

IHRC 2009-2010

Research-in-Progress Talks

Research in Progress Talks (RPTs) are short presentations by visiting researchers consulting IHRC collections, followed by a discussion. Talks are held 3:30-4:40 p.m. in Room 308, Elmer L. Andersen Library (IHRC conference room). Beverages are provided. (*Denotes tentative date)

Wednesday, Aug. 12—Frank Jankac

University of Manitoba
Residency: August 10-14, 2009

"Eager Immigrants, Reluctant Host: The Croatian Immigration Experience in Canada 1896-1960"

Jankac's research explores the dynamics of immigration restrictions and wartime measures pertaining to the Croatian experience in Canada from the late 19th century to the mid 20th century. Immigration policies granted, denied or revoked entry into Canada. Geopolitical conflicts in Europe also led Canadians to look upon immigrants with even greater suspicion and resulted in dark historical episodes, particularly during period of wartime. *Talk co-sponsored by Center for Austrian Studies.*



***Wednesday, Aug. 19—Karl Altau**

Director, JBANC
Residency: August 13-20, 2009

"Joint Baltic American National Committee"

The Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) has an exceptional

position as liaison with Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian-American communities; other national communities; the U.S. Congress; and three Baltic governments. Altau's research follows the 50-year history of JBANC as a window onto the experiences in the United States of Displaced Persons after World War II and the changing aspirations of newer generations of Baltic Americans.

Thursday, Aug. 20—Aleksandra Loewenau

Centre for Health, Medicine and Society, Oxford Brookes University
Residency: August 17-25, 2009

"Polish Catholic Priests in Dachau Concentration Camp"

Loewenau presents her research into the plight of 1,700 Polish Catholic priest inmates of Dachau concentration camp who were exposed to particularly brutal treatments, such as chicanery, torture, unbearable hunger and medical experiments. Her work offers an important but difficult perspective on the collaboration of medical professionals in

the persecution of clergy during the Nazi era. Loewenau is a researcher in the "Victims of Human Experiments under National Socialism" at Oxford Brookes University. *Talk co-sponsored by Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies; History of Medicine; and Program for Human Rights and Medicine.*

Wednesday, Aug. 26—Kathryn L. Wegner

University of Illinois-Chicago
Residency: August 24-29, 2009

"Constructing Citizenship: Education, Immigrants, and Americanization in Chicago, 1910-1940"

Citizenship as a social and cultural idea acquired new meanings between 1910 and 1940. Wegner analyzes the confluence of citizenship and education in immigrant communities during those three decades, finding evidence that citizenship could be defined as an assumed or legal status, as well as knowledge of U.S. history and government, loyalty or proper hygiene, or other types of learning.

Thursday, Aug. 27—Vanessa Weinert

Columbia University/London School of Economics
Residency: August 24-29, 2009

"Asylum, Social Groups, and Violence: Women Navigating the Courts and Creating Identities in the United States, Canada, Australia, and United Kingdom, 1970-1998"

Weinert's research tracks how the definition of "refugee" has been used and adapted in cases of women seeking asylum because of gender-based violence. A refugee has been defined as a person seeking refuge in another country "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion." While the United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom all follow the international definition of a refugee, they employ different approaches when defining and placing women within "social groups." *Talk co-sponsored by Gender, Women & Sexuality Studie; Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; and Institute for Advanced Study.*

(Continued on back)

Immigration History Research Center

An interdisciplinary research center in the College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota
Elmer L. Andersen Library, Suite 311; 222 - 21st Ave S.; Minneapolis MN 55455
612-625-4800 (office) - 612-626-0018 (fax) - ihrc@umn.edu (e-mail) - www.ihrc.umn.edu

Thursday, Sept. 3—Jüri Estam

Independent Scholar, Tallinn, Estonia
Residency: September 1-7, 2009

"Estonian World Council and Estonian American National Council"

A former Estonian exile given refuge by the United States after World War II, Estam now is a writer and communicator in his homeland. He has worked for Radio Free Europe, as a journalism and media executive in Estonia, and currently is a media consultant. His research visit is in preparation for writing histories of the Estonian World Council and Estonian American National Council for public audiences.

Thursday, Sept. 17—David Palter

University of California-Santa Cruz
Residency: September 14-18, 2009

"A Shared Project: Race and Education in Early Twentieth-Century San Francisco"

Palter's project explores the evolution of racial thinking in arguments over the education of Chinese and Japanese children in San Francisco from the late 19th century to 1924. His work at the IHRC will focus on finding the voices of early San Francisco immigrants -- especially those of working-class Chinese and Italians, which are essential to his project. *Talk co-sponsored by Asian American Studies.*

Thursday, Oct. 15—Stacy Farenthold

Northeastern University
Residency: October 11-17, 2009

"Defining Ourselves, Teaching the Youth: The Arab-American Federation Movement and Diaspora Nationality, 1935-1950"

Farenthold studies the role of associations and the ethnic press in linking immigrant communities and forming an Arab-American public sphere in the mid-twentieth century. She argues that the emergence of the Arab-American Federation movement was connected to larger political projects taking place in both the homeland and the *mahjar* (Syrian and Lebanese diaspora), playing a central role in constructing a national identity at home and in the diaspora.

***Thursday, Oct. 29— William Samonides**

Independent Scholar
Residency: October 26-30, 2009

"Greek Immigrants in the Urban Northeast and Midwest"

Samonides documents the regional identities and experiences of Greek Americans, expanding scholarly analysis of immigrant life through his research into the chapter records of AHEPA, the largest secular Greek-American organization. The correspondence records of AHEPA held at the IHRC are a particularly rich source of information about early Greek immigrant life and, in some cases, the only existing archival materials documenting regional Greek-American ethnicity.

Thursday, June 10, 2010—Ellen Pozzi

Rutgers University
Residency: June 7-11, 2010

"Proposed Title: "Immigrant Libraries"

The history of reading provides an avenue for understanding the information neighborhood of Italian immigrant communities at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Pozzi's work brings together evidence from personal papers, organizations involved with Americanization efforts, and ethnic publications to reconstruct the role of libraries in the lives of immigrants.

Dates to be Finalized

Michele De Gregorio

Freelance Journalist, Rassegna Sindacale, Rome
Residency: September-October 2009

"From the Shipyards of Trieste to the Streets of New York: The Triestini dockers and the Italian Roots of the Antifascist Movement in the U.S."

Joseph Sciorra

John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY
Residency: April or May 2010

"Alessandro Sisca and Internationally Popular Neapolitan Music Composed in the United States"

Hauke Siemen

University of Hamburg
Residency: April-May 2010

"The Baltic Émigrés' Political Activities During the Cold War"

Kristel Tammik

National Archives of Estonia, Tallinn, Estonia
Residency: March-April 2010 for four weeks

"Estonian American archives, digital archiving, and international archival information systems"

Ann J. Toumi

University of Joensuu, Finland
Residency: mid-March or late May 2010

"Finnish American Women's Experience and Historical Fiction Writing"

Emelise Aleandri

Frizzi & Lazzi The Olde Time Italian-American Music & Theatre Company, Trafalgar House, New York
Residency: Spring 2010

"Italian American Immigrant Theatre of New York City in the 20th Century"

Immigration History Research Center

An interdisciplinary research center in the College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota
Elmer L. Andersen Library, Suite 311; 222 - 21st Ave S.; Minneapolis MN 55455
612-625-4800 (office) - 612-626-0018 (fax) - ihrc@umn.edu (e-mail) – www.ihrc.umn.edu