

COLD WAR SPY STORIES

From the Eastern Bloc

Roundtable Discussion
MONDAY
OCTOBER 16, 2017
5PM | FLOWERS HALL 230

Alison Lewis



"The Stasi's Secret War on Books: The Cold War Spy as Book Reviewer"

Alison Lewis, Professor of German at the University of Melbourne, started her career researching East German feminist fantasy, but since visiting the GDR in the late 1980s as a graduate student, she has been fascinated by the way the Stasi tried to influence and infiltrate all aspects of literary life. Her latest book project, *A State of Secrecy*, uses documents from the Berlin Stasi archives to examine the secret lives of secret police informers in the arts.

Susan Morrison



Teaching in East Germany in the 1980s: Interpreting my Stasi File

Writing on topics lurking in the margins of history, Susan Morrison, Professor of English at Texas State University, is committed to bringing the lives of women out of the shadows. Having taught in the former East Germany in the 1980s, she is currently working on a book about her Stasi file which has some unusual (and false) assertions.

Valentina Glajar



The Rise and Fall of a Securitate Officer: A File Story

Since 2012, Valentina Glajar, Professor of German at Texas State University, has done intensive archival work at the National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives in Bucharest, Romania. In her current book project, *File Stories from the Archive*, she engages with the documentary and fragmentary version of biography and history these files reveal. She is also co-editing with Alison Lewis and Corina L. Petrescu a new book titled *Cold War Spy Stories*.

Corina L. Petrescu



Of Sources and Files: The Making of the Securitate Target Ana Novac

Corina L. Petrescu, Associate Professor of German at The University of Mississippi, became interested in the files of the Securitate during her postdoctoral studies in Bucharest, Romania, a decade ago. First results of her engagement with the files led to the volume *Secret Police Files from the Eastern Bloc* (Camden House, 2016), which she co-edited with Valentina Glajar and Alison Lewis. As a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, she has completed further archival work at the Universität Potsdam, Germany, and at Tel Aviv University and the National Library of Israel, as she is currently writing a cultural history of the Jewish State Theater Bucharest from 1948 to the present.

Lisa Haegele



Breaking Borders: Niklaus Schilling's Critical Spy Drama The Willi Busch Report (1979)

Lisa Haegele is Assistant Professor of German at Texas State University. She earned her Ph.D. in 2014 in German and Comparative Literature from Washington University in St. Louis. Her research focuses on postwar through contemporary German cinema with an eye toward representations of violence. Her next book project will examine the politics of spying and surveillance in German espionage thrillers from the Cold War era to today.

If the Great War belonged to the soldier in the trenches, the Cold War surely belonged to the spy: the shadowy soldier on the invisible front fighting behind the scenes in the service of communism or the free world. With the opening of the secret police archives in many former East Bloc countries comes the unique chance to excavate forgotten spy stories and narrate them for the first time. Spy stories told through the prism of the secret police files—"file stories" (Glajar)—about the top-secret lives of intelligence officers, their agents or informers, as well as their targets represent a "forensic mode" (Lewis) undergirded by ideological fantasies and paranoid fictions. We can now recompose these stories of collusion and complicity, of betrayal and treason, right and wrong, good and evil in light of new evidence from declassified archival sources and call into question old Cold War certainties and divides. This panel will discuss Cold War spy stories compiled from the East German Stasi and the Romanian Securitate archives and forgotten Swiss spy thrillers that flew in the face of Cold War dichotomy.

This event is sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages, the departments of Anthropology, English, Geography, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, the Center for Diversity and Gender Studies, the Center for International Studies, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Honors College.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Valentina Glajar at glajar@txstate.edu

If you require accommodations due to a disability in order to participate, please contact the Modern Languages office at 512.245.2360 at least 72 hours in advance of the event.



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