually argued that reunification has gradually made Germany a “normal” state whose foreign policy reflects its changing international identity. In other words, it can hardly be described now as a “tamed power,” as Peter Katzenstein once put it. It is not surprising anymore to see German troops participating in a number of out-of-area operations which was not imaginable in the past, given the deeply rooted pacifist orientation of the modern German society. Both normalization and Europeanization have shaped the German foreign policy in recent years. Being a good European helped Germany regain international respect. Normalization that happened after reunification solidified Germany’s confidence on the international scene.

What will this transformation of German identity mean for its relations with other big powers, like Russia, and the future European security order? Looking at German-Russian relations, I am struck by the fact that while Germany is traditionally an exemplary pro-integrationist state, when it comes to dealing with its big eastern partner, it is frequently ready to renege on its EU commitments, often obstructing the common EU response to Russia. For example, Germany rejected the idea of a common European energy policy favored by many smaller EU members. Is it possible to speak about the new “special relationship” forming in Europe?

Bilateral ties between Russia and Germany are stronger than those between Russia and other EU members. Germany is by far the largest EU importer of Russian natural gas. Recently, despite severe criticism from some EU members, Germany and Russia decided to further their energy relationship by building the natural gas pipeline Nord Stream, which will transport gas from Russia via the Baltic Sea directly to Germany. The pipeline will bypass transit states, including EU members Poland and Finland. Germany’s rejection of nuclear energy on the one hand and the need to sustain economic growth on the other require looking for more reliable sources of energy. Furthermore, Russia is a very attractive market for German investment, and many big German companies have long-established interests in Russia.

However, the strength of the German-Russian relationship cannot be completely attributed to economic interdependence. History matters. Many German policy-makers, for example, hope that by sustaining this special relationship they will be able to instigate a domestic political change in Russia and make it more democratic. They are clearly projecting their own positive post-WWII experience within the European institutions on modern Russia. German public opinion also continues to be highly approving of the bilateral ties, perhaps reflecting a deep-seated guilt complex for committing atrocities on Russian soil during the WWII.

In sum, Germany is pursuing an opportunistic policy towards Russia. National priorities trump common European objectives, especially in the field of energy. One can observe the de-Europeanization of German foreign policy with regard to Russia. This trend is not surprising if looked upon within the broader framework of “normalization.” However, it is important to realize that the German policy towards Russia is not simply a function of resource dependence. First of all, only after the emergence of a new “normal” power identity...
The application deadline for submitting proposals is September 30, 2010.

CALL FOR PAPERS: EUSAAP CONFERENCE

The EU Studies Association Asia Pacific is pleased to announce the Call for Papers for its annual Conference to be held in Bangkok and Rayong, Thailand on February 17-19, 2011. This multidisciplinary conference aims to assess the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on the external relations of the EU within the Asia-Pacific region. Issues to be addressed include the role of the High Representative, the “coherence” between trade, development and CFSP policies under the Lisbon Treaty and a comparative assessment of changing perceptions of the EU as a consequence of these reforms. The theme of the conference is: “Assessing the External Impact of the Lisbon Treaty within the Asia-Pacific Region.” For more information, please email sarah.christie@canterbury.ac.nz. Abstracts of 300 words should be submitted online at www.eusaap.org.nz/events.html by October 8, 2010.

THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR FELLOWSHIP

Germany’s Alexander von Humboldt Foundation awards ten German Chancellor Fellowships annually to young professionals in the private, public, not-for-profit, cultural and academic sectors. Application is open to all professions and fields of study, with preference for individuals in economics, law, social sciences and the humanities. Prior knowledge of German is not a prerequisite. The fellowship provides for a stay of one year in Germany for professional development and research. Applicants design individual research-related projects tailored to their professional background and decide at which institutions or organizations to pursue them. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and have received a bachelor’s degree after September 1, 1999. For more information, please visit www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/4074.html. The application deadline for the 2011-2012 fellowship is October 15, 2010.
Lessons in Grammar and Humility: A Year as a FLAS Fellow in Germany

by Katie E. Moriarty

PhD Candidate, Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures

Katie E. Moriarty was the recipient of a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship for the 2009-2010 academic year.

As this newsletter goes to press, I am just beginning my fourth year in the French Language and Literature PhD program and getting back into the groove of teaching again after spending the 2009-2010 academic year as a FLAS fellow in Germany. I find myself in a unique position that for the entirety of this past academic year I studied the German language side by side with some of the very undergraduates I am currently instructing. In addition to the linguistic strides I made in grammar and vocabulary, I gained (very fortunately) significant pedagogical guidance through observations of my German professors’ interactions with both me and my fellow classmates. Long after I have ceased to remember the exact differences between Konjunktiv I and Konjunktiv II (two types of subjunctive moods in German grammar) and which nouns take der, die or das (German articles: masculine, feminine, and neuter), I will keep with me the classroom experiences of being in the intermediate language learner’s seat and also the opportunities that were afforded me to work with Pitt’s very impressive undergraduate population.

In the fall of 2009, I was enrolled in Dr. Uwe Stender’s German Writing course. Our class frequently worked with topics surrounding the fall of the Berlin wall, which I vividly remember watching transpire on my parents’ television set. Needless to say, I noticed more than a few glances from my fellow younger undergraduate classmates as I attempted to explain in German that not only was I alive for this momentous occasion but that for several years afterwards, despite my parents’ explanations, I just could not comprehend why Katarina Witt was representing Germany when she had skated for East Germany during the previous Olympic Games. Though we discussed a plethora of German current TV shows and cultural trends, I tried to focus less on the content of these cultural objects and more on using them to develop reading comprehension and vocabulary for reading German language texts for my dissertation prospectus on ARTE (Association Relative à la Télévision Européenne).

ARTE is a Franco-German television channel jointly maintained and produced by both France and Germany and which provides both countries with high cultural and artistic television programming. As a sort of televised European NPR, ARTE often shows films and documentaries from across the globe to cultivate its viewership. For example, I remember once watching on ARTE a full-length feature film about an Inuit language with French subtitles. Due to the bi-national nature of the channel, the programming is simultaneously broadcast in French and German to reach the biggest audience possible. Prior to beginning doctoral coursework at the University of Pittsburgh, I spent nearly a year and a half studying and working in French-speaking Switzerland, where German was seldom heard. At that time, I spoke and understood no German, which presented obvious challenges for travelling within Switzerland, yet I would frequently tune into ARTE having to read French subtitles during German-language news hours or documentaries. Though I was able to follow in French, I felt I was missing some of the most important cultural nuances that are so often untranslatable.

In some ways, this bilingual television channel served as the impetus for what has evolved into my dissertation topic. In my dissertation, I aim to develop ideas and concepts of “national disorientation” in contemporary French literature. My focus on “national disorientation” will help me to further explore recent trends in nation and identity, along with concepts of “nation-ness” in French literature and cultural studies. During my master’s work, I was first introduced to the phenomenon of France and Germany as the “noyau dur” or “hard core” (i.e. nucleus) of the EU. I became very fascinated with the unique power balance that France and Germany had struck at the helm of the EU despite the existence of 25 other fellow member states. All the more intriguing to me was the “culture as power” role that ARTE filled within this balance. Though ARTE’s programming draws but a relatively small portion of French and Germany’s television viewership, its continued success demonstrates the incredible strength that minoritarian cultural institutions can have on a society. It was then particularly poignant for me to enroll in Dr. Sabine Von Dirke’s course on Minorities in Post-War Germany, where we explored the contributions of post-War immigrants in German society.

Once again, in this course, I found myself mired in German terminology and cultural nuances that my classmates, mostly senior German majors, had long been accustomed to discussing with ease. Though at times, it was frustrating not to be able to communicate as fluidly as my younger classmates, I was highly impressed with their linguistic skills and astute classroom discussions. I myself, however, was often tempted to resort to French or English to prove that, yes, I do understand what is going on and I do have valuable ideas that I would like to share. But I just couldn’t quite seem to master...
FELLOWSHIPS Continued from page 4

FULBRIGHT GERMAN STUDIES SEMINAR AWARD

The Fulbright German Studies 2011 seminar will take place during June 15-25, 2011 in Germany and focus on “Ethnic Diversity and National Identity.” U.S. scholars whose teaching and research focuses on topics related to the seminar theme or the area of German and European studies are invited to apply for a grant to participate in a group seminar on current German society and culture. The seminar will be conducted in English. Up to 15 grants are available. The award includes a lump-sum allowance towards the coverage of round-trip air travel, travel within Germany, lodging and partial per diem, and health insurance coverage (for the duration of the seminar). For more information, please visit www.cies.org/GSS. The application deadline is October 15, 2010.

FULBRIGHT SCHUMAN GRANTS 2011-2012

Seventeen awards for U.S. professionals, including professionals in training (decision-makers, policy-makers, individuals in industry, the media, politics, academia and public administration) for an average duration of four months will be made available for study, research, or lecturing on the organization of the EU, particularly on the process of institution building within the EU, a social process of immense significance in law and political economy, or U.S.-EU relations. U.S. citizens are expected to carry out their projects in at least two Member States of the EU. For more information, please visit www.fullbright.be/Schuman/US_Citizens.htm. The Educational Adviser & Program Manager is Ms. Erica Lutes, who can be reached at adviser@fullbright.be. The deadline for candidates without a doctoral degree or with limited professional experience is late October.

POSTNIKOV Continued from page 3

did Germany began to conduct its foreign policy in a way consistent with it.

Second, Germany’s special relationship with Russia has a lot to do with the legacy of WWII and the history of their bilateral relations throughout the past two centuries when the fate of the European continent largely depended on the balance of power between the two. Perhaps this is why the current German foreign policy increasingly recalls the time when Germany was acting as a great power in Mitteleuropa, skillfully balancing between East and West. This old-new dynamic makes the emergence of a truly common EU policy towards Russia less likely.

MORIARTY Continued from page 5

those pesky Konjunktiv I and II. As the semester progressed, however, I became more comfortable in the class and realized that the course itself was acting like ARTE programming for me. Having long studied French language and culture, I was very familiar with the minorities of post-colonial France. So, in a manner of thinking, this course provided me the German linguistic and cultural version of what had been happening on the German side of the border. The course’s film and article selections were chosen to challenge and inform and truly allowed the students to expand their knowledge of German society through a completely new angle. This is not at all dissimilar to ARTE’s innovative approach of showcasing artistic and cultural programming to captivate European audiences through developing Franco-German approaches to cultural awakenings.

Advanced reading proficiency in German will allow me to expand the parameters of my bibliography far beyond the reaches of French and Anglophone scholarly works by granting me access to the very language and culture that needed translating in the first place. I look forward to continuing my dissertation work in the French and Italian Department, and also to one day mastering the three definite articles der, die, das.

EUCE/ESC Newsletter:

Acting Director: Professor Carolyn Ban
Associate Director: Timothy Thompson
Editor: Julie Draper

For newsletter announcements, comments, or submissions, please e-mail: eucnews@pitt.edu

EUCE/ESC would like to thank the U.S. Department of Education and the European Commission for funds for this issue.
improvements, but the records indicate that they also borrowed books on moral philosophy, which they could perhaps study along with their Biblical readings. One display in the Library records the contemporary arrival of two families from Canada and Australia whose members were moved to discover the borrowing records of an ancestor. The display includes information linking them to these forebears and their appreciation at discovering the reading habits of such distant relatives. Nowadays, of course, these older books in the Library are not available for borrowing and must be handled carefully with gloves in the library itself, as we did on our research visit there.

The Archive Centers we visited hold many items in addition to books: newspapers, photographs, and in particular estate papers from many of the large, or previously large, estates that controlled so much of Scotland’s land in the past, and still do control sizeable amounts. We visited Auchincruive, the site of one campus of the Scottish Agricultural College, just outside of Ayr, with grounds running down to the River Ayr. We talked with a staff member of the College’s library, and she showed us a surprising collection of non-circulating, old farming books, tucked away from the main set of books. We learned that the College occupies ground given to it by the Oswald Estate, whose historical estate papers, however, remain in private hands. We walked across to the Ayrshire Archives building, where the Principal Archivist kindly told us about various historical estate papers held there and also about finds of local poetry in Scots vernacular that turn up in other sets of materials in the Archival repository. We learned from such visits both about the wealth of materials that can be examined and about the difficulties and challenges faced by libraries and archival services in contexts of change and shortages of funding.

For example, many research materials held in the Ardrossan Library can no longer be accessed there. They have to be delivered to the Vennel Local and Family History Centre in Irvine, several miles south of Ardrossan. Staff at the Vennel are very helpful, but the Centre is very small, with limited desk space. We found there a good collection of poetry books we had not seen elsewhere, and the librarians kindly compiled for us a list of materials held on farming, including William Aiton’s “General View of the Agriculture of the County of Ayr,” published in 1811, running to 719 pages, and containing many striking observations on the duties and responsibilities of estate owners and on how village settlements should be planned, as well as discussions of crops and stock, gardens, the rural economy, “obstacles to improvement,” and quite extraordinarily, a set of local Scots language terms, and a disquisition of the “analogy between the Kyle [mid-Ayrshire] dialect and the ancient Greek.” (We were later very fortunate to find a copy of this book for ourselves from a farm family that was selling antiquarian books.)

The farming manuals and histories we examined revealed an important fact: contemporary discussions on farm and estate management, integrated rural development, the stresses and opportunities brought by technological changes—all these find their counterparts and forerunners in earlier writings. We published this year (2010) with Carolina Academic Press, in our new Book Series on European Anthropology, the papers from our 2008 EUCE conference, with the title of “Landscape, Heritage, and Conservation: Farming Issues in the European Union” (P.J. Stewart and A.J. Strathern, editors). The book includes three chapters by us on Scotland and Ireland, and others on France, Italy, Germany, Spain, and topical discussions on Norway and inter-country comparisons, as well as the Scottish Border country and the Cairngorms National Park in Scotland. The book’s front cover shows sheep beside the Reelan River in County Donegal, Republic of Ireland, and a stream or burn that feeds into the River Isla in Perthshire, Scotland is shown on its back cover. Its bright green colors and flowing waters act as eloquent signs of the symbiosis of the landscape, heritage, and farming in these parts, as well as of images that have been incorporated into local poetry. We will be continuing and widening our library and archival searches over a five-year period.

Image of sheep beside the Reelan River in County Donegal, Republic of Ireland, from the front cover of Dr. Stewart and Prof. Strathern’s Landscape, Heritage, and Conservation: Farming Issues in the European Union.
TO THE POINT...

If you would like to be added to the EUCE/ESC newsletter's electronic distribution list, please email the Center at euce@pitt.edu. Include the subject line “Newsletter” and your name, address, and affiliation. You can also call us at 412-648-7405 or send a fax to 412-648-2199. In addition, the latest edition of the newsletter and a complete, updated list of events can always be found at our website: www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/euce.html.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
- September 16 - Lecture: Bernadette Malinowski. 12:30 p.m., 602 Cathedral of Learning.
- September 22-25 - International Week. For full schedule, please visit www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/intlweek.shtml.
- September 22 - Videoconference: Vaclav Klaus. 12:00 noon, 211 David Lawrence Hall.
- September 23 - Colloquium: Chris Castiglia. 12:30-2:00 p.m., 602 Cathedral of Learning.
- September 27 - DAAD Scholarship & Grant Information Session. 9:00 a.m., 532 Alumni Hall, Pitt.
- September 28 - DAAD Scholarship & Grant Information Session. 12:00 noon, University Center Pake Room, CMU.
- September 28 - Lecture: Martin Treml. 1:00 p.m., 602 Cathedral of Learning.
- September 29 - Lecture: Elizabeth Otto. 5:00 p.m., 602 Cathedral of Learning.
- September 30 - Lecture: Marcus Rediker. 5:00 p.m., 602 Cathedral of Learning.

University of Pittsburgh
UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
EUROPEAN UNION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
EUROPEAN STUDIES CENTER
4200 Posvar Hall
PITTSBURGH, PA  15260

Phone: 412-648-7405
Fax: 412-648-2199
E-mail: euce@pitt.edu
www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/euce.html