



2022 DAAD Alumni Association USA Winter Newsletter  
December 2022

**Welcome Letter by DAAD-AA President | Dr. Helena Kane Finn**  
by Dr. Helena Kane Finn | DAAD-AA | President

Welcome DAAD-AA Alumni,

We wish you a Festive Holiday Season and a Happy New Year 2023!

We were able to revive many of our activities during 2022. It has been a very good year. Due to the lessening impact of the pandemic, we'll continue to amplify our in-person programs. The time of Covid has made us realize however, that we are able to reach a global audience via the internet. DAAD/AA has been very successful in promoting the events that are described in this Newsletter. We are deeply appreciative of the support we have received from our Alumni and friends of the DAAD. Their generosity enables us to provide academic opportunities for a future generation of students and to organize events that enable the DAAD Alumni to meet and network with one another.

The German-American partnership is more significant than ever before as the tragic war in Europe continues. Through our exchange programs, we are strengthening the ties of friendship and enhancing cooperation between our two countries. Academic exchange is an investment in the future. I would particularly highlight the need to send highly qualified US students to study the German language and to pursue other fields of scholarship in Germany. Bi-lateral exchange can be a life-altering experience and the basis for the "mutual understanding" so essential in difficult times.

We are counting on you DAAD Alumni to continue to be committed to exchange programs through your membership in the DAAD Alumni Association. We have board members across the United States and a number of geographical hubs. Whenever possible, please do attend our events virtually or in person. I particularly hope that those of you who are able to travel to New York will attend the DAAD/AA Sound Understanding Concert at Carnegie Hall on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

With all best wishes for every success in your endeavors over the coming year,

*Dr. Helena Kane Finn*

## What you find in this issue:

Welcome to the 2022 year-end edition of our newsletter. My thanks go to our President, Dr. Helena Kane Finn. She used her infallible diplomatic talents to guide us through the pandemic with poise and strength. As customary, we rotate presidencies every two years, and I am glad to have her guidance in 2023.

In this newsletter you will read about our RISE grantees, our events, initiatives and welcome new board members.

I want to focus on our young grantees. If you have limited time, please start there. The students are thankful that you decided to fund their exposure to research and a new culture. You can already see the seeds of a long-lasting effect to their academic career and personal relationships. My thanks go to you, our members – in the hope that you will be able to repeat your support for the very deserving next group of students that we will choose this spring. Each \$2,500 of your donations funds one more student!

Mark your calendar for the 2023 Sound Understanding Concert on April 20, 2023 at 7pm, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall showcasing some of Germany's most talented musicians, US DAAD fellowship recipients. To place an ad in the concert program or make a donation, please go to the [concert webpage](#) section: "Other Ways to Support this Event" and send the form to Amra Dumisic at the DAAD NY office: [dumisic@daad.de](mailto:dumisic@daad.de) Any donation over \$100 will be acknowledged in the program if received before the March 10 printing deadline.

Enjoy the read!



Mechthild Schmidt Feist, Vice President DAAD Alumni Association USA

## DAAD Alumni Association USA Excellence Award 2022

By Rosmarie Morewedge

Professor Michael Shaughnessy was honored with this year's DAADAA award for his accomplishments international outreach and advocating the transatlantic encounter and dialogue in institutional settings of higher education. At Washington & Jefferson College he offered inclusive study abroad programs and scholarships on a need-basis, raising \$4.5 Million for this purpose. At the same time he established the connection between study abroad and academic excellence and introduced study abroad as a requirement for all majors. He collected data on the outcomes of study abroad and used his analysis of this data in transforming study abroad optimally. He has built many cooperative partnerships between institutions in the USA and Germany. As the Executive Director of the AATG he has been successful in introducing a 3-year cooperative program of the Herder Institute and the AATG for teachers of German at all level on the topic of diversity and social justice, but with a focus on methods of effective teaching. The DAADAA was very pleased to award Prof. Shaughnessy this award at the annual Conference of the GSA in Houston. Committee members felt that Professor Shaughnessy's achievement in the international exchange of students, future teachers, teachers and researchers warranted broadcast and dissemination to a wider audience of those working in the field who would want to learn from his experiences, research, data collection and analysis, and his prognosis of future directions. We were

pleased therefore, that Dr. Shaughnessy agreed to give the “**Annual DAAD AA Award Lecture**” on November 14 on the topic of:



**Global aspirations and local realities:  
A meta-analysis of language skill/gaps and  
study abroad in German**

Dr. Michael Shaughnessy, Professor of German at Washington and Jefferson College and Executive Director of the AATG addressed the following questions: How do K-12 programs affect study abroad numbers in higher-education? How will demographic changes in the US affect study abroad numbers in the future? Who are the typical study abroad students? How do we expand the pool? What changes are needed in study abroad strategies for the German speaking world?

### **How to Nominate an Awardee**

The DAAD Alumni Association USA Award for Excellence in International Exchange is one of the significant contributions of our organization. Our members can nominate a highly deserving candidate. A jury votes for one senior and (new this year) one early career mentorship award.

DAAD Alumni Association USA Award for Excellence in International Exchange  
(Senior career level award)

DAAD Alumni Association USA Award for Excellence in International Exchange  
(Mid- career mentorship award)

We accept (self-) nominations for these awards at [nominations@DAAD-Alumni-USA.org](mailto:nominations@DAAD-Alumni-USA.org). Check our social media for upcoming deadlines – we accept nominations year-round.

### **DAAD AA Scholarship Awardees 2022 – We are happy to resume scholarships to Germany after the pandemic** By Mark Rectanus

In 2022, the DAAD AA awarded eight scholarships to outstanding students who conducted study and research in Germany. Six students received scholarships as part of the DAAD Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE) Program and two students received scholarship support for the University Summer Courses in language and culture at German universities. We are delighted to share some excerpts from their reports. The students are enthusiastic regarding their experiences living and working in Germany – both of which will continue to impact their professional and personal lives for many years to come.

The DAAD AA Scholarships are made possible through your financial support. Please consider a donation that will support student scholarships in 2023!

You can donate by: [Paypal](https://www.paypal.com), Zelle & email: [giving@daad-alumni-usa.org](mailto:giving@daad-alumni-usa.org), or by check, payable to: DAAD AA Treasurer, 18601 Darnestown Rd., Poolesville, MD 20837



*Emily Bengston (Columbia University)  
Erfurt - Fachhochschule Erfurt  
Project: Sediments & soils as recorders of past climates & environmental change in the Thuringian forest*

I am so grateful for my DAAD internship because it provided me with an opportunity to experience Germany more fully than I would have been able to as a tourist, and I feel much more aware of how Germany uses education and social awareness to promote a positive future. Not only did I gain important scientific work experience, but I also gained so much cultural appreciation and confidence as a person

*Lengchen Gong (Grinnell College)  
Stuttgart-Hohenheim - Universität Hohenheim  
Project: Climate and land use effects on aquatic plant species performance modified by functional traits*

I enjoyed my experience in Stuttgart and the academic system in Germany has impressed me a lot. On a personal note, this is my first internship. I have gained a lot of practical working experiences and knowledge about research routine. In addition, I believe international communication is very important for academics and the work DAAD is doing can promote further interactions. I am very grateful to DAAD and DAAD Alumni Association USA for this opportunity.



*Owen Lubben (Northwestern University)  
Hochschule Bochum -- Sustainable Technologies Laboratory  
Project: User Survey and Test of the Solar Charging Station (SCS)*

[The RISE experience] was extremely valuable to me as a way of learning and practicing engineering in one of the best places in the world. I was able to make new contacts and friends in both academia and industry who were working in fields that are extremely relevant to my future career. I am very interested in the upcoming transportation changes and the clean energy that the world is moving towards. Working with electric vehicles and solar charging in Germany is a great step forward for me. This internship also provided me

with many amazing life experiences as I was able to travel through Germany and other places in Europe and learn their history.



## Board News

By Barbara Berthold and Mechthild Schmidt Feist

Our Board members are elected for a 3-year turn, with an option for one renewal before taking a hiatus. We are thanking Rosmarie Morewedge, Mark W. Rectanus, Brian Boyer, Jonathan Olsen, and Barbara Berthold for their dedication and service before they go on hiatus next year. We welcome back 2 members after their 2022 hiatus: Sigrid Berka and Erika Berroth.

Our President and Vice President are each serving on a two-year rotation. With gratitude we thank Dr. Helena Kane Finn, our outgoing President for leading us through 2 Corona years! Helena will impart her wisdom as a regular board member in 2023. She will be succeeded by current Vice President Mechthild Schmidt Feist in 2023.

Now get to know our new board members who joined us between February and November this year:



### **Ingo Brachmann, Ph.D., Dipl.-Ing.**

Dr. Ingo Brachmann is a Design Manager in the disciplines of Civil, Structural and Architectural in the Office of Infrastructure at the Department of Energy Headquarters in Washington D.C,

As the Design Manager, Dr. Brachmann provides technical oversight and subject matter expertise to capital line-item construction projects in excess of \$50M across the National Security Enterprise. His responsibilities support a portfolio of 20+ projects totaling a budget of \$30 Billion.

Dr. Brachmann is intimately familiar with the German and American education systems. As a native German, he spent his first twenty-five years in Germany. From kindergarten to his studies as a Diploma Engineer at the Technical University of Dortmund he completed the German Education

System. He greatly appreciates this German education as it has provided the foundation for his professional career.

As the recipient of a DAAD scholarship, he was able to pursue his master's degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Kansas which led to a doctorate degree at Purdue University. His PH.D. dissertation investigated the Boeing 767 aircraft impact on the World Trade Center on 9/11. [Purdue WTC Boeing 767 Aircraft Impact](#) Dr. Brachmann holds professional engineering licenses in the US and Germany.

Privately, Dr. Brachmann is married to an American and has a daughter attending the German International School in Washington D.C. His free-time activities include a passion for art, books, music, history, travel, tennis, skiing, and outdoor activities.

### **Christopher Medalis, PhD**

Christopher Medalis is an international education global programs and strategy expert based in New York City and Central Europe. He has more than 30 years of experience leading strategic international education initiatives, advancing university internationalization, and managing grant programs and academic exchanges on behalf of governments, universities, foundations, and corporations. He currently is Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at the School for International Training (SIT) in Vermont, USA. As a consultant, he works with national academic agencies and universities on internationalization initiatives, most recently as Senior International Advisor at Palacky University in Olomouc, the Czech Republic. His career in the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East has



included representing the U.S. State Department's EducationUSA network as Regional Director (REAC) for Europe, in Istanbul and Bratislava. Previously, he was Director of Global Scholarship Programs at IIE in New York and directed IIE's Europe Office in Budapest from 1998-2007. He serves as an advisor and reviewer to the National Science Foundation, the European Commission, European countries' ministries of education, and several U.S. private foundations and NGOs.

He holds a PhD in History from Columbia University (2009), where his dissertation focused on the role of the Fulbright Program in higher education transformation in Central and Eastern Europe. His research interests include history, public diplomacy, popular culture, and comparative and international education. He also holds an MA and MPhil in History (Columbia, 1993 and 1998) and a BA in International Relations (George Washington University, 1989). He is an alumnus of the DAAD summer language training for PhD students at the Herder Institute of the University of Leipzig in 1993.



### **Tina Frühauf, PhD**

Tina Frühauf is Adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia University in New York and serves on the doctoral faculty of the CUNY Graduate Center. In 2019 she was a DAAD Guest Professor, sponsored by the German government, at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Munich. She has served on various committees of the American Musicological Society and as Council Member, and is on the board of the Louis Lewandowski Festival in Berlin.

An active scholar and writer, the study of Jewish music in modernity has been Dr. Frühauf's primary research focus for two decades, culminating in monographs from *Orgel und Orgelmusik in deutsch-jüdischer Kultur* (Georg Olms Verlag, 2005) to *Transcending Dystopia: Music, Mobility, and the Jewish Community in Germany, 1945–1989* (Oxford University Press, 2021). Among Dr. Frühauf's recent editions is *Dislocated*

*Memories: Jews, Music, and Postwar German Culture* (Oxford University Press, 2014, with Lily E. Hirsch) and the collection of essays, *Postmodernity's Musical Pasts* (Boydell Press, 2020). Since 2011 she is the series editor of *Synagogalmusik / Synagogal Music / Musique des Synagogue* (Merseburger Verlag). A volume on Jewish music in southern Germany and the *Oxford Handbook of Jewish Music* are due to be published in 2022 and 2023. Frühauf's articles on a broad variety of topics have appeared in high-ranked journals, including *Cambridge Opera Journal*, *Early Music*, *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook*, *The Musical Quarterly*, and *TDR: The Drama Review*.

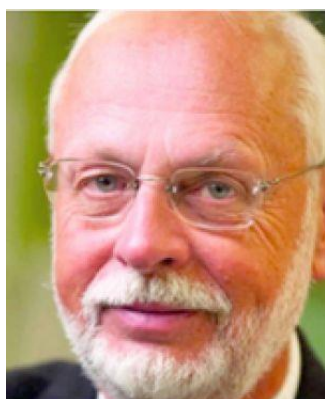
Dr. Frühauf has won several awards and noteworthy scholarships for her work, including the Jordan Schnitzer Book Award, the Ruth A. Solie Award, the Jewish Studies and Music Award of the American Musicological Society, and the Gerald Westheimer Fellowship.

### **Can Olgun**

Can Olgun is an internationally performing pianist, composer, educator, and researcher. Originally from Berlin/Germany, Olgun moved to New York in 2008 to pursue a master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music after being awarded a scholarship by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). He has appeared at landmark venues such as the Berliner Philharmonie, Carnegie Hall, Blue Note, A-Trane Berlin, Jazz Club Unterfahrt Munich, Winter Jazz Fest, and Jazz At Lincoln Center. While maintaining a busy schedule as a



sideman, he also tours frequently throughout Europe and the U.S. Olgun can be heard on numerous albums alongside artists such as Mark Turner, Michael Mayo, Thomas Morgan, Nate Smith, and Ben Wendel. His most recent project, 'Bear and Grin,' expected to be released in 2023, showcases eight of Olgun's original compositions and features Grammy-nominated singer Becca Stevens. Olgun serves as the musical director for an AME Zion Church in New York and was the musical director for the late actress/singer Suzanne Douglas. He was a semi-finalist in the 2010 Martial Solal Piano competition in Paris and the 2011 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition in Washington, D.C. In 2019, Olgun joined the full-time faculty at CUNY BMCC, where he teaches classes in performance, piano, and theory, as well as focusing on the development of a new degree specialization in jazz and popular music. He is a Ph.D. candidate at the Victoria University of Wellington/New Zealand School of Music, where he conducts research at the intersections of contemporary gospel keyboard playing, artistic research, and jazz piano improvisation. His research findings will entail a portfolio of creative work expected to be released in 2023 and 2024. More at: [www.canolgun.com](http://www.canolgun.com)



### **Dr. Manfred Philipp**

Manfred Philipp has been on the board of the DAAD Alumni Association from 2011-2017 & 2022-present. He was Vice President of the Association in 2011-2012, President in 2013-2014, and is now chair of the program committee. He was DAAD Research Ambassador from 2019-2022 and was supported by DAAD and others at the University of Freiburg (1971-5.) He is Managing Director of the Belle Zeller Scholarship Trust Fund. He is former Executive Director of the CUNY Academy for the Humanities & Sciences, Trustee of the City University of New York (CUNY), and chair of CUNY's University Faculty Senate in 2006-2010. Dr. Philipp is Professor Emeritus and past department chair of chemistry at Lehman College and at the Biochemistry and Chemistry Doctoral Programs at the CUNY Graduate

Center. Dr. Philipp was Lehman College's Program Director for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS), Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC), and other NIH programs. He served as the national president of the MBRS/MARC Program Directors Organization. In 1993-1995 he coordinated the EU-USA Erasmus Program in Chemistry.

He was President of the Board of the Fulbright Association in 2018 and helped give the Fulbright Prize for International Development to Chancellor Angela Merkel in 2019. Supported by Fulbright, he taught at the Catholic University of Portugal in 2005 and did research at the Patan Academy of Health Sciences in Nepal in 2012-2013.

Dr. Philipp holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Northwestern University and a B.S. in Chemistry from Michigan Technological University. His research concentrates on protein modeling and enzyme inhibition, with emphasis on enzyme inhibitors of potential pharmaceutical value.

### **Events 2022 | A Retrospective**

by Mechthild Schmidt Feist (Vice President)

While we are glad to be back in person for local events, we like the opportunity to reach a much wider audience with online or hybrid events and hope to see you there as well. To share with the larger community, we co-sponsor a number of events.

For a better social media presence, we started a new LinkedIn group. Some of you have already joined us there. We announce our events to our members on [Facebook](#) and mainly on [LinkedIn](#).

On our letterhead you may have noticed our new logo design. We chose a modern type face to align ourselves to the typographic style of the DAAD in Germany. You also find it applied in our social media in two different formats: a rectangular and square version. Please [join us](#) as a member and be the first to know about upcoming events!

**Tag des Gedenkens und Vergangenheitsbewältigung. Deutschland als Studienfall  
(Day of Remembrance and History Awareness. Germany as a case study)**

14. Februar 2022

An event by Alumni DAAD Italien (ADIT)/DAAD Alumni Association USA

Speakers: Dr. Felix Klein (Representative of the Federal Government for Jewish Life and the Fighting anti-semitism), Dr. Ingeborg Rocker (DAAD AA USA)/Prof. Andrea De Petris (ADIT)

Moderation: Sandro M. Moraldo (ADIT)

The DAAD Alumni Association USA was proud to co-sponsor the 'TenFourteen' event

**Black Lives in Germany and the U.S. from 1933 to Today**

February 25, 2022



What was life like as a Black woman or man in Nazi Germany? Why did it take more than 75 years to honor Black victims of the Nazi regime? What are the many forms of racism in today's Western societies, triggering a renewed global Black Lives Matter movement in 2020? Please join us for a virtual conversation with **Prof. Robbie Aitken**, historian of Black Europe, Sheffield Hallam University, who led the effort to place the Stolpersteine for Martha Ndumbe and Ferdinand James Allen; **Dr. Tiffany Florvil**, Associate Professor of 20th Century European Women's and Gender History at the University of New Mexico; and **Ms. Alice Hasters**, journalist, blogger, and author who identifies as a Black German and publishes about her experience in today's society. **Moderated by Dr. Nicholas Boston**, sociologist and Associate Professor in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at the City University of New York, Lehman College.

This event is presented by 1014, the American Council on Germany, the German General Consulate New York, the School of Arts and Humanities, Lehman College (CUNY), the Goethe Institut Los Angeles, Deutsches Haus at New York University, The Belle Zeller Scholarship Fund, the German Fulbright Alumni Association, The Women's Foreign Policy Group, The CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences, the DAAD Alumni Association, and the US Fulbright Association.



## Documenta 15 and the Controversy over Anti-Semitism

Thursday, July 7, 2022, By Mark Rectanus

Event link: [www.aicgs.org/2022/07/documenta-15-and-anti-semitism/](http://www.aicgs.org/2022/07/documenta-15-and-anti-semitism/)

Even before the June opening of the fifteenth iteration of the prestigious Documenta contemporary art exhibition in the city of Kassel, several controversies, including alleged anti-Semitism on the part of the Indonesian organizers and some artists, had been swirling. Then, a banner was unveiled on the first day in which several Jewish figures were depicted in offensive, anti-Semitic ways. This has unleashed a torrent of critical commentary. AICGS has brought together three leading experts to help us to understand the controversies and the debates surrounding them in Germany.

Speakers:

Dr. Sabine Kriebel, Lecturer, Modern and Contemporary Art, University College Cork

Dr. Mark W. Rectanus, Professor of German Studies, Iowa State University

Dr. Peter Rehberg, Head of Collections and Archives, Schwules Museum, Berlin

Moderator: Dr. Eric Langenbacher, Director of the Society, Culture and Politics Program, American Institute for Contemporary German Studies

Also see:

Mark W. Rectanus, "Documenta 15: Curating the Meta-Collective, Translocating Art, and Anti-Semitism," American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (Johns Hopkins University), 7-20-22.

## Ian Ona Johnson. Historical Approach to Russian-German Relations

September 27, 2022 by Manfred Philipp



### Ian Ona Johnson

The P. J. Moran Family Assistant Professor of Military History at the University of Notre Dame

Speaks on a **Historical Approach to Russian-German Relations**

Moderated by Manfred Philipp, assisted by Milan Wojcieszek, Mechthild Schmidt Feist, and Mary Kate Boldyrev

Presented on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. **Now on YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/14LVGxj1wQ>



Dr. Johnson was a Fulbright-Hays Fellow at the Russian State University for the Humanities, and has worked in archives in Moscow, Lipetsk, Samara, and other localities. He has studied and conducted research at Ohio State University, the University of Texas at Austin, Yale University, the US Army War College, and at the International University in Moscow. His undergraduate degree is from Claremont-McKenna College. His Polish Studies Initiative award supported research in London and Warsaw. He was a fellow of Stanford University's USA-Russia Forum and has participated in workshops at the University of Bielefeld. His monograph, **The Faustian Bargain: Secret Soviet-German Military Cooperation in the Interwar Period**, was published in 2021 by Oxford University Press and received a 2022 Distinguished Book Award. He is preparing a book chapter on the Polish-Bolshevik war of 1920 and has spoken on how a team of Polish mathematicians won the 1920 Battle of Warsaw.

#### In Alphabetical Order, Supported by

The Belle Zeller Scholarship Trust Fund; The Department of History at The University of Bielefeld; The CUNY Academy for The Humanities and Sciences; The European Union Studies Center & The Doctoral Program in History at The CUNY Graduate Center; The DAAD Alumni Association for The US; The Deutsches Polen-Institut Darmstadt; The Foreign Affairs Council of San Antonio; Fulbright Alumni e.V.; The Fulbright Association and its Connecticut, Northern California & San Antonio Chapters; The German Studies Association; HistMag.org, The Polish History Site; The German Department at Hunter College; The Polish Centre for International Relations; The History Program at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv; TenFourteen - The Space for Ideas; The Departments of Modern Languages & The Charles T. McDowell Center for Global Studies at The University of Texas at Arlington.



## International Exchange in an Age of Pandemic and War

A Roundtable Discussion held on October 8, 2022 in Bethesda, Maryland at the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Fulbright Association.

*This discussion is co-sponsored by the DAAD Alumni Association in the United States.*

Video Prepared by Mary Kate Boldyrev.

*Video in preparation.*



**Benedikt Brisch**  
Director, the German Academic Exchange Service in North America and of the German Center for Research and Innovation in New York



**Milan Wojcieszek**  
Reporter for the Gazeta Wyborcza; Head of Communications for Econverse



**Mary Ellen Schmider**  
Former President & Executive Director, the Fulbright Association



**Réka Szemerényi**  
Senior Fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis; 2015-7 Ambassador of Hungary to the US



**Małgorzata Bonikowska**  
Director of Warsaw's Center for International Relations



**Manfred Philipp**  
DAAD Alumni Association for the US, Former President, the Fulbright Association, Professor emeritus, City University of New York



### The Ukraine war and Europe: Impacts on the EU system and on Transatlantic Relations

November 2, by Manfred Philipp

The DAAD/AA was privileged to co-sponsor the lecture by Klaus Welle, Secretary General of the European Parliament, on The Ukraine War and Europe: Impacts on the EU System and on Transatlantic

**UKRAINE, EUROPE**  
**and The Return of Geopolitics**  
A talk with **Klaus Welle**,  
**Secretary-General of the European Parliament**

**Wed, Nov 2, 4:30-6PM**  
The CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York

The Ralph Bunche Institute and the European Union Studies Center.  
Co-Sponsored by the US Alumni Association of the German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD; the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences  
*YouTube Video Prepared by Mary Kate Boldyrev*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FEWHQkn\\_mk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FEWHQkn_mk)

Relations. We owe a great thanks to Professor John Torpey, Director of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York for hosting this extremely informative event both live at CUNY on Fifth Avenue and on Zoom. We also thank our board colleague, Prof. Manfred Philip for drawing it to our attention.

Klaus Welle gave a brilliant and riveting response to the frequently voiced opinion that the leader of the Russian Federation has lost his senses. Based on ten systematically presented points, Mr. Welle outlined the rationale for Putin's War on Ukraine from the Russian imperial standpoint. This was an erudite, but highly accessible, exploration of the issue in its historical context. It also took into account current factors such as the Ukrainian wealth in mineral resources and agricultural produce. He elaborated as well on the global aspects of the current crisis faced by the West including relations with China. It was a comprehensive discussion encompassing every imaginable aspect of the issue including the impact of the Ukrainian War on Europe and North America.

Referring to German history, he made the point that aggression must be stopped at the outset. He opposed recommendations for compromise, reminding the audience that the aggressor, like the neighborhood bully, would only return later for more if he believes he has achieved even partial success. His talk was followed by a lively Q&A skillfully moderated by John Torpey to alternate questions from the present audience and those on Zoom.

Klaus Welle arrived half an hour late due to a meeting with Dr. Henry Kissinger. Just as he and Joseph Dunne, Director of the European Liaison Office in Washington, D.C., had been about to depart, Dr. Kissinger posed a number of pertinent political questions. Among them, he wanted to know whom Mr. Welle considered the strongest leader in Europe. Without hesitation, he named Ursula Von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission. Asking the audience if he were forgiven for his tardiness, he was heartily applauded.

All in all, this event was a großer Erfolg! Thanks to all who helped to make it happen and to all of you who were able to participate.

With regards,

Helena

Dr. Helena Kane Finn, President DAAD/AA Board USA

### **Epilogue – and yes, we hope – and thank you - for your support**

Dear Reader, Thank you for following our activities! We hope you renew your membership, invite fellow alumni friends to join our network. Maybe we will see some of you at our April concert, at Carnegie Hall, New York City on April 20, 2023! For updates during the year, follow us on LinkedIn or Facebook

We hope the student testimonials or also your own cultural and academic exchanges will encourage you to help support a student for a 2023 Summer grant.

Use the payment method of your choice: [Paypal](#)



Zelle with email: [giving@daad-alumni-usa.org](mailto:giving@daad-alumni-usa.org)



or a check, payable to DAAD AA Treasurer, 18601 Darnestown Rd., Poolesville, MD 20837

Please find membership tiers on our website. Benefits include invitations to DAAD and Alumni events, the option to nominate an award candidate, and the opportunity to represent us at academic events.

**Wir wünschen der Welt ein friedliches Miteinander und hoffen unsere Arbeit kann ein wenig dazu beitragen!**

***The Board of the DAAD Alumni Association USA***

Before we go, here is a preview for upcoming January and February 2023 events:

### **Shades of Blue: Claiming Europe in the Age of Disintegration**

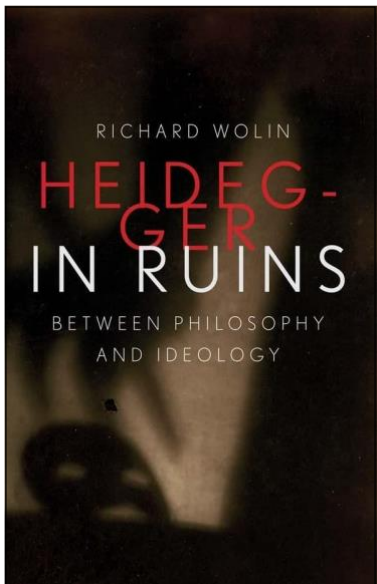
Panel Discussion | January 24 | 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Zoom [https://events.berkeley.edu/index.php/calendar/sn/ies/?event\\_ID=149682](https://events.berkeley.edu/index.php/calendar/sn/ies/?event_ID=149682)

Panelist/Discussants: Gregor Feindt, Leibniz-Institute of European History, Mainz; Félix Krawatzek, Center for East European and International Studies, Berlin; Friedemann Pestel, University of Freiburg/University of California, Berkeley; Rieke Trimcev, University of Greifswald

Sponsors: [Institute of European Studies](#), [German Historical Institute Washington](#) | [Pacific Office Berkeley](#), [Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies \(ISEEES\)](#), [Department of Political Science](#)

**Heidegger in Ruins.** Prof. Richard Wolin of the CUNY Graduate Center  
February 9, a hybrid event at the CUNY Graduate Center.



## Heidegger in Ruins

8 PM Eastern, Thursday, February 9, 2023  
on Zoom. [Please register here.](#)



### A Dialog Between Richard Wolin

Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature,  
History, & Political Science at the CUNY Graduate Center



### and Martin Jay

Sidney Hellman Ehrman Professor of History, Emeritus,  
at the University of California, Berkeley.

Hosted by [Manfred Philipp](#) on behalf of the [CUNY Academy](#) for the Humanities and Sciences, the [Friends of the University of Freiburg](#), and the [US Alumni Association](#) for the German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD.