May 8, 2005 was the 60th anniversary of the treaty signed in Berlin that ended World War II in Europe. This day is remembered as Victory in Europe Day (VE Day), and it is particularly rich in meaning for Germany. In Germany, it is called “Liberation Day” (Tag der Befreiung), but over the years it has been perceived as both a day of liberation and a day of defeat. Perhaps because of this ambiguity, its profile in Germany has tended to be moderate: it is not an official national holiday; the first official speech commemorating the day did not occur until 1970; and while speeches have been given on later major anniversaries, it has not generally been marked with broader ceremonies such as the events organized for the recent anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. As the then-West German President Richard von Weizsäcker said in a famous 1985 speech on VE Day’s 40th anniversary, this was a day to remember the past and to recognize its nature, but not a day to celebrate.

In contrast, in 2005, VE Day was commemorated in Berlin by three major events, along with several minor events. The biggest of these was a two-day event put on by the city government. This unusually enthusiastic commemoration of a complicated day in Germany’s history suggests at first glance that Germany has reached a new stage in reconciling its past and present. Examination of the details of these events and of what led to them, however, suggests the opposite.

The three major commemorative events stood in direct competition with each other. They were sponsored by the youth organization of the National Democratic Party of Germany (Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands or NPD, Germany’s major extreme-right nationalist political party), the Berlin city government, and a group of radical anti-fascist organizations. While they were separate events, their existence and design were closely connected. The NPD event was planned first. Both the anti-fascist and government events were designed with the goal of weakening or blocking the NPD march, in different ways and with different messages. Each group used their commemoration to advocate different visions of contemporary German identity, the relationship that contemporary Germany should have with its past, and the nature of the German nation and state.

Such negotiations of national identity have international as well as domestic significance. Nationalist movements and parties continue to question the goals of European Union integration and work for the independence of its member states. In some ways, serious challenges are minor: “skeptical” European parties have a small presence in the European Parliament. At the same time, nationalist parties have had recent successes in several countries, and new European alliances of domestic nationalist parties are being created even as old ones fail. The development of national identity within EU member countries will continue to affect the development of the EU itself.

My analysis draws from observations I made at each of the three major VE Day events, documents made for and used at the events, debates preceding them, and reports...
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, May 6th - Saturday, May 7th
Policy Conference:
“EU/U.S. Symposium on Community and Social Development: A Transatlantic Dialogue on Comparative Perspectives for the State of the Community Work and Social Inclusion”
Organized by Assistant Professor Tracy Soska of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, this policy conference will bring together academic colleagues in community and social development—especially those in education and scholarship for community work and practice—from across the U.S. and EU to share their work and build a dialogue on comparative research and other exchanges that might enhance knowledge and inform policy and practice on both sides of the Atlantic. For more information, please email Timothy Thompson at tst@pitt.edu or visit the EUCE/ESC website at http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/euce.html. Sponsored by: European Studies Center, European Union Center of Excellence, Association for Community Organization and Social Administration (ACOSA), and the American-Scandinavian Foundation, and Routledge/Taylor & Francis.

Friday, July 8th - Saturday, July 9th
Academic Conference:
“Challenges to Union and Dilemmas of Diversity: The Euro as a Central, Contested Symbol in the EU”
This academic conference is co-organized by Mellon Professor Andrew J. Strathern and Dr. Pamela J. Stewart (Strathern) of the University of Pittsburgh Department of Anthropology. The monetary aspect of the European Union has recently come under severe stress, following global problems of finance and economics generally. The stress has impacted the central institutions of the EU and its monetary policies. It has also been accompanied by considerable social unrest and political protests in those countries most adversely affected. News coverage tends to focus on the centralized aspects of such a problem, but it is vital to know how all this affects the practical lives, sentiments, and aspirations of people, including those in positions far from the centers of power or in countries at the edge of effective power. Views from the peripheries often tell us much also about centers, and the conference will aim to tap in to local, ethnographic, historical, and anthropological expertise to obtain pictures of these views of what has rapidly become a very urgent problem for the future of the EU as well as an important topic for anthropological analysis. For more information, please visit http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/events/conferences.html. ♦

FELLOWSHIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Programs at Other Institutions:

 Sciences Po French Language & Social Sciences Summer School
Sciences Po’s French Language and Social Sciences Summer School is an intensive summer program aimed at international exchange students and degree-seeking students attending Sciences Po in September 2011 and who have a beginners level to upper-intermediate level command of French. The summer school will take place from July 4-23, 2011 at Le Havre, Normandy. For more information, visit http://www.international.sciences-po.fr/en/new-french-language-and-social-sciences-summer-school-2011. The deadline is May 16, 2011.

ACLS Public Fellows Program
The American Council of Learned Societies announces the inaugural competition of its Public Fellows program, which aims to demonstrate the value of employing skilled and accomplished young scholars in a variety of capacities, thereby broadening the academy’s conventional ideas of the PhD career path. In 2011 the program will place eight recent PhDs in two-year staff positions at partnering agencies in government and the non-profit sector, beginning as early as September 2011. Fellows will participate in the substantive work of these agencies and receive professional mentoring. Compensation will be at the same level as new professional employees of the agency with similar experience. For more information, visit http://www.acls.org/programs/publicfellows/. The deadline is 3:00 p.m. EDT on May 16, 2011.

Jean Monnet International Summer Seminars in Rome
The Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence of the University of Rome “Tor Vergata” invites applicants for the 2011 Summer Seminars: “Integrating Europe in a Changing World.” The Seminars are divided into two modules that can also be taken individually: “The EU Institutions and Decision Making after the Lisbon Treaty” (July 4-8, 2011) and “The EU Foreign Policy after the Lisbon Treaty” (July 5-11, 2011). For more information, visit http://www.eusummerseminar.uniroma2.it. The deadline is May 30, 2011.

Gerda Henkel Foundation and European Commission Funding Program
The Gerda Henkel Stiftung has joined forces with the European Commission to launch a new international grant program. EUR 7.5 million is available to fund around 100 research grants. For more information, visit www.gerda-henkel-stiftung.de. The deadline for applications is June 30, 2011. ♦
Summer in the City: Jean Monnet International Summer Seminars in Rome

by Yasemin Irepoglu
PhD Student, Department of Political Science

In the fall of 2009, as a first year student in the Political Science PhD program at the University of Pittsburgh, I frequently found myself wondering: What can I do this summer that would be intellectually stimulating, useful for my academic career, and fun at the same time? As a student working on European affairs, I decided that going to Europe seemed like a perfect idea. But, where exactly would I go? Given the abundance of summer schools on various issues, it was not so easy to choose the right place. After careful consideration, I chose to apply to the 2010 Jean Monnet International Summer Seminars, which were jointly organized by the Jean Monnet EU Center of Excellence of the University of Rome “Tor Vergata” and the Italian National School of Public Administration.

After I was accepted to this program, I received a travel grant to attend the Summer Seminars from Pitt’s European Union Center of Excellence with the generous encouragement of Professor Alberta Sbragia. Additionally, I got partial funding from the European Commission–Jean Monnet Action and from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was made available to selected students by the organizers of the program. Thus, I was all set to go and discover EU affairs and the city of Rome! I attended all three modules of the summer school, which took place between June 21 and July 9, 2010. The different modules were titled “The EU Institutions and Decision Making after the Lisbon Treaty,” “The EU and Foreign Policies under the Lisbon Treaty,” and “The Frontiers of Europe.” It sounded quite fascinating!

The first module, titled “The EU Institutions and Decision Making after the Lisbon Treaty,” provided mostly an academic look at the recent evolution of the EU institutions and decision making. The main discussions revolved around how leadership has now become more important in the EU, how the cycle of work is becoming more politicized, how the European Parliament is gaining power, and how the European Commission is somewhat losing power vis-à-vis the other EU institutions. Thus, the inter-institutional dynamics of the EU prevailed as the major theme of the module.

Considering the fact that the Lisbon Treaty had a major foreign policy component, most of the discussions also revolved around the newly established European External Action Service. In addition to listening to extensive lectures every day from professors, we also attended the keynote lecture concerning “The EU and Balkans” by Giuliano Amato, the former Italian Prime Minister. After we listened to interesting anecdotes by Amato, we spent the afternoon in the beautiful Rome City Hall at the Piazza del Campidoglio, participating in the initiation of the SENT (Thematic Network for European Studies). Getting the chance to see the beautiful rooftop of the Rome City Hall for dinner afterwards and watching the sunset while overlooking the spectacular architecture of Rome definitely added to the experience!

Another highlight of the program was taking part in the seminar titled “The Challenges of the Next (?) Enlargement” in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, namely Ministero Affari Esteri. This seminar provided insightful and fresh perspectives by worldwide experts on different aspects of enlargement, such as the accession negotiations, immigration, energy policies, and a new security architecture. Of course, we also got excited about sitting around the same table with the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Franco Frattini, and Giuliano Amato, the Former Italian Prime Minister, and other diplomats! The Seminars also hosted a debate with renowned EU scholars Simon Hix and Andrew Moravcsik on European studies in perspective at one of the most beautiful locations in suburban Rome, at Villa Mondragone in Frascati.

Participating students came from various backgrounds, including Turkey, Armenia, the U.S., Bulgaria, France, Turkey, the Netherlands, and Germany. The opportunity to fruitfully interact both on a social and on a professional level made for very intense discussions on political, structural and economic issues, such as the recent global economic crisis and the global role of international organizations.

So what are some personal “souvenirs” from Rome that I have gathered? The first ones that come to my mind are the tastes of the delicious “sliced” Roman pizza, stumbling upon a new historical sight every second, the beautiful neigh-

[YREPOGLU Continued on page 7]
As the Romans Do: Language and Culture in the Eternal City

by Amy Cymbala, PhD Student
Department of History of Art and Architecture

Amy Cymbala was the recipient of a Foreign Language Area Studies fellowship for the summer of 2010.

With the generous support of a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, I was able to spend this past summer in Rome, coupling an intensive language course with dissertation research on seventeenth-century women’s tomb sculpture. While Rome has always been important to my research, having the opportunity to spend over seven weeks in the Italian capital allowed me to develop a greater sense of the city’s urban fabric, its inhabitants, its rhythms, its sights and sounds, and its particular dialect, romanesco. I had an incredibly rich, new, and varied experience in the city—an especially wonderful feeling in a city where it feels like everything has already been uncovered, discussed, and theorized. The study of early modern art in Rome is a quickly growing field, and one characterized by a cosmopolitan group of scholars. Being able to effectively discuss my research in the Italian lingua franca is a necessary part of my dissertation but also gives me access to a world of scholars working in my area of study, who have been central to the development of my dissertation. By the end of my FLAS summer, I felt much more secure in my Italian skills, prepared to discuss my project with Italian art historians working on closely related subjects, and energized by the possibilities of entering into an international network of scholars.

When I arrived in Rome, I enrolled at the Torre di Babele language school, which is located off of the ancient Via Salaria. The surrounding neighborhood—near the university, library, and quirky Villa Torlonia—was a pleasant residential area that offered a nice escape from the densely crowded streets of the center of Rome. The cafés and shops in this area were great places to strike up a conversation with locals, who were all very patient with me as I fumbled and stumbled over particular phrases. The school was located in a picturesque 19th century palazzo with a lush garden in the back, where classes with private tutors took place. I was fortunate to have been paired with my teacher Pasquale, a native of the Abruzzo region who came to Rome to study philosophy and contemporary art; our conversations ranged from discussions on the Renaissance artist Fra Lippo Lippi to the social and musical significance of Madonna and Freddie Mercury. I am happy to say that I still keep in touch with many of the friends I made at the school, as they pursue their multiple career paths as international opera singers, members of the Peace Corps, doctoral and medical students, and students of fashion and design. The wide range of career trajectories represented remind me of the dynamism, relevancy, and continued significance of Italian.

The Torre di Babele school truly lived up to its name as a center of cultural confluence. Having had a lackluster summer of language instruction several years ago, I was surprised at how quickly the Torre di Babele community became an engaging, supportive, and exciting community in which I felt warmly welcomed. I was one of only two Americans studying at the school; students hailed from as far away as Thailand, Iceland, Scotland, Japan, Chile, and South Africa. My afternoon Italian class of eight students struck up the habit of meeting before class at a hole-in-the-wall Sicilian café around the corner, where you could get the regional granita (a fruit or nut iced concoction) flavors of almond and pistachio—a real summer treat! Upon entering the program, it is necessary to sign a contract that forbids you from speaking any other language. I was impressed by the fidelity of all the students to this code, and we bonded through the experience despite language limitations.

Coupling my language instruction with a summer of research was a large part of the success of my summer. Developing my language skills allowed me to easily communicate the importance of my project to art historians that I met throughout the summer and facilitated my interactions with Italian scholars working at the American Academy at Rome. I was able to enter into discussions with native speakers with a newfound confidence and enthusiasm. On a much more practical level, my use of Italian literally helped to “open doors” for me. I have found that being able to use Italian with the monks, nuns, and caretakers of many of Rome’s churches gained me access to areas that are normally designated as “off-limits” to the public. On more than one occasion, this resulted in interesting tomb finds, including a wonderfully carved tomb belonging to the ancient Caetani family.

The chance for intensive language study gave me new insight on a much beloved city and helped me to gain new skills central to a successful year of research and writing. My time in Rome could not have been better spent, and I look forward to returning there again this summer to pick up where I left off and reconnect with the many scholars and new friends that I was privileged to meet (and hopefully indulge in a fine bowl of spaghetti carbonara). ♦
Servant Leadership in Ireland

by Tracy Soska
Assistant Professor and COSA Chair, School of Social Work

Spring Break can be an exciting time for students, mostly for much needed rest, relaxation, and often celebration. For the School of Social Work and a group of graduate and undergraduate students and faculty, this past March 5-12 encompassed a Spring Break Cultural Exchange Trip to Ireland and Northern Ireland. The student and faculty group of twelve visited Belfast and Dublin and in both cities engaged with community partners for service learning and an exchange of ideas. In addition to the School of Social Work, the tour was supported by the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh, the Collegiate YMCA, and the European Union Center of Excellence in the University Center for International Studies.

In Belfast, in addition to visiting the political murals that capture the history and tone of the Troubles, the tour group worked with the Belfast Interface Project--Interfaces refer to the many spiked and barbed walls that separate Loyalist and Nationalist neighbors--good fences make for good neighbors. The group spent a day working with the Short Strand Community Partnership and a three generational cross-community team bridging the divide between Catholic and Protestant enclaves on opposite sides of the street. The group also trekked up to the mountain-based Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group where a neighborhood of 700 Loyalists surrounded by over 10,000 Nationalists are working in spite of differences on shared community development to address neighborhood revitalization and a staggering 75 percent unemployment rate across the communities.

In Dublin, the Pitt Social Work group encountered a country in severe economic distress but with new political leadership. The group worked with the outlying Canal Communities Partnership to help strategize neighborhood revitalization for the distressed communities straddling a former canal and the new light-rail transit line that borders it. Also, in downtown Dublin the group visited the YMCA and its bridge housing program and met with staff and local youth, addressing issues of unemployment, early school leaving, drug and alcohol abuse, and especially youth homelessness.

EUCE/ESC Newsletter:
Director: Professor Ronald H. Linden
Associate Director: Timothy Thompson
Editor: Julie Draper

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

EUCE/ESC would like to thank the Delegation of the European Union for support for the Center.
about them. On May 7 and 8, 2005, I attended and conducted observations at each event. With generous funding from the University of Pittsburgh European Union Center of Excellence, I returned in June 2010 and visited archives to gather documents about the planning and execution of the commemorations and reactions to them. In my project, I describe the three events, their orientations toward the past and present, and their ideological and physical relationships with each other. What reasons did these groups have for commemorating VE Day, what meanings did they attach to it, and what connections did they draw between contemporary Germany and the fascist state that fell 60 years earlier?

The NPD rally and planned march, announced in Fall 2004, framed VE Day as the end of what they see as a “misunderstood” political and social movement. It used the motto “60 Years of Lies about Liberation: An End to the Culture of Guilt” (60 Jahre Befreiungslüge—Schluss mit dem Schuldkult). Announcements for this event warned that it was anti-German and harmful to think of VE Day as a liberation, rather than a defeat. Posters included text and an untranslatable slogan (Arbeit statt Vergangenheitsbewältigung) suggesting that the country’s approach to its Nazi past—actively remembering it as a dreadful mistake to take responsibility for and learn from—was the root of all of Germany’s present economic and social ills. Announcements presented a solution to this problem: “As young Germans, we are determined to break through this complex of guilt- and atonement-ceremonies and finally confidently take the destiny and future of our country in hand.”

The original proposal was to hold an opening rally in Alexanderplatz—the major square in East Berlin—to march through the city and alongside the Memorial for the Murdered Jews of the Holocaust—a major memorial set to open two days later—and then to end by marching through the Brandenburger Tor—the site of many major events and speeches in German history—and rallying in front of it. The planned route included these places not only because of their central locations, but also because of their symbolism for German history and identity. After months of popular and political protest against this plan, including legal and organizational maneuvering, the march route was shortened to end before the Memorial and the Tor. The event itself was attended by approximately 3,500 people, many of whom had bussed in from other regions in Germany. The city provided 6,000 police to protect the marchers and the march route, and the rally was held in a fenced-in and secured area.

For months, the city and federal governments had been trying to find ways to stop the NPD from marching by the historically meaningful sites. In March, the federal government even passed a controversial new law that restricted the right of association and the freedom of expression, with the explicit goal of stopping the march—but it was unclear if the courts would uphold it. Then, the Berlin government announced a two-day event that would recognize May 8th as a day that marked the beginning of the contemporary Germany state. It used the title “Day for Democracy” (Tag der Demokratie, or Tag für die Demokratie). A city official claimed that it was independent of the NPD rally, but it was clearly planned in response: the official announcement stated that “those who re-interpret history and mock the victims of the Nazi regime on the Day of Liberation need to be met with the determined opposition of all democracy’s forces.” Indeed, its location was designed to make the NPD march route impossible. It had a performance stage in the square in front of the Brandenburger Tor, facing several blocks of booths. The idea was that the government-sponsored event would have priority, so it would block the historic area from the NPD’s use. In the end, this was indeed why the march was re-routed.

The Day of Democracy was strongly oriented toward the present, particularly for an event that officially commemorated the past. Both the original announcement and later statements by political leaders discussed it as a day of liberation and a day to remember the suffering associated with the Nazi regime and the war. As stated in the original declaration, “the memory of May 8, 1945 sharpens our gaze on the present, and is both a duty and a mission.” Official statements emphasized that the event was meant to show the strength of contemporary German democracy and its determination to fight intolerance. Federal and city officials called for people to flock to the center of Berlin not to stop the NPD march, but to generate a large public presence that stood for democratic ideals. Booths were sponsored by political parties and non-governmental organizations, and the stage had performances or appearances from activists groups and politicians as well as from popular entertainers and celebrities. Few of them said anything about the NPD event going on less than two miles away.

The third event was a rally and march sponsored by radical anti-fascist groups. Their posters referred to VE Day as “Day of Liberation” (Tag der Befreiung). This phrase had been famously applied to May 8th in Weizsäcker’s 1985 speech, and it was used by the city of Berlin in its announcements. The anti-fascists used it as the name of the event, however, as a political statement against both the NPD and more centrist practices, as the NPD event rejected the term and articles announcing the anti-fascist event protested what they saw as a tendency among officials to call VE Day the “Day of the End of the War” (Tag des Kriegsendes). They argued that this neutral phrase allowed for debate about whether that end was a bad or good thing, which they saw as unacceptable. They argued that the law limiting the right to assembly addressed the symptoms of fascism and not the causes and was too authoritarian. They also emphasized the need to continue to recognize Germany’s
past fascism and to tirelessly fight current fascist tendencies through open action and debate. In this spirit, the focus of their event was on blocking any NPD march, even one along a truncated route. As their posters said, “No Nazi March on May 8th!”

The anti-fascist event started with a rally, followed by a mile-plus march to Alexanderplatz to block the NPD march. News reports stated that several thousand people participated in the rally, with many joining in along the march. The participants surrounded the large area that had been fenced in for the NPD rally, and then they sat, stood, and made noise for hours. Finally, the police canceled the NPD march. Their reasoning was that they would have to resort to violence against peaceful protestors in order to clear the way. The anti-fascists declared the day a success. Later, both they and the NPD suggested that the police, as representatives of the government, seemed unusually willing to allow the protestors to get their way.

This brief discussion of these three events shows that there continues to be disagreement in Germany about the nature of its past. This is of course most clearly demonstrated in the presence and messages of the extreme right. It is easy to focus on the NPD in contrast to the government and anti-fascists, but that can hide other debates that are also important. Differences between how the government and anti-fascist groups reacted to the planned NPD march show that what it means to recognize and reconcile with the past also continues to be negotiated. Both believe that neo-fascism and its ties to the Nazi era needed to be discouraged, but they disagree about how. The main governmental reaction to the NPD march was to try to limit the NPD’s right to assembly; the anti-fascists saw this as ineffective and self-defeating—a way of hiding rather than addressing the continuing influence of the past. The two groups also differ in how they connected the past with the present. The anti-fascists saw the past as a warning of the ways that Germany had remained the same, suggesting a fragile present needing vigilant watch. The government event used the past to celebrate the ways that Germany had changed, presenting the image of a present-day Germany with a strong and free democracy.

Please email Suzanna M. Crage at scrage@pitt.edu for sources.

Pitt Students Visit the Holocaust Museum

With support from the EUCE/ESC, a group of 20 Pitt students led by German professor Beverly Harris-Schenz visited the Holocaust Museum on March 26th. The visit was built into the fabric of two current courses: German Children’s Literature and Major Cultural Periods, Part II, from the 18th century to the end of the Weimar Republic. They were able to visit three exhibits at the Museum: the main exhibition, a special exhibit devoted to Nazi Propaganda, and Daniel’s Story, which depicts the effect of the Holocaust on a fictional child. En route to Pittsburgh, the group viewed two films: The boy in the striped pajamas and Comedian Harmonists. Both of these depicted individuals in Hitler Germany that were directly affected by Nazi race laws and were based on historical sources.
Upcoming Events

May 6-7 - Policy Conference: “EU/U.S. Symposium on Community and Social Development: A Transatlantic Dialogue on Comparative Perspectives for the State of the Community Work and Social Inclusion.”

July 8-9 - Academic Conference: “Challenges to Union and Dilemmas of Diversity: The Euro as a Central, Contested Symbol in the EU”

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