

ASGP Newsletter

Message from the Chair

It is one of the defining features of an association like the ASGP that it can mark important individual milestones with a sense of collective weight and authority. As the loud thumps of a bumper edition of our journal, *German Politics*, dropping through your postboxes will have alerted you, we have just done precisely that. The latest edition of *German Politics* is a *Festschrift* for one of our longest-standing members (and now ASGP Vice-President), Gordon Smith. You will see that the various contributors have marked the occasion not just with their appreciation for Gordon's immense intellectual contribution to our field, but also with a genuine warmth and affection for Gordon. I am sure these are feelings we all share, so: congratulations Gordon!

Thanks to Joanna McKay and her frantic bout of envelope-stuffing, members had a chance to send their wishes on the occasion of another milestone recently: Willie Paterson's 60th birthday. Congratulations Willie!

We have been moving ahead on some of the issues I have referred to in previous Newsletter. Discussions about the best way to produce *German Politics* continue with Frank Cass, and the Publications Committee is now keen to widen the debate by talking to other potential publishers. The Executive will be discussing this in its forthcoming meeting in early December and we hope to have clearer news by the Annual Conference and AGM in April. Talking of which ...

... much progress has been made in putting the programme together. The conference will take place at the refurbished Goethe Institute on 11-12 April (with the Graduate Conference as usual the day beforehand on 10 April). The theme is Governance in the Berlin Republic. Professor Beate Kohler-Koch (Mannheim) has agreed to give the annual German Politics Lecture and the German Ambassador, Dr Hans-Friedrich von Ploetz has agreed, diary permitting, to speak at the Annual Dinner. We will of course circulate full programme and registration details in the new year.

Finally, I can report that we were successful in winning British Academy support to take over a 8-strong ASGP delegation to the US German Studies Association's 25th Annual Conference in early October. The conference took place in sombre mood after the appalling events of 11 September. I think precisely for that reason it was appreciated all the more that so many from the ASGP attended (the growing reputation of our now traditional British whisky reception also helps!). I am now in discussion with Gerry Kleinfeld (Executive Director of the GSA) and colleagues in the US Conference Group on German Politics on the fine detail of how the two associations can build closer institutional links to common benefit.

Charlie Jeffery, University of Birmingham

Conference Reports

25th Annual German Studies Association (GSA) Conference

4th – 7th October 2001, Crystal Gate Marriott Hotel, Washington D.C.

Given the events of the 11th September 2001, the 25th annual German Studies Association (GSA) Conference was always likely to be a conference unlike any other GSA jamboree. The four-day event, held at the Crystal Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, encompassed 176 panels and over 400 speakers – speaking on topics ranging from contemporary German politics to 18th Century German linguistics – ensuring that the age old adage about there being something for everyone really did ring true.

While the standard of the academic papers remained commendably high throughout, one of the guest speakers from the ‘real world’ once again proved a star attraction. Joachim Gauck, fresh from tackling mountains of Stasi files, entertained and enthused a packed-out audience with his forthright observations on the nature of the ‘Berliner Republik’. He drew on his unique experiences both pre- and post 1989 to elucidate on the challenges that lie ahead for Germans and the German state in the 21st Century. Gauck was well complemented by the young (aged 31), articulate SPD member of the Bundestag Michael Roth, who offered a lively explanation of the attitudes of younger Germans towards contemporary German history and the effect that this has had their identity. The excellence of such articulate outside speakers should not, however, take away from the contributions made by the academic community, whether it be through seasoned campaigners such as Professor Christopher Browning, Professor Andrei Markovits or Professor Gerald Feldman or from up-and-coming younger, post-graduate researchers, of whom there were plenty present.

The ASGP was well represented in Washington, with eight members making the trip: namely ASGP Chair Charlie Jeffery, Willie Paterson, Chris Flockton, Ken Dyson, Peter Barker, Simon Green, Charlie Lees and Dan Hough. All presented papers/commented on papers and were involved in the lively discussions both inside and outside the conference venue.

The very diversity of the GSA conference ensures it a place as a truly unique event, and it is to the organisers (and particularly to Professor Gerald Kleinfeld, who spoke at the 2001 ASGP Conference in Birmingham) enormous credit that the 2001 conference was such a huge success in spite of the horrific events of three weeks earlier.

Dan Hough, University of Birmingham

Annual German-British Forum (GBF) Conference

A New Transatlantic Partnership: Finding the Right Balance
17th October 2001, The Banqueting House, London

The German-British Forum settled on the theme of its sixth annual conference, *A New Transatlantic Partnership: Finding the Right Balance*, in January this year. The conference was originally conceived as a platform to discuss the converging and diverging agendas of Europe and the US following the election of President George W. Bush – trade disputes, the Kyoto Protocol and economic slow-down. By October, more pressing global concerns had come to dominate the conference programme.

The 300 delegates from the worlds of business, politics, finance, academe and the media heard keynote speeches on the implications for foreign and monetary policy by the Rt. Hon Peter Hain MP (Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Professor Otmar Issing (Member of the Directorate, European Central Bank) and Professor Lawrence Freedman (Head of School of Social Science and Public Policy, King's College London). A panel discussion with leading European and US business figures including Dr Klaus Esser (Partner, General Atlantic Partners), Professor Klaus Gretschmann (Director General, Economics and Industry Secretariat, Council of the European Union) and Abraham Gulkowitz (Chief Global Strategist, Deutsche Bank, Alex Brown, New York) broadened the debate to consider the impact of the terrorist attacks and the resulting conflict on transatlantic business.

For further details of the conference, please visit the German-British Forum website (www.gbf.com). A conference publication entitled *Europe and the US: a new transatlantic partnership* is available from the German-British Forum co-ordinator, Johanna Liddle (tel: 020 8938 6761, email: j.liddle@gbf.com).

Joanna Liddle, German British Forum Co-ordinator

***New Member of an Old Alliance? Poland as a New Actor in
Transatlantic Security***

Warsaw, 26-27 October 2001

A group of academics from the UK and Germany recently presented their research results to a select group of policy-makers, diplomats and journalists at a conference in Warsaw. The conference, organised by the Centre for International Relations (CSM) in Warsaw and funded by the German Marshall Fund of the United States, was the culmination of a project researching the transatlantic relationship and Poland's interests. The papers presented focused on the views on Polish security and defence policy emanating from various capitals - Washington, Paris, Berlin, London and Brussels (EU and NATO) – the prevailing climate of bilateral relations, and the expectations of Poland in the future. With the participation of eminent Polish academics and commentators, including former Defence Minister Onyskiewicz, the conference produced a very rich debate around extremely topical issues, such as the future role of NATO in Europe and the development of the European Security and Defence Policy. With the events of the 11 September obviously casting a new light on papers essentially researched and written over the summer, the conference not only provided a timely forum for the analysis of current events, it also revealed the value of many of the conclusions the researchers had drawn prior to the attacks. The papers presented will be published in Polish and English by the CSM (www.csm.org.pl) before the end of the year. The academics involved were: Dr Marcin Zaborowski (Languages and European Studies, Aston University), Prof. Adrian Hyde-Price (Politics, Leicester University), Dr. Kerry Longhurst, Vanda Knowles, Silke Potteboehm (all from Institute for German Studies, Birmingham University), Dr. David Dunn (Political Science and International Studies, Birmingham University), Dr. Kai-Olaf Lang (SWP-DIIPS, Berlin) and Olaf Osica (Centre for International Relations, Warsaw).

Vanda Knowles, University of Birmingham

A Schill Cry from the Right upsets the Hamburg Applegart

The Hamburg city-state election of 23rd September 2001 was many things: one thing that it certainly wasn't, however, was predictable. Firstly, for the first time in over two years, turnout at a *Land* election increased (by 2.3% when compared with the 1997 poll). A welcome development, or so one would think, given the worrying slide in popular participation in sub-national, national and European elections across Western Europe in recent years. The Hamburg election was also fought, unquestionably, with local issues very much at the forefront of voters minds. While the rest of the world talked about terrorist attacks and the hunt for Osama Bin Laden, most Hamburgers remained convinced of the need to cast their vote in a regional election on the basis of problems and issues that were unique to Hamburg – principally on 'innere Sicherheit' and the need to clean-up and civilise parts of the city-centre.

So what of the result of this increased engagement with the political process in Hamburg? Here, the news is less comforting. For the first time in the history of the Federal Republic a party, having not even existed a year previously, was able to mobilise almost 20% (19.4%) of the vote and not only enter the *Hamburger Bürgerschaft*, but also the city government. Ronald Schill, the former judge, proved to be a successful magnet for unsatisfied Hamburgers, offering them exuberant promises of 'Ordnung', 'Recht' und 'Justiz'. Schill, so he belligerently claimed, was the man to clean up and sort out the roughest parts of the city. The drug dealers and drop outs had better watch out, as *Richter Gnadenlos* was coming to get them. Schill's support was not, however, just the traditional clientele of law and order parties. He found a resonance amongst voters from all parts of the political spectrum who were fed up with both a stale state government and a weak opposition – and wanted to say so in no uncertain terms. Both the SPD and CDU lost roughly 40,000 former supporters to Schill, while of the non-voters in 1997 30,000 chose to support the newcomer in 2001. While the supporter profile of the *Schill-Partei* was wider than is normally the case for right-wing parties, certain familiar characteristics did prevail: 25% of men under 45 supported the *Partei Rechtstaatlicher Offensive*, and 24.9% of those with lower academic qualifications also did so – illustrating that Schill's success can in large part be put down to explicit forms of protest voting.

The SPD, having ruled Hamburg for 44 years, was not able to make use of the positive vibes coming from the federal party, and realised too late in the day that its neglect of law and order issues could cost it dear. In spite of the lack of support for the SPD Mayor Ortwin Runde, the SPD did still manage to improve on its 1997 election result – although only by a miserly 0.3%. This was especially disappointing for the SPD as the 1997 result was widely seen as being a very poor performance given the Social Democrats traditional dominance in Hamburg state politics. The CDU, on the other hand, was, rather perversely, a winner as the governmental posts were handed out – in spite of the fact that it was manifestly unable to make use of the SPD's unpopularity and actually lost 4.5% of its vote. So although Ole van Beust, the CDU's *Spitzenkandidat*, was able to form a coalition with the Free Democrats (5.1%) and the Schill party, the CDU will no doubt be worried by the evident lack of trust the Hamburg voters appear to show

in the party's ability to sort out the city's problems. The coalition, however, is not likely to remain a source of peace and harmony. During the election campaign Schill made many promises, many of which are going to prove almost impossible to keep. Exactly how this affects the performance of the coalition, and Schill's own personal popularity, remains very much to be seen.

Dan Hough, University of Birmingham

The Colour of Money: Berlin votes for the Left but gets the Right

In East Berlin, the clocks certainly do tick differently. It's like a German version of Ireland really. It can take an hour for your breakfast to arrive, the travel agents aren't really bothered about selling you their weekend breaks in Prague, tending to say instead "ah, sure, just drive down there, and see what turns up" and they'd rather pass the time of day than take your money. On top of that 47.9% of the Easterners voted for the PDS on 21 October, throwing not only Berlin but the whole of Germany, and not least Chancellor Schröder, into complete chaos. The last thing he needs just at the moment is a coalition partner in the capital of the country that doesn't stand shoulder-to-shoulder with him over the war in Afghanistan. There had been all sorts of informal nods and winks in favour of a red-redder coalition and the SPD had ended the long Grand Coalition with the CDU with explicit PDS support. All of a sudden though, the PDS once again became a party *non grata*. This time, however, not because of the political consequences of the semi-official description of the PDS as the successor party to the SED, but because in opposing the war, the PDS has brought in newer, younger and more educated voters than ever before (it was the largest party amongst all of these groups in the whole of Berlin) and pulled in 6.9% of the vote in West Berlin. Put together with the structural problems and wealth deficits still facing the East and the continuing domination of the Berlin scene by Gregor Gysi, the PDS emerged as both the biggest winner, and, paradoxically, directly because of this, the biggest loser in this election.

The CDU, a party that has been almost constantly in government since 1948, was reduced to a shadow of its former self, obtaining only 23.5% of the vote. For the first time in 25 years, the SPD became the largest party with 29.7% and the PDS attained 22.6%. In addition the FDP, out of the parliament for two elections, increased its vote by a factor of 5 to gain 9.9%. The Greens, although losing some support over the war, maintained their position with 9.1%. The negotiations which followed produced a Red-Green-FDP, or traffic-light coalition, which, though reflecting the Chancellor's preference, will be the most difficult to hold together. It will have a majority of only 2 seats and will exist only because the PDS did so well. What clinched the deal in the end was the quite clear and brutal message from the Chancellor's office that an inclusion of the PDS would lead to a reduction in federal subsidies to the city. Berlin has debts of some £25 billion and will be entirely reliant on those subsidies to help it survive and cushion at least some of the impact of the forthcoming cuts and privatisations. The political fall-out of both the decision to exclude almost 50% of eastern voters from power and to embark on radical spending cuts will not do much to calm the chaos in Berlin over the coming years and will likely only lead to a further cementing of PDS support. Like it or not, the PDS is not going to go away and it is likely that the traffic-light - like many in a Berlin constantly under reconstruction - will only be a temporary one. Ah now, never mind, I hear it's very nice in Prague in the autumn.

Peter Thompson, University of Sheffield

Forthcoming Events

ASSOCIATION FOR MODERN GERMAN STUDIES

BERLIN 2001: A CITY ODYSSEY

Saturday, 17th November 2001 at the LSE

Programme

9.30-9.45 Registration and a chance to join the AMGS

9.45-10.00 Welcome and Introduction

Parallel Session One: The Concrete City

10.00-10.30 Elke Heckner, 'History is concrete: urban politics in post-wall Berlin'

10.30-11.00 Simon Ward, 'Station to station: circulation in the new Berlin'

11.00-11.30 Janet Stewart, 'The location of culture in the new Berlin: the Kunsthaus Tacheles'

11.30-12.00 Discussion

Parallel Session One: The Fictional City (1)

10.00-10.30 Susanne Ladanff 'Teaching the New Berlin in New Zealand'

10.30-11.00 Birgit Haas, 'No man's land oder "die teuerste Immobilie aller Zeiten" – theatrical perceptions of the German reunification'

11.15-11.45 Julian Preece, 'The cityscape as palimpsest: the weight of reading in Günter Grass's *Ein weites Feld*'

11.30-12.00 Discussion

12.00-13.00 Lunch and AGM of AMGS

Parallel Session Two: The City in Film

- 13.00-13.30 James M. Skidmore, 'Berlin – the unchanging symphony of a big city'
- 13.30-14.00 Andrew Weber, 'Time and motion: *Lola rennt*'
- 14.00-14.30 Christine Ivanovic, '*Lola rennt*'
- 14.30-15.00 Discussion

Session Two: The Fictional City (2)

- 13.00-13.30 Corina Heipcke, "'Das Leben ist eine Baustelle": Berlin als Metapher des menschlichen Zustandes'
- 13.30-14.00 Berlin – still a divided city? Ideological dualism in post-Wende fiction'
- 14.00-14.30 Clas Damman, 'Auf der Suche nach Döblins Enkeln – das "Neue Berlin" in der zeitgenössischen Prosa'
- 14.30-15.00 Discussion
- 15.00–16.00 Plenary Session /
Round Table Discussion
- 16.00–17.00 Drinks reception
- 17.00–18.40 FILM SCREENING

Further information available from Joanne Leal (j.leal@bbk.ac.uk) and Astrid Küllmann Lee, AMGS Secretary, Language Coordinator (a.t.kuellmann-lee@lse.ac.uk).



ASSOCIATION for MODERN GERMAN STUDIES

Berlin 2001: A City Odyssey
A One-Day Conference to be held on Saturday, 17th November 2001 at the LSE
(Clement House, Aldwych)

Registration Form

Name: _____

Institution:

Home Address:

Home Tel: _____ Work Tel: _____

Email: _____

I enclose a cheque made payable to 'AMGS' for:

£30 (AMGS members)

£40 (non-members, including membership for 2002)

£20 (concessions)

Lunch is included. Please indicate whether you require a vegetarian meal Yes

Please indicate whether you require a printed receipt

The programme is subject to change. However, it would be helpful if you could indicate which of the parallel sessions you would like to attend:

Parallel Session One: The Concrete City or The Fictional City (1)

Parallel Session Two: The City in Film or The Fictional City (2)

Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible, as places are likely to be very limited, to:

Dr Joanne Leal, School of Languages, Linguistics and Culture, Birkbeck College,
43 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD

Or email it to: j.leal@bbk.ac.uk

Germany and Europe: A 'Europeanized' Germany?

**A Research Workshop in association with:
the British Academy,
the Economic and Social Research Council's Future Governance
Programme,
STICERD-LSE, and
the Association for the Study of German Politics**

29–30 November 2001

The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH

Programme

Thursday 29 November 2001

10.00–10.30 - Arrival and Coffee

10.30–12.00

Introduction

Germany, Europeanization and Globalization

Speakers: Kenneth Dyson (Bradford University) and Klaus Goetz (LSE), Jeffrey Anderson (Brown University, Rhode Island)

Discussant: Ed Page (ESRC Future Governance Programme)

12.00–13.15

Europeanization of the Federal Government and of Representation

Speakers: Klaus Goetz and Thomas Saalfeld

Discussant: Jack Hayward (Hull University)

13.15–14.00 - Lunch

14.00–15.15

Europeanization of Intergovernmental Relations and of the Legal Order

Speakers: Charles Jeffrey (Birmingham University) and A. N. Other ()

Discussant: to be confirmed

15.15–16.30

Europeanization of the Party System and of Interest Intermediation

Speakers: Oskar Niedermeyer (Freie Universität Berlin) and Wolfgang Streeck (Max-Planck Gesellschaft, Köln)

Discussant: Gordon Smith (LSE)

16.30–17.00 - Tea

17.00–18.00

Europeanization of Political Communications

Speaker: Katrin Volmar (Leeds University)

Discussant: to be confirmed

Association for the Study of German Politics
November 2001 Newsletter



18.00–19.00

Europeanization of Foreign and Security Policy

Speaker: William Patterson (Birmingham University)

Discussant: Christopher Hill (LSE)

19.00–19.30

19.30

Reception

Dinner

Friday 30 November 2001

09.30–10.45

Europeanization of Economic Policies and of Labour Market and Wage Policies

Speakers: Kenneth Dyson (Bradford University), Bob Hancke (LSE), and David Soskice (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin)

Discussant: Michael Moran (Manchester University)

10.45–11.15 - Coffee

11.15–12.30

Europeanization of Competition Policies and of Utilities Regulation

Speakers: Martin Lodge (LSE), Simon Bulmer (Manchester University), Peter Humphreys (Manchester University), and Stephen Padgett (Strathclyde University)

Discussant: Stephen Wilks

12.30–13.30 - Lunch

13.30–14.45

Europeanization of Environmental Policies

Speaker: Rüdiger Wurzel (Hull University)

14.45–16.00

Emerging Themes (Panel Discussion)

Panel: Kenneth Dyson, Klaus Goetz, Ed Page, A. N. Other

16.00–16.30 - Tea

16.30–17.30 - Meeting of contributors

17.30–18.30 - Reception

Dinner

The Century of the Avant-Gardes

November 30 - December 2, 2001
Atrium of the Österreichische Beamtenversicherung
Grillparzerstraße 11, 1016 Wien

International conference supported by *Österreichische Beamtenversicherung* and the *City of Vienna* (MA 18 - Stadtentwicklung und Stadtplanung).

The concept of the avant-garde implies the central tenet of modernity. A military term is translated into a metaphor which expresses utopian aspirations within the framework of the modern philosophy of history : the arts shall serve as a vanguard of progress in modernity's campaign against the enemy powers of tradition. Since its inception in early German Romanticism the idea of avant-gardism has been bound up with the great narratives of modernity. The avant-garde sees itself as the storm troop of freedom and future, of what is new, unheard-of, outrageous and shocking.

Nevertheless serious tensions have existed since early on between the artistic avant-garde and the course which modernity steered in other areas of society. In this vein Romanticism not only took its departure from the ideals of the French Revolution but at the same time aimed at transgressing and surpassing them, dreaming of another kind of Modernity than that which was under way in capitalist economy, bourgeois society and the bureaucratic state. Although it is obvious that the autonomy of the arts, their independence from society, flowed from the differentiation of spheres that constitutes the process of modernity, the avant-garde took up this newly-won and specifically modern autonomy in order to confront the fragmentation of this very society and envision an entirely different type of society, one without the painful marks of alienation that are the necessary concomitants of differentiation.

From such contradictory beginnings some problematic developments followed.

- From a fundamental critique of modernity some of the avant-garde movements of the early twentieth century derive utopian visions which bring them into a fateful proximity to the totalitarian ideologies of Fascism and Stalinism. Such totalitarian affinities occur not merely by accident nor are they due to any individual moral failure but are rooted in structural reasons. It should however be taken into consideration that the Russian avant-garde, as well as Italian futurism, German expressionism, French surrealism and structuralism did not sit well with the reality of the respective totalitarian regimes. This discrepancy must be accounted for.
- The definition of the avant-garde is influenced by the military background of this concept in yet another way. The self-understanding of the artistic avant-garde refers to the elitism of an intrepid crack force way ahead of the masses on whose behalf it acts and whom it asserts to lead and guide. From this elitism results the conspicuous tension between the European avant-gardes and mass democracy or mass culture.

In the later course of the twentieth century it seems that the ideas of the avant-garde lost ground as they lost their foundations. Visions of fundamental revolutionary transformations that would bring about new social and political structures and thus reconcile art and life turned out as either a nightmare or an illusion. Aspirations to a realm of aesthetic innovation that would supersede the conditions of mass production and culture industry have become eclipsed by the almost complete implosion of the boundaries between high and mass culture. Given the altered conditions of a post-modern society the arts forfeited much of their capacity to shock aesthetically and to provoke society. Initially, the heroic and pathetic energy of the avant-garde was fueled by the philosophical and political narratives of modernity on the one hand and on the other hand it stemmed from a conception of art as a substitute of religion and of the artist as priest and prophet. Today, both sources of this energy seem exhausted. Nevertheless, the ideas of the avant-garde are not altogether dead. Not only have the sixties of this past century experienced a strong Neo-avant-gardist movement but a practical commitment as well as a theoretical interest have survived or been resurgent up to the present. A practice and an understanding of art completely devoid of the ideas and ideals of the avant-garde is hardly conceivable even today.

The authors of this programme suggest to critically review the history of the various avant-garde movements of past and present, to investigate their common grammar and the structures of their language and logic. Moreover, we intend to question the future of art beyond the horizon of the modern ideas of progress and freedom that constituted the framework of the avant-garde.

Cornelia Klinger/ Wolfgang Müller-Funk

The Century of the Avant-Gardes

Preliminary Programme

- Friedrich Achleitner**, *Wien* - „Veränderungen – Montagen“ (Presentation)
- Franz Schuh** - „Trauriges Pudern - Texte der österreichischen Avantgarde der 50er, 60er und 70er Jahre“ (Presentation)
- Hans Belting**, *Karlsruhe* - Der Werkbegriff der Moderne. Idee oder Objekt der Kunst?
- Christina von Braun**, *Berlin* - Gab es eine ‚christliche‘ und eine ‚jüdische‘ Avantgarde?
- Peter Bürger**, *Bremen* - Surrealismus und Postmoderne
- Peter Demetz**, *New Haven* - Über Aviatisches - d'Annunzio, Marinetti, die Avantgarde und der Faschismus
- Terry Eagleton**, *Oxford* - Britain: The Curious Case of the Missing Avant-Garde
- László Földényi**, *Budapest* - Das verhängnisvolle Erbe der Romantik
- Cornelia Klinger**, *Wien* - Die Transformation der Utopie einer Versöhnung von Kunst und Leben: vom Staat als Kunstwerk zum life-style des Individuums
- Lutz Koepnick**, *St. Louis* - Benjamins Stille nach dem Ton. Theorien der Avantgarde zwischen Stummfilm und ästhetischer Politik
- Vivian Liska**, *Antwerpen* - Vorhut und Nachträglichkeit. Die Unzeitgemäßheit des deutschen Expressionismus
- Michael Müller**, *Bremen* - Avantgarde, Subjekt und Massenkultur
- Wolfgang Müller-Funk**, *Birmingham* - Prophetie und Ekstase. Avantgarde als säkulare Erweckungsbewegung
- Griselda Pollock**, *Leeds* - Feminity, Modernity and Representation: Sexual difference and the disjunctive temporality of the revolutionary Avant-Garde
- Martha Rosler**, *New Brunswick* - What was to be done? Some elements of American art after high modernism
- Beat Wyss**, *Stuttgart* - Die Epoche des indexikalischen Bildes

Moderationen:

Rudolf Burger, *Wien*

Konstanze Fliedl, *Wien*

Daniela Hammer-Tugendhat, *Wien*

Roland Innerhofer, *Wien*

Birgit Wagner, *Wien*

Seelenarbeit an Deutschland
Der Schriftsteller Martin Walser

EINE KONFERENZ ANLÄSSLICH DES 75. GEBURTSTAGES DES AUTORS
AM INSTITUTE OF GERMANIC STUDIES DER UNIVERSITÄT LONDON
1. – 3. Mai 2002

Im Frühjahr 2002 wird Martin Walser 75 Jahre alt. Ein halbes Jahrhundert und etwas länger ist sein vielschichtiges Werk gewachsen! Mit diesem Werk ist eine Stimme laut geworden, die in Deutschland Ansehen und Gewicht hat. Auf sie hat man mehr als einmal gehört, wenn es darum ging, das Selbstverständnis der Republik und das Gewissen der Nation zu überprüfen. Auf sie hört, wer den Stand der zivilen Umgangsformen, ob vor oder nach der Wiedervereinigung, befragen will. Lebensnotwendige Artikulationsdienste hat diese Stimme geleistet, wenn politisches Ungenügen und seelisches Unvermögen den deutschen Bürgern die Sprache zu verschlagen drohten.

Doch waren und sind die Dienste dieses Schriftstellers nicht unumstritten – wofür zu danken ist in einem Lande, dass sich eine Streitkultur erst erschaffen musste. Ein Rückblick auf Martin Walsers Werk wird darum nicht nur die Interpretation und Neuinterpretation wichtiger Texte umfassen müssen, sondern auch die Rezeption des Werkes in der Kritik und die öffentliche Auseinandersetzung des Autors mit Kritikern und, wie zum Beispiel im Falle von Hans Magnus Enzensberger und Günter Grass, mit den Kollegen. Berücksichtigen wird man auch das, in einem engeren Sinne, politische Engagement des Autors von der Unterstützung der SPD in den sechziger Jahren bis zu den Sympathiebekundungen für die DKP und, in den späteren Jahren, den Bruch mit einer Reihe von liebgewonnen Positionen im linken Spektrum. Unvollständig wäre eine Rückschau aber auch ohne eine Analyse von Walsers öffentlichen Reden, besonders der Rede zur Annahme des Friedenspreises des Deutschen Buchhandels, den Radio-Gesprächen mit Günter Grass und dem Fernsehaufttritt mit Ignaz Bubis.

Für weitere Informationen melden Sie sich bitte bei:

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Members Publications

As ever, ASGP members have been busy conducting and publishing research on all aspects of contemporary German politics, economics and culture. Jonathan Grix (Birmingham), Paul Cooke (Aberystwyth) and Lothar Funk (Trier) have recently launched a new series with Birmingham University Press entitled *The New Germany in Context*, and over the course of the coming months a number of books will be forthcoming on such topics as reconfiguring national identity in Germany (Karl Wilds), economic transition, unemployment and active labour market policy (Corinne Nativel) and the Fall and Rise of the PDS (Daniel Hough). Authors wishing to publish in the series should submit proposals or contact Jonathan Grix (grixj@hhs.bham.ac.uk). Those wishing to find out more information about the series should check the Birmingham University Press website for further details (<http://www.ubpress.bham.ac.uk/newgermany.asp>).

A further selection of the most recent offerings from ASGP members includes:

- Simon Bulmer, Andreas Maurer and William Paterson: 'The European Policy-Making Machinery in the Berlin Republic: Hindrance or Handmaiden?', in Douglas Webber (eds.): *New Europe, New Germany, old Foreign Policy?* (London: Frank Cass, 2001), pp.177-206.
- Chris Flockton & Eva Kolinsky (eds.): *The New Germany in the East* (London: Frank Cass, 2000).
- Gert-Joachim Glaeßner, Werner Reutter & Charlie Jeffery (Hrsg.): *Verfassungspolitik und Verfassungswandel* (Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag, 2001).
- Klaus Goetz & Simon Hix (eds.): *Europeanised Politics: European Integration and National Political Systems* (London: Frank Cass, 2001).
- Jonathan Grix: *Demystifying Postgraduate Research: From MA to PhD* (Birmingham: Birmingham University Press, 2001).
- Jonathan Grix: 'Social Capital as a Concept in the Social Sciences: The Current State of the Debate', in *Democratization*, 8 (3), pp.189-210.
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GradNet News

The GradNet co-ordinators, Silke Pottebohm and Tom Dyson, are now putting in the groundwork for the 2002 ASGP Postgraduate Conference. The title of the event will be *New Challenges: New Answers? Germany at the Start of the 21st Century* and it will take place on 10th April 2002 at the Goethe Institute in London.

Any postgraduates wishing to present a paper should submit an abstract of not more than 150 words to either Silke or Tom (or both of them!) at the following email addresses before the 31st of January 2002. Silke can be reached at Pottebohm@aol.com, while Tom is available at p.t.dyson@lse.ac.uk

The closing date for the 2001 Postgraduate Prize has also been extended by one month: meaning that entries will be accepted up to and including Friday 30th November. As well as the incentive of a cash prize to the winner, his or her article will also be published in the next available issue of *German Politics*. Any postgraduates requiring further information about the Postgraduate Prize should contact Beatrice Harper on harperbs@sbu.ac.uk or beatrice@bernas.demon.co.uk

2002 ASGP Conference

The 2002 ASGP conference will be held at the Goethe Institute in London, on the 11th and 12th of April. The title of the conference will be Governance in the Berlin Republic and Helga Welsh, William Chapman, Beata Kohler-Koch, Chris Flockton, Steve French, Thomas Saalfeld and Rüdiger Wurzel have already confirmed that they will be speaking. Further details will be posted both on the ASGP website, and in the next issue of the ASGP newsletter, as and when they are finalised.

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Association for the Study of German Politics
November 2001 Newsletter



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Other Association Business

Could those members who have not yet paid their subs please either forward cheques to the Treasurer or, preferably, pay by bank transfer or foreign bankers draft. The account details are as follows:

Nat West New Mills Branch
A/c number 83994327, sort code 01-06-05.

Membership rates for 2002 were held at their 2001 level, namely:

£28 Full	£14 Full Postgraduate Membership
£10 Basic	£5 Basic Postgraduate Membership

If members change addresses, could they please inform the secretary as soon as possible. This isn't, of course, just an administrative benefit – it will also ensure that *German Politics* still reaches you safe and sound and in good time!

The German-British Forum

For members wishing to keep up-to-date with pressing issues of concern to both Britons and Germans, the German-British Forum publishes regular articles and reviews of contemporary political, economic and cultural events. Of current interest is a contribution by former Financial Times journalist David Marsh on 'Warum London den Euro braucht' that appeared originally in *Die Welt* (see <http://www.gbf.com/cgi/publisher/display.cgi?1137-10101-8229>) and a contribution by Christian Schubert from the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* titled 'Blairs Zaudern an der Heimatfront' (see <http://www.gbf.com/cgi/publisher/display.cgi?1150-10101-8460>). For further information see (<http://www.gbf.com>).

Association for the Study of German Politics
November 2001 Newsletter

ASGP

And finally ...

If anybody has any comments about the ASGP newsletter, be they good or (especially) be they bad, then please let Dan Hough (d.t.hough@bham.ac.uk) know! Things are much more likely to change if they are brought to the editor's attention. And, of course, if anybody wishes to contribute anything to future newsletters, be it short pieces or conference/event information that may be of interest, then the editor would be very pleased to hear from you!!! The next issue of the newsletter will, all being well, be out in February.