

Irene Kacandes

Dartmouth College / German Studies Association

Memory Work for/in the 21st Century

Thursday, June 30, 2016 | 6-9 pm

Freie Universität Berlin

Ehrenbergstr. 26/28 | Room 009 | 14195 Berlin



Berlin Program GSA Distinguished Lecture 2016

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Memory Work for/in the 21st Century

In this talk Irene Kacandes explores how memory work can help us understand and address pressing contemporary problems like multiple wars, conflicts, humanitarian crises and mass migration. The recent and rapid influx of refugees has fed extreme nationalist parties in Europe with the result that hard-won moral capital against antisemitism, ethnic cleansing, and genocide acquired in the post WWII decades is disappearing at an alarming rate. Questioning much-used injunctions like “never again” and “never forget”, Irene Kacandes calls for the use of the more subtle, labor-intensive tools of “post-remembering” and “co-witnessing”. In this year’s Distinguished Lecture, she will review the history of such concepts and illustrate through literary, filmic, and mass media texts successful strategies for alliance with the traumatized.

Irene Kacandes holds a joint appointment and an endowed chair in German Studies and Comparative Literature at Dartmouth College in the United States. She also teaches in Women’s, Gender, and Sexualities Studies, and Jewish Studies. Author of articles on narrative theory, experimental life writing, German and Italian cultural studies, feminist linguistic theory, trauma studies, Holocaust studies, and mortality studies, her current research focuses on new conceptualizations of Eastern Europe, and generational memory of the Second World War and the Nazi Judeocide. Author of *Daddy’s War: Greek American Stories* and *Talk Fiction: Literature and the Talk Explosion*, Kacandes has coedited *A User’s Guide to German Cultural Studies* and *Teaching the Representation of the Holocaust* as well as a special issue of *Women’s Studies Quarterly* on “Witness.” Her most recent book, *Let’s Talk About Death: Asking the Questions that Profoundly Change How We Live and Die* is co-written with Steve Gordon (2015). Irene Kacandes is recipient of many prestigious grants, has served in numerous capacities for professional organizations like the Modern Language Association (MLA), the International Society for the Study of Narrative Literature (ISSN) and is currently President of the German Studies Association (GSA), the largest international, interdisciplinary professional organization to focus on all matters German - the Berlin Program’s partner organization.

The lecture will be followed by a commentary by writer Maxi Obexer and a discussion. The event will be moderated by Paul Nolte, Freie Universität Berlin and musically accompanied by Michael O’Toole (Berlin Program Fellow 2015/16) and David Benforado who will be performing pieces on oud and ney.

TIME:	June 30, 2016, 18-20 h (c.t.) followed by a reception 20-21 h	
LOCATION:	FU Berlin, Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies Room 009, Ehrenbergstr. 26/28, 14195 Berlin	
LANGUAGE:	The lecture and discussion will be held in English	
REGISTRATION:	Not required	
GETTING THERE:	S/U-Bahn:	S1 Lichterfelde West U-Bahn: U3 Thielplatz
	Bus:	M11 Ehrenbergstr., M48 und 101 Unter den Eichen/Drakestr.