The Amundson Professors and Me, or How I Learned that England is Part of Europe

by Professor Janelle Greenberg

Department of History, University of Pittsburgh

“Fog in Channel; Continent Cut Off.” So reads the famous headline that for long epitomized the insularity of the English in general and historians of England in particular. Within the last decades, however, this constricted view has been challenged by two University of Pittsburgh scholars who have each held the Carroll Amundson Chair in British History. The first, Hugh Kearney, widened horizons with his groundbreaking study *The British Isles: A History of Four Nations* (Cambridge University Press, 2006). This book reminds us that “Great Britain” is not synonymous with England (or worse, London and the Home Counties) and that those pesky Irish, Welsh, and Scots have played a vital role in the story. Kearney’s successor, Jonathan Scott, extended our intellectual vistas even further. For Scott, a proper understanding of early modern Britain can be achieved only by paying attention to a European-wide context, an approach that informs his path-breaking study *England’s Troubles: Seventeenth-Century English Political Instability in European Context* (Cambridge University Press, 2000).

Kearney and Scott share several qualities: both are Cambridge educated, both miraculously manage to produce first-rate books in the time it takes most of us to write a few decent chapters, and both are in a sense outsiders with a strong affinity for non-English parts of the British Empire—Kearney for the Celtic “fringes” and Scott for his homeland, New Zealand. Perhaps this awareness of “otherness” explains how each has expanded in his own way the intellectual frontiers of the discipline by demonstrating that medieval and early modern English people were, and perceived themselves to be, connected to the British Isles and the European continent.

It has been my good fortune to learn from these Amundson professors. My current project, a history of political ideas in Stuart England during the civil wars and Interregnum (1640 to 1660), would have been much different, and much poorer, were it not for their influence. Heeding their advice to pay attention to the whole of Britain and especially to the continent, I am examining the period’s voluminous literature, which constituted the greatest outpouring of printed political works in history, with a fresh eye. From my re-reading of the polemical tracts, it is now clear that works written to justify backing the Stuart kingship and making war against Charles I were constructed not only of native ancient constitutionalist sources but also of continental materials, including the Roman law of Justinian’s *Corpus Juris Civilis*, as well as medieval and early modern Spanish, French, German, Polish, Hungarian, Jewish, and Turkish historical works.

This approach is new. Though some scholars have chewed around the edges, no one has focused systematically on the European aspect of English civil war political thought. Here I would like to touch ever so briefly on the ways in which English anti-monarchists looked not only to their own national past for inspiration but also to continental sources, employing quasi-comparative investigations to legitimize making war against Charles I. I will use as an exemplar William Prynne, a prolific and powerful polemicist chosen by the Long Parliament to lead the charge against Charles I by justifying the making of war against God’s anointed.
Thursday, October 16
**“Beur is Beautiful” Film Series:**
*Memoire D’Immigres*

*Memoire D’Immigres*, a documentary, spells out the painful fate of two generations of Maghrebi immigration to France in a triptych of stories. The Maghrebi are North African immigrants of Arab, Amazigh, and Kabyle origin; the term *beur* is French inversion slang for their French-born children. (Yamina Benguigui, 1997, 160 minutes). *Memoire D’Immigres* will be shown in two nights (October 9 and 16). **7:00 p.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium.** For more information, please contact Veronica Dristas at dirstas@pitt.edu.

Sunday, October 19
**Performance:**
*The Bacchae* by Euripides

The Theatrical Scheme of Leonidas Loizides of Athens, Greece. This production is adapted for an all-female cast in Greek with simultaneous English translation on a large screen. The play weaves the themes of globalization, interculturization and tolerance, in a society maturing from conflict and exclusion towards a collaborative world of optimism and vision that accommodates and accepts the role and the power of women in shaping this new vision. Tickets $15 in advance, $20 at the door. **7:00 p.m., Bellefield Auditorium.** For more information, please contact Veronica Dristas at dirstas@pitt.edu.

Monday, October 27
**Lecture:**
*“What is the European Genizah?: A Survey of Hebrew Manuscript Discoveries in Italy and Spain and Their Importance for Jewish Studies”*

Professor Mauro Perani, University of Bologna, will discuss the quantity, content, and quality of a cache of Hebrew manuscript fragments recovered from Spanish and Italian book bindings. Perani has published extensively on these materials, including his recent study, *Talmudic and Midrashic Fragments from the Italian Genizah* (2004). **4:00 p.m., 501 Cathedral of Learning.** For more information, please contact Hannah Johnson at hjohn@gmail.com.

Thursday, October 23
**“Beur is Beautiful” Film Series:**
*Wesh Wesh Qu’est ce qui se Passe?*

Halfway between documentary and fiction, this film is a take on the everyday life of an immigrant family struggling to integrate into France and, more specifically, the ‘Cite des Bosquets,’ a low-income housing project in the Parisian suburbs. (Rabah Ameur-Zaïmeche, 2002, 83 minutes). **7:00 p.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium.** For more information, please contact Veronica Dristas at dirstas@pitt.edu.
“The Dumber You Feel, the Better You Sound”: Adventures in Swedish

by Kimberly Creasap

PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology

Kimberly Creasap was a recipient of a FLAS Fellowship for the summer of 2008.

Adopting a melodic way of speaking is one of the biggest challenges facing students of Swedish. During my summer as a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow in Sweden, a teacher reported the results of a study in which researchers found that Swedes prefer good melody over good grammar when listening to people speak Swedish as a foreign language. For many students of Swedish, implementing the “singsong” quality of Swedish speech feels dramatic, false, and even ridiculous because it is so different from languages such as German, Russian, or English. The reassuring advice we got from our teacher was to “do a little acting” when speaking. When a student complained that he felt dumb doing this, the teacher replied, “the dumber you feel, the better you sound.” These were the words of wisdom that guided me during my summer as a FLAS Fellow.

My dissertation research focuses on contemporary, self-described “radical” movements on the political left in Sweden. The extraparliamentary left, as it is often referred to by social scientists, has interests that cut across several issues: feminism, environmentalism, animal rights, anti-fascism, etc. Generally, these movements mistrust and rebuke not only political parties but representative democracy itself. In studying these movements, I intend to explore a newly emerging area in social movement studies known as “social movement scenes.” In cities around the world, “the activist scene” is known to happen around certain bars, cafés, music venues, galleries, or parts of town. In these small, subcultural spaces, people create political discussion and texts, perform music or theater with socio-political messages, and form relationships. These experiences, the relationships that form around them, and the spaces in which they happen are all important to the way that contemporary activists conceptualize social and political action.

I began studying Swedish through the University of Pittsburgh’s Less Commonly Taught Languages Center in August 2007, as it quickly became apparent in my research efforts that if I wanted to capture Swedish social life I needed to learn as much Swedish as possible before doing any fieldwork. The FLAS Fellowship allowed me to attend an eight-week intensive Swedish program in Uppsala, Sweden last summer. Every morning, I attended a four-hour class that covered all aspects of language and included discussions on current events in Sweden and Europe. In the afternoon, I attended classes devoted to conversation and grammar. I also had the opportunity to travel to sites around Uppsala and Stockholm for guided tours every week. These tours were not only opportunities to learn about historical or cultural sites but also a great way of practicing listening comprehension.

My knowledge of Swedish has already benefited my research. I am able to read and listen to Swedish news, find literature written by Swedish scholars, and correspond with potential interviewees. Importantly, I am able to read and translate websites, magazines, and literature produced by the groups I study, who strongly advocate creating their own media sources.

As someone who studies social movements, I am often asked by people with quizzical looks, “Why do you study Sweden?” After all, Sweden is not exactly considered a hotbed of social movement activity in the same way that, for example, France might be. However, in most sociological studies of Swedish society and political culture, the welfare state takes center stage, and Sweden is touted as the most modern, progressive, and egalitarian society in the world. This is precisely what makes Sweden an interesting place in which to study movements that seek to work outside the boundaries of representative democracy. In the context of a society that prides itself on the efficiency of its modern, bureaucratic institutions, generous social welfare policies, high level of equality, and state feminism, activists who seek to work outside the channels of representative democracy offer a completely different view of Sweden.

My experience as a FLAS Fellow remarkably improved my language skills. Over the course of eight weeks, I went from speaking like a small child to being able to discuss complex topics, such as the politics surrounding the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. I went from needing a dictionary to read one newspaper article to being able to read an entire novel over the course of a few days. I went from understanding 60 percent of my first guided tour to understanding 100 percent of the last. I gradually gained confidence as my speaking garnered positive remarks from teachers, neighbors, and strangers. Swedes—who are reputedly quiet, reserved people—were warm and encouraging when I spoke to them in their language, especially when I fumbled, asked questions, or needed help. As I continue my Swedish studies at the University of Pittsburgh this year, I have no doubt that my interactions with research participants and my experiences of the sites that make up “the scene” will flourish thanks to having gained a greater understanding of the Swedish language.
DAAD Study Scholarships
These scholarships are awarded to highly qualified students in any discipline for a year of independent study or a full Master’s degree program at a German university. Graduate study scholarships are granted for one academic year (10 months) with the possibility of a one-year extension and must take place during the German academic year (October 2009 to July 2010). The application deadline is November 1, 2008 for all students in the fields of fine art, design, film, music, choreography, and architecture. For all non-arts applicants, the deadline is November 15, 2008. For application guidelines and further information, please visit www.daad.org/?p=gradstudy_arts or www.daad.org/?p=gradstudy. Please contact kim@daad.org with any questions.

U.S. Department of State Summer Internships
The U.S. Department of State is now accepting applications for the Summer 2009 Student Internship Program. A student internship at the U.S. Department of State is an opportunity to get an inside look at the different types of positions and responsibilities available in foreign affairs and to gain valuable work experience that will help in virtually every endeavor, whether one chooses to work in government or in the private sector. Positions are available in Washington, D.C. and in embassies overseas. The deadline to submit a completed application is November 3, 2008. For more information and an application, go to www.careers.state.gov. Please contact Stephen Lund at slund@pitt.edu with any questions.

Individual Advanced Research Opportunities
International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2009-10 Individual Advanced Research Opportunities (IARO) Program. The IARO Program provides fellowships to U.S. scholars and professionals for long-term overseas research on contemporary political, economic, historical, or cultural developments relevant to U.S. foreign policy. Countries eligible for research are: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The application and supporting materials are available at www.irex.org/programs/iaro/index.asp. Completed applications are due November 17, 2008. Questions may be addressed to the IARO Program staff at iaro@irex.org or by phone at 202-628-8188.

Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies Fellowship
The Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies offers fellowships to scholars in all social science and humanities disciplines, including historians working on modern and contemporary German and European history. Following a model usually reserved for senior researchers at institutes of advanced study, the Berlin Program is a residential program that combines research opportunities with intellectual and cultural interaction. A biweekly interdisciplinary colloquium, guided by two distinguished professors each semester, is an integral part of the program and gives Fellows an opportunity to present their work. Awards provide between 10 and 12 months of support for doctoral dissertation field research or postdoctoral research. Applications are due December 1, 2008. For more information and an application, please visit userpage.fu-berlin.de/~bprogram. Please write to bprogram@zedat.fu-berlin.de with any questions.

ESC Faculty European Grant Competition
The European Studies Center (ESC) announces the 2008-2009 grant competition for full-time faculty for research on Europe not focused on the EU. The competition is open to full-time faculty affiliated with the EUCE/ESC. The competition will award grants for research-related activities to be carried out during the academic year, although the end date of the activity is negotiable. The deadline for the 2008-2009 competition is December 5, 2008. For more information and an application form, please see www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/faculty/funding/EuropeanGrant.html. Please direct questions to Timothy S. Thompson, Associate Director, at tst@pitt.edu or 412-624-3503.

EUCE Faculty Research Grant Competition
The European Union Center of Excellence (EUCE), with partial funding from the European Commission, offers grants for research related to post-World War II European integration for University of Pittsburgh faculty in any department or school. The purpose of the EUCE Faculty Grant Competition is to develop faculty expertise in the EU that will lead to eventual publication. For faculty with minimal expertise in the EU, participation at a conference that will begin their study of the EU may be part of a faculty member’s proposal. On-site field work is preferred for more established EU scholars. The deadline for the 2008-2009 competition is December 12, 2008. For information and the application form, please see www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/faculty/funding/EUCEGrant.html. Please direct questions to Timothy S. Thompson, Associate Director, at tst@pitt.edu or 412-624-3503.
The CEE states were confined to being the “consumers” of Europeanization without taking part as “producers.” This narrowing of the set of legitimate policy options left CEE political parties little substantive competitive leeway. They questioned each other’s competence in successfully implementing the EU-desired reforms rather than debating the constitution of these reforms. Parties went in and out of office, but policies did not.

My field research has enabled me to start testing this hypothesis and extending its scope. Interviews with political party representatives in CEE suggest that adopting a Eurosceptic agenda is indeed partially a response to an overarching consensus among mainstream parties. Instances where the rate of consensus has been the highest also exhibit higher rates of party system Euroscepticism. Cases where mainstream parties have remained more polarized, on the other hand, show fewer political parties adopting a Eurosceptic platform.

On-site research, however, has also led me to believe that the relationship between party-based Euroscepticism and voting behavior in the region is much more complex. Resorting to Eurosceptic strategies is often used as a complementary, rather than primary, strategy by political parties. Domestic issues, such as corruption, often come to the center of the political debate instead, as polls have shown citizens to be quite disillusioned with mainstream party life. Thus, Eurosceptic parties often adopt nationalist and/or populist agendas as well. Distinguishing between these overlapping strategies and studying their interaction is important since it is already consequential for voting patterns in the region. Populist and moderately Eurosceptic parties have gained more prominence and attracted more votes in recent elections than was the case in the 1990s.

My research so far indicates that Euroscepticism in CEE is an electoral strategy adopted by political parties aiming to distinguish themselves in a narrowed competitive space. Thus, it is less of a direct ideological response to Europe and more of a strategic response to domestic developments that have only indirectly been influenced by EU conditionality. However, the populist and anti-corruption rhetoric often used hand-in-hand with a Eurosceptic agenda seems to be largely responsible for the electoral appeal of these parties.

In any case, understanding how attitudes towards the EU are formed and utilized by both political parties and common citizens in CEE is essential to our knowledge of the EU and the future of European integration. My EUCE Fellowship has allowed me to start exploring these questions more thoroughly and come closer to delineating the answers.
Continued from page 1

In his serial tract *The Soveraigne Power of Parliaments and Kingdomes* (1643), Prynne preached the usual anti-monarchical line. First, the king held his office upon trust and condition and by compact and consent; the people, however defined, elected rulers and owed them obedience only so long as they governed lawfully. Monarchy, therefore, originated in a governmental contract that bound kings and subjects alike. Consequently, the ruler who failed to live up to his part of the bargain freed his people from allegiance and invited armed resistance. In this scheme, the community, as represented in parliament, was superior to the king.

To prove the parliamentarian case, Prynne deployed not only the usual English historical sources, such as the Anglo-Saxon laws, but a host of continental works which, in his view, demonstrated that continental countries were governed by ancient constitutions very similar to England’s. On both sides of the Channel, Prynne noted, sovereignty rested in communities and the estates that represented them since the earliest times, and kings were bound by oath to govern justly and lawfully. One had only to look at the history of Rome: for example, Justinian’s sixth-century *Corpus Juris Civilis*, with its famous *quod principe placuit* phrase and the accompanying *lex regia*. These read: “The will of the prince has the force of law because the people, at the original of government, conveyed to him and upon them all their power and authority.” In Prynne’s view, the people empowered the ruler only on condition that he govern lawfully. Prynne followed with examples of Roman rulers being held to account by the people and the senate. Predictably, his royalist opponents responded with an equally ancient continental argument, namely that the grant of power was unconditional and irreversible. “Properly” interpreted, the *quod principe placuit* principle and the *lex regia* conferred upon the king absolute, irrevocable and irresistible power, thereby rendering him *legibus solutus*, that is, freed from the law as *Corpus Juris* had it.

Although both royalists and parliamentarians pressed Justinian into polemical service, it seems to have been primarily the king’s enemies who found European sources of a historical nature most apt. Why this was I do not yet know. What is clear, however, is that the works of Blanca, Catejan, Mariana, Molina, and Salmonio suited Prynne’s purposes because, with the right spin, they lent credence to parliamentarian arguments. Prynne was especially fond of the medieval history of Aragon, the stories about how the Spanish ancient constitution had been constructed. As the story went, in medieval and early modern Spain, assemblies of estates elected kings and could even make law without them. King James I of Aragon agreed to hold biennial parliaments, which could take up defensive arms against the king when he refused to pass measures for the good of the commonwealth. Most important for Prynne was the Aragonese coronation oath, re-enacted every three years. In the ceremony, the people spoke the following words to the king: “We who are as great as you, and are able to do more than you, have chosen you king upon these conditions,” namely that he assemble the estates on a regular basis. “If you rule well, we will obey you. If not, not.” This famous tag, “if not, not,” was often deployed, along with the story of the emperor Trajan who at his coronation took the ceremonial sword and said to his nobles: “If I rule well, use this for me. If not, against me.” Johannes Sleiden provided Prynne with similar information about Germany, and other writers described the power of assemblies in France, Sweden, the Netherlands, Hungary, and Poland. Jewish kings, too, were said to be inferior to their senates and congregations. Thus, across time and geography, historical records taught that kings were, and ought to be, subservient to their communities and the assemblies that represented them.

Then there is Prynne’s telling of the story of Pepin, chief adviser to the ineffective eighth-century Frankish ruler Childeric III. Not only was the tale popular in French histories, but thanks to polemicists such as Prynne, it also earned a permanent place of honor in the English ancient constitution. As the story went, Pepin, tired of running the kingdom without getting credit, wrote to the pope asking whether, since he was doing the job of a king, he could call himself king. The pope responded that “he who does not act like a king loseth the very name of king.” And so Pepin became king, and Childeric retreated to a monastery. Anti-monarchists valued this tale because it performed the immensely valuable task of removing the stain of rebellion, treason, and eternal damnation that came with breaking the oath of allegiance and taking up arms against God’s lieutenant on earth. In other words, a king who degenerated into a tyrant unkings himself and could be proceeded against like the meanest of lawbreakers.

For Prynne, then, England was not historically unique. Its political and legal institutions had developed along the same lines as its continental counterparts. Moreover, he judged that his readers, whose support he sought, would find his arguments convincing. There was, however, one way in which England was indeed exceptional: of all the countries he surveyed, only one had managed to keep its ancient assembly of estates intact. The country was, of course, England, and the assembly was parliament. Here was the message—and warning—that Prynne’s historical excursions in continental literature sought to convey.
Faculty News

Ronald H. Linden, Professor, Department of Political Science, has been awarded a Transatlantic Academy Fellowship for the 2009-2010 academic year. The Transatlantic Academy is a partnership of the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States, the Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius ZEIT Stiftung, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, and the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. The GMF offers only four senior awards, plus two junior awards, to create a team to work in Washington on a specific theme. Next year’s theme is “Turkey and Its Neighbors.” Linden was chosen for one of the senior positions, along with two Turks and one dual-national. His work on Turkey has been aided by two EUCE faculty fellowships, which facilitated travel to Turkey and made possible a grant last year from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research.

European Sources Online Access

The University Library System (ULS) has just subscribed to European Sources Online (ESO). ESO is an online database which provides access to information on the following range of information: the institutions and activities of the EU; the countries, regions, and other international organizations of Europe; and the issues of importance to European citizens and stakeholders. ESO provides access to thousands of expertly selected, well-known and less well-known websites, documents, and publications from the EU and other international organizations, national governments, think tanks, stakeholder organizations, along with working papers, full-text articles from authoritative news sources Financial Times and European Voice, and a series of unique “Information Guides on the EU.” ESO can be accessed through the ULS home page, clicking on the Faculty Express link, then Databases by Title, then European Sources Online. Alternately, ESO can be accessed directly at the ESO website at www.europeansources.info.

Attention Graduate Students:

Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris
(Sciences Po)
Spring Term 2009
Academic Year 2009-2010

The University of Pittsburgh offers a direct exchange program for graduate students with Sciences Po in Paris, France. Sciences Po maintains such programs with institutions around the world. Courses are taught in French, with some taught in English and other languages; an applicant needs to have a level of proficiency high enough to take classes, write papers, and take exams in French. Although Sciences Po offers French language classes, your advisor will have to certify your level of French to allow you to be part of the exchange program.

The application deadline for graduate students for the spring 2009 semester exchange is October 31, 2008. In addition, students may apply for the 2009-2010 academic year by March 16, 2009. The application must be coordinated with and approved by the European Studies Center.

For more information, please contact Dr. Thomas Allen by e-mail at tfa3@pitt.edu or phone at 412-624-5404. The Sciences Po American Center website is americancenter.sciences-po.fr/Studyatgradex.htm.

EUCE/ESC Newsletter:

Director: Professor Alberta Sbragia
Associate Director: Timothy Thompson
Editor: Julie Draper

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

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If you would like to be added to the EUCE/ESC newsletter's electronic distribution list, please e-mail 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
- October 16 - “Beur is Beautiful” Film Series: Memoire D’Immigres. 7:00 p.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium.
- October 19 - Performance: The Bacchae by Euripides. 7:00 p.m., Bellefield Auditorium.
- October 21 - Lecture: “Redirecting Technological Progress: Greener, Profitable, Sustainable.” 11:00 a.m., 2500 Posvar Hall.
- October 22 - Legacy Laureate Reception for Achilleas Mitsos. 4:30-6:00 p.m., Pittsburgh Athletic Association.
- October 23 - “Beur is Beautiful” Film Series: Wesh Wesh Qu’est ce qui se Passe? 7:00 p.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium.
- October 27 - Lecture: “What is the European Genizah?” 4:00 p.m., 501 Cathedral of Learning.
- October 30 - “Beur is Beautiful” Film Series: Voisins Voisines. 7:00 p.m., Frick Fine Arts Auditorium.

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
Website: www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/euce.html