



# West European Studies

December 2009

## West European Studies

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## WEST Exchange

Amanda Smith, Associate Director

As the semester comes to a close, we reflect upon the many accomplishments of our faculty, students, and staff. Throughout this newsletter edition and made further evident by our website and additional publications, you will find that those affiliated with WEST have been busier than ever!

The fall semester has been filled with new M.A. student recruitment efforts and multiple community outreach events associated with our Title VI Grant. In the past two months alone, WEST staff and volunteers have been available to meet with more than 20,000 people in the Indiana region.

So far, we have a strong pool of applicants for the M.A. degree program for AY 2010-2011, and everyday we are receiving new inquiries as the January deadline approaches. We are gearing up to invite candidates to visit the IUB campus in the spring.

In addition to student recruitment, WEST was present at the annual Multicultural Fair, International Fair and the Indiana Foreign Language Teacher Association's Annual Conference. These events allow us to interact with the community and share with teachers, parents, and students the resources we have available to promote knowledge and cultural understanding of Western Europe.

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## Once More, Back to Berlin

Brigitta Wagner, Assistant Professor

I visited the German Democratic Republic for the last time in the summer of 1989. By then, I was already a seasoned tourist of German division and knew to expect the lines and narrow corridors of Checkpoint Charlie and the cold eyes of the border guards who first glared at my passport, then at me as if expecting a discrepancy. Once stamped into socialist paradise, I proceeded, with my family, along the usual routes: Alexanderplatz, the Palast der Republik with its shiny copper façade, the Pergamon Museum, and Unter den Linden, the heart of Old Berlin. After a customary stop at the Opera House Café to drink lukewarm imitation Cola while fending off the city's summer swarm of wasps, we would end up where East Berlin itself ended: the Brandenburg Gate. From there we looked Westward, to the other city just beyond the columns, the city to which we would safely return that evening.

Twenty years ago I was just old enough to—like the rest of the world—take the Berlin Wall for granted. Today, as a professor of



Source: www.csnnews.com

The Berlin Wall divided East and West Berlin from 1961-1989.

German cinema and culture and a scholar of Berlin, someone teaching a generation of students born in 1989 and 1990, I wish I remembered more of that final visit to the East, a country that had vanished as a political, legal entity by the time I walked through the Bran-

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An exciting project taking place within the WEST office is our concerted effort to engage current and prospective students, faculty, K-12 teachers, and the community through the means of Web 2.0 Technology (ie. social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo, LinkedIn, and Wordpress). Though in its infancy, we have had over 50 friends join us on Facebook and regularly see 20-30 hits on our blog each day. Yet one other encouraging statistic is the 13 WEST Alumni who have joined us on LinkedIn so far. We look forward to engaging these audiences in a more meaningful way and are working with leaders at The Ohio State University's Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs Journalism to help design our social media campaign.

Additionally, a brand new website will be rolled out in January that will more effectively incorporate our social media avenues and allow improved navigation to the resources available for our distinct audiences: students, faculty, teachers, and the general public. We expect that our advancement in this area will position WEST to be more competitive as we prepare our proposal for renewed Title VI funding.

## FLAS Fellowships

### What is a FLAS Fellowship?

FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) fellowships support graduate study of modern foreign languages and related international studies. The availability of FLAS awards in 2010/11 is contingent upon the receipt of grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

### Eligibility

- US Citizen or Permanent Resident
- Applicant to or currently enrolled in a graduate program
- Undertaking an approved program of foreign language and area studies relevant to your academic and career goals.

### Fellowship Includes

- Tuition fee remission and stipend \$15,000 Acad. Year/\$2500 Summer
- Enrollment in grad student health insurance program

### WEST Languages

Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Modern Greek, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Welsh, and Yiddish

**Summer Deadline:** February 1

[www.indiana.edu/~flas](http://www.indiana.edu/~flas)

-or-

[www.iub.edu/~west/funding\\_flas.shtml](http://www.iub.edu/~west/funding_flas.shtml)

# British National Party Rising?

Nicole LaLonde, WEST MA Student

Over the course of the past 30 years, BBC's *Question Time* has become a British institution as a television show that makes political leaders and other public figures available to voters in a panel discussion format. To be invited is somewhat of a milestone for any politician. Therefore, when it emerged that the BBC had invited controversial British National Party (BNP) leader Nick Griffin as a panellist, the response was a heated debate over his invitation. Understanding this debate requires a basic background of the BNP and Mr. Griffin.

The party was founded by John Tyndall, an openly racist political activist who began his career under British fascist A.K. Chesterton in the League of Empire Loyalists in 1958. Tyndall formed the BNP almost 25 years later in 1982, having made a name for himself as the founder of various splinter groups and chairman of the fascist National Front in the 70s.

Unlike his counterparts in Europe in the 1980's, Tyndall rejected the "new" model of fascism which aimed to free itself from the fetters of Nazism; this model led to a revival of right-wing extremism in Europe, beginning in France with the electoral breakthrough of the French National Front in 1984, and became a framework quickly adopted by other extreme-right parties on the continent. Tyndall's refusal to adopt the model worked to the advantage of anti-fascists in Britain as it ensured continuing political marginalization for the BNP—not many people were eager to support Nazi ideology—but this changed when, in 1999, Nick Griffin assumed leadership, introducing "modernisation".



In spite of the furor over Nick Griffin's (Left) appearance on *Question Time*, his British National Party continues to gain seats, funding and attention.

Source: <http://BNP.org.uk>

Mr. Griffin too has roots in British fascism, attending his first National Front meeting at the age of 15. At Cambridge University he rose to the role of national student organizer for the party. One of the most notable moments in Mr. Griffin's career came in 1998, a year before winning leadership of the BNP, when he was convicted of distributing material likely to incite racial hatred, for his contribution to anti-Semitic publication *The Rune*. He also, ironically, used this publication to argue against "modernisation" of the BNP.

In 2009, the British National Party realized its first European victory, gaining two seats in the European Parliament. Many people argued—in the aftermath of the EP elections in June—that the two seats held were insignificant, granting the party

## IU Professor Wins Nobel Prize



Source: IU File Photo

In October, IU Political Science and SPEA professor Elinor Ostrom was awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in Economics “for her analysis of economic governance, especially the commons.”

Ostrom has been a professor at IU since 1965 and is well known for her research about common resource pooling. She has a long and active record of collaboration with West European scholarship including her current study of social-ecological systems in Europe and the US.

According to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which administers the award, Ostrom’s findings have “challenged the conventional wisdom that common property is poorly managed and should be either regulated by central authorities or privatized.”

Ostrom was formally awarded December 10th, the 113th anniversary of Alfred Nobel’s death, by King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden. She shares the \$1.4 million prize with Professor Oliver Williamson from UC-Berkley.

### Faculty Updates

Gene Coyle (WEST) spent the week of the Thanksgiving break lecturing to German students on Bali, Indonesia at the European Overseas Campus.

Michelle Facos (History of Art) presented her paper “French Art Abroad: 1900-1950” at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual symposium of the research project “Sweden’s Jews: A Minority’s History” at Uppsala University in November.

Mary A. Favret’s (English) new book *War at a Distance: Romanticism and the Making of Modern Wartime*, was released in November by Princeton University Press.

Roy Gardner (Economics, WEST) presented his paper “The German Democratic Republic as a Transition Economy” at the conference “Legacies of Reunification” at the University of Washington November 20.

Owen Johnson (Journalism, History) has acted as the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in East European Studies at the University of Warsaw for the fall semester.

Eileen Julien (French, Comparative Literature) contributed a chapter entitled “Now You See It, Now You Don’t: Josephine Baker’s Films of the 1930s and the Question of Color” to the book *Black Europe and the African Diaspora*, released in September.

Benjamin Robinson’s (Germanic Studies) book *The Skin of the System: On Germany’s Socialist Modernity* was released in October by Stanford University Press. On November 9th he gave a talk for the conference *The Fall of the Wall Twenty Years After* entitled “Forgotten, but not Gone: On Socialism’s Real Existence” at the University of Cincinnati.

Julia Roos’ “Women’s Rights, Nationalist Anxiety, and the ‘Moral’ Agenda in the Early Weimar Republic: Revisiting the ‘Black Horror’ Campaign against France’s African Occupation Troops” was published in the August edition of *Central European History*.

Mark Roseman (History) organized the conference “Beyond the Racial State” (October 23-25) that took place at IU and was also invited to be the US Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Ina Levine Invitational Scholar for 2010-2011.

Sandra Shapshay (Philosophy) was awarded a Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) research grant for Fall 2009 to conduct research at the Schopenhauer-Archiv in Frankfurt, Germany.

Antonio Vitti (FRIT) was elected President of the American Association of Teachers of Italian and received an award for his new book, *The Films of Gianni Amelio: The Search for a Cinema of Social Conscience True to his Roots*, on December 2 at the University of Calabria.

Lois R. Wise (SPEA, WEST) was co-instructor for a doctoral course, *Research, Policies, and Perspectives on Diversity, Equality and Discrimination*, at Linköping University, Sweden and presented a lecture, “Globalization and the Impact of Insourcing Foreign Professionals,” October 7th at The Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society in Norrköping, Sweden, thus completing her grant from the Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research.

## Alumni Spotlight: Rex Trewin



Source: WEST File Photo

Rex Trewin earned a Bachelors from Indiana University in Economics and Political Science and a Master's from Indiana in West European Studies. He completed his Master's thesis work at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Netherlands in retraining downsized employees and preparing them through community and government efforts into their own businesses. He then went on to work with people with disabilities in creating employment opportunities.

Rex began his professional career working with college students and employers in 1994 at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville as their Job Developer for Cooperative Education. He then left to create an Employer Relations Team at Emory University in Atlanta. After several years on the college side, he left to assist Georgia-Pacific Corporation develop new college recruiting programs. From August 2000 until recently, he has been the Business Development Manager for MonsterTRAK, where he worked with both employers and career centers in leveraging technology to improve their services. Since then he has supported the National Career Centered Honor Society, Delta Epsilon Iota, as their national university relations director as well as developed, created and managed several university and diversity recruiting for programs for SAP.

### >>Berlin, Continued from Page 1

denburg Gate in 1991.

Indeed, there were several Cold War encounters that I was too young to remember. The man who sat beside us on my first flight to West Germany had a name that I only learned later: Richard von Weizsäcker, then the Mayor of West Berlin, later the President of the Federal Republic of Germany. My father, a West Berliner, was once detained for hours at Friedrichstraße because he resided in the U.S. My grandfather had, for decades, worked for the East German railroad while commuting from West Berlin. My uncle was a respected *Deutsche Bahn* union leader responsible for integrating Eastern and Western personnel throughout the unified Germany and, specifically, in the New Berlin.

But when I arrived in West Berlin as a small child the first time in 1983, I was neither concerned with future historical longing, nor with politics, nor with the professional identities of my relatives. Still, I ask of myself, what would an American child have thought about a Wall that divided a nation and, in some cases, even families? I was photographed in front of the Wall and beside signs that read "YOU ARE LEAVING THE AMERICAN SECTOR." Surely, at some point I must have asked, "Why a Wall? Separating what?" yet I do not remember formulating these questions. Rather, an image replaces the conversation of my fantasized moral outrage: a gray structure rises from an overgrown patch of grass somewhere along a dirt road at West Berlin's periphery. The outstretched arm of my father or grandfather points at the object and speaks the word, "Wall." There was nothing to protest. The Wall was not going anywhere.

In November of 1989, I began to understand the Wall, its symbolic power made stronger through its dismantling. Be-

fore the internet and its new forms of global simultaneity, my father purchased a portable radio that broadcast live from Germany. While images of celebration filled the U.S. nightly news, my family huddled around the radio seeking in this older technology an auditory authenticity, excitement in its native tongue. Later, fragments of the Wall, proudly chipped by my grandfather, who had known the city through two World Wars and over forty years of Allied Occupation, made their way to our American living room. The Wall, which had not been going anywhere, was now going everywhere, sold off to tourists and gradually removed from sight. Emotions and corporate complexes filled the void once occupied by No-Man's-Land.

In 1999, the year that the Bonn government relocated to the new-old capital, I had the opportunity to study in Berlin for the first time. Unlike my college classmates, who had no palimpsestic associations with the city, I always knew when I was crossing invisible Cold War borders. As we stood on the observation deck of the bright red Info Box at Leipziger and Potsdamer Platz and imagined the architectural future of 'Europe's largest construction site,' I realized that they would never be able to visit the GDR, to witness the Wall as it had been, a monstrous monument to Germany's wartime past, an ideological barrier meant to keep a population 'in' and capitalist fascists 'out,' a backdrop for spy thrillers, a tourist attraction, a material separation of real and ideal worlds, the location of the Other in opposition to which a Self is created. Curious about the trendy new East, I still moved cautiously along its sidewalks.

This year, I returned to Berlin twice. At the Berlin International Film Festival headquarters on Potsdamer Platz, a red staircase invited passers-by to contemplate the architectural

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## Visiting Summer Student Now Calls IU Home

Bart Pushaw, IU student



Source: WEST File Photo

*Bart Pushaw came to IU from a university in Texas to study Swedish as part of the National Institute for Summer Scandinavian Studies (NISSSS) hosted by WEST in the summer of 2009. Below he shares his experience of coming to IU and his decision to transfer to take advantage of the wealth of language and culture offerings available on our campus.*

I found out about NISSSS through the University of Washington's Department of Scandinavian Studies website. I wanted to learn Swedish more than anything, and it seemed like a perfect opportunity to finally start. As of right now, I am triple majoring in Art History, Folklore and Ethnomusicology, and an Individualized Major Program in Scandinavian Studies. I plan on getting my PhD in Art History and focusing on Scandinavian, specifically Swedish, art. It is an area of art history that has been ignored by art historians for too long. Because most of the sources and current academic material are in the original Scandinavian languages, Swedish was necessary for me to acquire. This semester I have taken Intermediate Swedish as an Independent Study. It is also quite convenient that I can understand both Norwegian and Danish. Besides practical reading knowledge, I also plan on going to Stockholm next summer to immerse myself in Swedish culture. I have become a "Swedophile" of sorts.

I plan on working closely with Gergana May to expand the Scandinavian Studies program here in the next few years. I started the Swedish Coffee Hour, or *Fika*, that meets at the same time with the Norwegian *Kaffepause*. It is a great opportunity to not only use the language, but to meet people with similar interests as well. Recently, I have started meeting with two students individually to teach them the basics of Swedish language. I think it is important for people to know that even though a course is not necessarily offered, that shouldn't hinder someone from studying a language. I get much more satisfaction from speaking Swedish to my Norwegian colleagues than I ever would have had I "converted" to Norwegian.

Also, my language learning is not stopping any time soon as I plan on starting Finnish next fall. Indiana University is renowned for its language programs, and I wanted to take full advantage of that. Since coming here over the summer for the National Institute for Summer Scandinavian Studies (NISSSS), I have become familiar with the university and fallen in love with it. Besides outstanding languages, I was amazed with the courses offered here. The Folklore and Ethnomusicology Department was a big plus in my decision to enroll here, as I have always been fascinated with the mythical and mystical. Most importantly though, is the History of Art department. Professor Michelle Facos is a scholar of Nordic art here at IU, and it is because of her that I was even drawn to Scandinavian topics in the first place. Things just seemed to fall in to place here and I felt at home when I returned for the fall.

### >>BNP, Continued from Page 2

no sufficient strength in Europe's parliament. However, the recent furore over Griffin confirms the naivety of such a perspective; in the six months since the elections, Mr. Griffin has had more mainstream media coverage than he could normally have dreamed of as a minority party politician in what is, for all intents and purposes, a two-party government. The increase in funding that will be generated by the seats is more significant; over the course of four years in the EU, Griffin and his counterpart MEP Andrew Brons could see up to 4 million dollars funnelled back to the party. Moreover, the perks and networking abilities made available to MEPs shouldn't be overlooked. If Mr. Griffin manages to organize those non-associated members of the extreme-right in the EU parliament under one political party, the possibilities might be endless.

More than anything, this achievement symbolizes a payoff for ten years hard work by the BNP, reshaping its image and distancing itself from its undesirable roots. Opponents insist that the BNP's fascist ideology remains, just under the surface, and that it should be censored by the BBC and mainstream media. They point to the BNP's "white" only membership criteria,

which in August Mr. Griffin was forced to amend after a lawsuit from the Equality & Human Rights Commission. The argument for censorship is better understood in the context of Britain, which has no written constitution and strict laws concerning censorship and freedom of speech.

What is the truth about the BNP? Mr. Griffin's own words, while speaking to American white nationalists with KKK leader David Duke in 2000, just one year after he assumed leadership, prove quite revealing:

*"The BNP isn't about selling out its ideas, but we are determined to sell them. Basically, that means to use saleable words such as freedom, identity, security, democracy...Once we're in a position where we control the British broadcasting media, then perhaps one day the British people might change their mind and say, 'yes, every last one must go'... But if you hold that out as your sole aim to start with, you're not going to get anywhere. So, instead of talking about racial purity, we talk about identity."*

1. From video: <http://www.youtube.com/group/politicsfortheUK>

# WEST Faculty Spotlight: Tim Hellwig



Source: IU File Photo

Dr. Timothy Hellwig is a recent addition to the IU Department of Political Science and affiliated with WEST. He received a B.A. in Political Science from St. Cloud University, an M.A. from American University in International Affairs, and in 2004, a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in Political Science. Before coming to IU, Professor Hellwig was on the faculty at the University of Houston and a visiting researcher at the University of Essex, UK. He also spent time as a research assistant and managing editor at the International Foundation for Election Systems.

For his first semester at IU, Hellwig is leading courses in West European Politics and Comparative Politics. Next semester he will be teaching a graduate course entitled "The Politics of Advanced Industrial Democracies." Hellwig is also currently working on three projects. The first examines how elite cues and individual beliefs affect how voters hold politicians accountable for policy outcomes. The second examines how electoral systems matter for parties' strategies and successes in parliamentary elections. The third is a larger project funded by the National Science Foundation on economic globalization and mass politics.

Professor Hellwig has two forthcoming publications. One, written with Isabella Alcañiz, entitled "Who's to Blame? The Distribution of Responsibility in Developing Democracies" will be appearing in an upcoming issue of the British Journal of Political Science. The other is a chapter called "Elections and the Economy" for the book *Comparing Democracies 3: Elections and Voting in Global Perspective* due out in 2010.

Outside of academia, Professor Hellwig enjoys playing tennis, mountain biking, following the Minnesota Twins, and keeping his kids busy.

## incorporating **CULTURE** in the LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

SEEING WESTERN EUROPE  
through the **visual arts**

**June 25-27, 2010** Registration will begin  
in late January

An interactive workshop for Junior High & High School teachers of French, German, and Spanish held at Indiana University's Bloomington Campus.

Sponsored by the West European Studies National Resources Center, with support from French and Italian, Germanic Studies, and Spanish and Portuguese, IU-Bloomington.

To be included on the mailing list for updates and information, please contact:

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West European  
Studies

## Summer Teaching Opportunity

WEST invites course proposals from graduate students interested in teaching during the 2010 SUMMER SESSION I. The course must focus on a topic pertinent to contemporary Europe. The topic may range from the humanities to social sciences, literature, politics, or art.

### Proposal Package MUST include:

- Course description
- Possible joint-listings with other departments
- List of readings
- Curriculum vitae
- Course evaluations (If available/applicable)
- 1 letter of reference and contact information for 2 additional references

Proposal package is due January 15th in Ballantine 542. For more information, contact WEST or visit : [www.iub.edu/~west](http://www.iub.edu/~west).

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## &gt;&gt;Berlin, Continued from Page 4

achievements of the New Berlin. From its platform, visitors could survey the sleek corporate cityscape that had sprung up along Berlin's most contested terrain. At the gala premiere of the film adaptation of Theodor Fontane's *Effi Briest* on Friedrichstraße, I sat in the same row as Chancellor Angela Merkel, the first female and Eastern head of state. Did we both marvel at the kitschy attempts to evoke the late 19<sup>th</sup> century bustle of Unter den Linden, the GDR's main tourist drag?

In the summer, while back in the city to organize and research *The Indiana University DEFA Project: Remembering 1989-90 through East German Films of the Transition* (January-April 2010), I met screenwriting legend and project guest, Wolfgang Kohlhaase, for a drink. This was the man who began his fiction film career with youth films, such as *Berlin—Schönhauser Corner* (GDR 1957), that addressed the pre-Wall lure of the inner-German border and its Western entertainments. As we made our way to the Berlin premiere of his latest film, we nonchalantly crossed Unter den Linden, strode past the Holocaust Memorial and into the Ministry Gardens, a street of state cultural offices not far from Hitler's old bunker. The Wall has been replaced by the demands of other pasts and the present. Maybe this is one lesson of 2009: it is possible, in Berlin today, to walk through the city's geographic center on a beautiful summer night.

## WEST Advisory Board Actions

The WEST Advisory Board met on October 30th. Two important outcomes of that meeting were the Board's review and approval of revisions to the Undergraduate Minor in West European Studies and revision of MA thesis page limits. The Board reviewed the recommendations of a faculty committee that met last spring and approved a final version of the revised minor which was sent to the College for formal review and approval.

For graduate students, an important action taken by the Board was to limit the number of pages permitted in a WEST MA thesis to a maximum of 100 total (including all pages: signature page, abstract, title, tables and references). The WEST Director may no longer accept master theses that exceed 100 pages. Students are urged to aim for a paper between 50 and 75 pages total. This policy is consistent with WEST's efforts to accelerate time for completing the MA.

## 2nd Annual Euro Challenge

Registration is now underway for the **2010 Euro Challenge** competition! The Euro Challenge is an opportunity for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students to learn about the European Union (EU) and the euro. Each team will make a 15-minute presentation describing the current economic situation in the euro area and analyzing a specific economic challenge in an EU country of their choice. Teams then answer questions from a distinguished panel of judges.

Cash prizes for the top teams are generously provided by The Moody's Foundation.

Preliminary rounds: Chicago on March 26, 2010  
Semifinal and Final rounds: New York City on April 27, 2010

Visit [www.euro-challenge.org](http://www.euro-challenge.org) for more information.



### WEST EUROPEAN STUDIES CENTER

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
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The Indiana University West European Studies Center is offering mileage reimbursement for participating teams. For more information, please contact Brant

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