

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 65th 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. We are commemorating these anniversaries with this conference on German-speaking émigrés in New York and the United States, and their legacy for the exiles and refugees who are arriving in the US and Europe today, i.e. for the unfolding global migration crisis.

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

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

Jörg Thuncke, Nottingham Trent University, "Revolutionäre Ungeduld oder die Geschichte einer Illusion: Die Rolle des Anarchisten Ret Marut während der Münchener Räterepublik 1918/19"

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

4:00-4:30 – Coffee break

4:30-5:45 – Panel: Exile Literature

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, University of Limerick, “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

11:45-12:40 – Panel: The Politics of Exile

Aoife McInerney, University of Limerick, “Homelessness, Dehumanization, and Alienation: Hannah Arendt's Politics of Invisibility”

Rachel Blumenthal, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, “Home to Home: Exiles and Refugees Before the House Un-American Activities Committee”

12:40-2:00 – Lunch – own arrangements

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

Swen Steinberg, Queens University/Ontario, “Networks of Socialist Refugees in New York: The ‘Right Wing’ Social Democratic Journalist Robert Grötzsch and his ‘Friends’ from Germany”

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”

Susanna Froböse, Humboldt University of Berlin, “Zwischen ‘utopischer Vision’ und ‘unheimlicher Neuer Welt’: Amerikabilder bei Hans Sahl und Ludwig Marcuse”

3:30-3:45 – Coffee break

3:45-4:45 – Panel: Exile on Film, From Eggerth to Petzold

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

Herwig Lewy, Leipzig University, “Suicide in Transit: Feuchtwanger, Seghers, Petzold”

5:00-6:00 – Invited reading

Anna Funder, Sydney, author of *All That I Am* (2011) and *Stasiland* (2003)

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

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: Painters in Exile

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*”

1:00-2:00 – Catered lunch

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

Britta C. 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”

3:00-3:30 – Screening and discussion of JR’s short film *Ellis* (2015)

3:30-4:30 – Closing roundtable

Moderator: Christiane Schönfeld

Participants:

Dieter Distl, President, Ernst Toller Gesellschaft

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

Theudel von Wallmoden, Publisher, Wallstein Verlag

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