

## PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

### Remembering Ernst Toller (1893-1939): Exiles and Refugees between Europe and the US

Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College  
47-49 East 65<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10065

The spring of 1919 saw the brutal end of the Bavarian soviet republic that had emerged as part of Germany's November Revolution. Twenty years later, on May 22, 1939, Ernst Toller, one of the leaders of that revolution and republic, committed suicide at the Mayflower Hotel in New York, where he was living in exile from Nazi Germany. To commemorate these anniversaries, we are organizing this conference on German-speaking exiles in New York and the United States, and their legacy for today's exiles and refugees.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 30

##### 1:00-1:30 – Registration

##### 1:30-1:45 – Greetings & Introductions

Lisa Marie Anderson, Hunter College, City University of New York

Christiane Schönfeld, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick

##### 1:45-2:45 – Keynote lecture: "Search Movements: Literature and Politics between the Wars"

Stefan Neuhaus, University of Koblenz-Landau

##### 3:00-4:15 – Panel: From Revolution to Exile

Jörg Thuncke, Nottingham Trent University, "Ret Marut: Director of Communications for the Munich Soviet Republic in Spring 1919"

Theudel von Wallmoden, Wallstein Verlag, Göttingen, "Buffaloes and Swallows: Rosa Luxemburg's and Ernst Toller's Letters from Prison"

Rolf Selbmann, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, "Vom Ich zur Welt. Wandlungen des Erzählers Ernst Toller"

##### 4:15-4:45 – Coffee break

**4:45-6:00 – Panel: Exile Culture 1 – Novels, Poems, Life Writing**

Steffan Davies, University of Bristol, “Der Wille zum wirklich Wahren: Language and Reality in Heinrich Mann’s Exile Novels”

Andrea Capovilla, University of London, “*Das siebte Wien*: The Poems of Fritz Brainin as Life Writing”

Linda Maeding, Universidad Complutense/Madrid, “New Worlds: Utopian Constructions of America in German Language Exile”

**6:00-7:00 – Welcome reception & book launch**

**Dinner – own arrangements**

**FRIDAY, MAY 31**

**9:00-10:15 am – Panel: Toller in/as Exile**

Veronika Schuchter, University of Innsbruck: “Ernst Toller’s Letters from Exile, 1933-1939”

Peter Langemeyer, Østfold University College, “Ernst Toller’s *Eine Jugend in Deutschland* as Exile Literature?”

Christiane Schönfeld, “Ernst Toller’s Film Projects: Life as Exile”

**10:15-10:30 – Coffee break**

**10:30-11:30 – Keynote lecture: “The Broader Context: Putting the Pieces Together”**

Deborah Vietor-Engländer, Technical University of Darmstadt, President of the Alfred Kerr Stiftung

**11:45-1:15 – Panel: The Politics of Exile**

Jürgen Egyptian, RWTH Aachen University, “Hans Sahl (1902-1993): The Exile in Exile of an Independent Writer”

Aoife McInerney, University of Limerick, “Nationalism vs. Naturalism: Hannah Arendt and the Problem of Statelessness”

Rachel Blumenthal, Jerusalem/Tel Aviv, “Home to Home: Exiles and Refugees Before the House Un-American Activities Committee”

Benjamin R. Nestor, Marquette University, “The Émigré as Critic: Josef Weber and the Bankruptcy of Power Politics”

**1:15-2:00 – Catered lunch**

**2:00-3:30 – Panel: Exiles and Refugees in New York**

Swen Steinberg, Technical University of Dresden, “Networks of Socialist Refugees in New York”

Lori Gemeiner Bihler, Framingham State University, “A Snapshot of 1930s New York through the Lens of the Exile Press”

Helga Schreckenberger, University of Vermont, “Permanent Exile or New Home? Austrian Exiles in New York”

Susanne Froböse, Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg, “Zwischen ‘utopischer Vision’ und ‘unheimlicher Neuer Welt’: Amerikabilder bei Hans Sahl und Ludwig Marcuse”

**3:30-3:45 – Coffee break**

**3:45-5:10 – Panel: Exile Culture 2 – From Feuchtwanger to Film**

Ian Wallace, University of Bath, “Lion Feuchtwanger’s America”

Herwig Lewy, Leipzig University, “Suicide in Transit”

Frank Stern, University of Vienna, “Framing Exile: The Films of Martha Eggerth BEFORE-DURING-AFTER”

**5:15-6:15 – Invited reading**

Anna Funder, Sydney, author of the historical novels *All That I Am* and *Stasiland*

**6:30 pm – Conference dinner sponsored by the Ernst Toller Gesellschaft**

**SATURDAY JUNE 1**

**9:00-10:15 am – Panel: Toller’s Final Engagements in New York (1938-1939)**

Irene Zanol, University of Innsbruck, “‘A Sanctuary for the German Spirit’: Ernst Toller and the Networks and Activities of the American Guild for German Cultural Freedom”

Lisa Marie Anderson, Hunter College, “Antifascist Activism and Free Speech on Campus: Toller’s Queens College Affair”

Karina von Tippelskirch, Syracuse University, “Ernst Toller at the World Congress of Writers in New York”

**10:15-10:30 – Coffee break**

**10:30-11:30 – Keynote lecture: “What Is An Author Without His Language?”**

Kirsten Reimers, Hamburg

**11:40-1:00 – Panel: Exile Culture 3 – Paintings and Plays**

Aleksandra Idzior, University of the Fraser Valley, “Teresa Żarnower, the Artist Afflicted by War and Exile”

Brian Haman, University of Warwick, “Portraits of Artists in Exile: Arthur Kaufmann’s *Amerikabild*”

Anat Feinberg, Center for Jewish Studies Heidelberg, “Longing to Belong: The Exile and Remigration of Jewish Theater Artists”

**1:00-2:00 – Catered lunch**

**2:00-3:20 – Panel: Exile Literature and Film Today**

Britta Jung, University College Dublin, “Forced Across and Beyond Borders: Exilic Experiences in Vladimir Vertlib’s *Zwischenstationen* (1999) and Olga Grjasnowa’s *Der Russe ist einer, der Birken liebt* (2012)”

Withold Bonner, University of Tampere/Finland, “‘Extending the German Past into the Present’: Christian Petzold’s Film Version of *Transit* by Anna Seghers”

Gillian Jein, Newcastle University, “Reframing Exile: Ellis Island in French Visual Culture”

**3:30-4:30 – Roundtable discussion moderated by Christiane Schönfeld**

Dieter Distl, President, Ernst Toller Gesellschaft

Michael Lahr, Executive Director, The Lahr von Leitis Academy & Archive and Program Director, Elysium – between two continents

Ian Wallace, President, International Feuchtwanger Society

Theudel von Wallmoden, Publisher, Wallstein Verlag

Keynote speakers Stefan Neuhaus, Kirsten Reimers, Deborah Vietor-Engländer

**4:30 – Closing remarks**