

Application for Faculty Grants for International Connections.

Background: During the past few years I have been communicating with a few members of the Zentrum für Literatur und Kulturforschung (ZfL) in Berlin, Germany. (<http://www.zfl-berlin.org/zfl-english.html>) This international research center for the Humanities is the home of dozens of leading German scholars and a number of leading excellence projects each year. It is considered to be one of the most important research centers for the Humanities and is funded generously by the government and different foundations in Germany. Its core faculty counts leading scholars from all ranks of the Humanities and sciences, who are committed to inter-disciplinary methodologies. Among its contemporary projects the center counts a project about History of Concepts, an ongoing project about sociology and politics of religion ("Martyrology"), a project about Prognostics, a project about "hereditary forms," a project about Political Theology, and other high profile projects.

Personal and Institutional Implications: During the past few years I was able to get two periodical grants (for Winter 2007 and Summer 2010) from the institute, that allowed me to participate in its activities. During the two stays I formed fruitful relationships with two key members of the faculty at the ZfL—its vice president, prof. Daniel Weidner, and a project director, Dr. Martin Terml—and cooperated with two separate projects at the center. I published chapters in books edited at the center and by its members (see attached bibliography), participated in conferences organized by the center, and shaped a fruitful cooperation between the center and Tel-Aviv University. The ZfL cultivated different projects with the Minerva Center for the Humanities, in Tel- Aviv University, and decided on an exchange program. I hope to form the same for Lehigh University. The ZfL has currently a similar agreement with Princeton University and Stanford University. Shaping a closer cooperation between the center in Berlin and Lehigh University will undoubtedly add an important dimension to the College of Arts and Sciences in general, and to Humanities Center and the different Graduate programs, in particular. An impressive number of the ZfL's fellows have become leaders in research, arts, and politics. Yet, the directors of the ZfL still strive to form a closer cooperation with leading universities in the US. From a methodological perspective, the Center's system of working in clusters and inter-faculty projects, suits Lehigh University and the stress on interdisciplinarity in the broadest sense possible.

Short and Long Term Goals: *It is my plan to strengthen the ties between Lehigh University and this leading research institute. **Project 1:** In Spring 2012 the vice- president, Prof. Daniel Weidner, will be

coming to the Humanities Center at Lehigh University to present his new project, dedicated to different **presentations of prophecy**. This project won a generous funding by the German government and will be presented to faculty at Chicago University, this Spring. I was invited to present my own research in this workshop, as one of four leading scholars in the field. It is my hope to bring aspects of this research back to Lehigh and contemplate possible cooperations with the director and vice-director of the ZfL. If successful, this project will involve students and faculty from different departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. I hope to use it in order to enable students from Lehigh to participate in the center's activities and projects.

* **Project 2:** with Dr. Martin Tremml. The project has to do with the recent translations of an important albeit forgotten scholar in German-Jewish studies, **Jacob Taubes**. The appearance of two key works in Stanford UP (in 2009 and 2010) has attracted much attention to Taubes's path-breaking conceptualization of religion, politics, and history. Taubes's work is now quoted by leading philosophers, historians, religion and political scholars, around the world. During a previous research tour to Israel I found an unknown archive of Taubes's letters in Jerusalem. Dr. Tremml, who published this year the first volume of Taubes's correspondence with the Nazi legalist Carl Schmitt, has offered me the assistance and cooperation of the ZfL in publishing another volume of the correspondence. It is my plan to shape this possible cooperation into a fruitful funding proposal, and to submit those in Germany and the United States. Editing the volume will require a full year research of a small team of scholars, under the direction of Dr. Tremml and myself. The cooperation was already confirmed by the ZfL's director, Prof. Sigrid Weigel (see the attached invitation). It is my plan to organize and meet with different experts in Berlin, this summer, to try and contemplate different funding opportunities inside Germany and outside it. If successful, I hope to invite Dr. Tremml to do the same with me in the United States.

If supported, this could place Lehigh's humanities at the center of a widely acclaimed work. Cultivating the relationship with an independent research institute that is specializing in inter-disciplinary work will serve Lehigh University in the shorter and longer term and add to its reputation.

I thank you for your time and consideration,

Nitzan Lebovic, Assistant Professor of History,

Apter Chair of Holocaust Studies and Ethical Values.

Travel Dates and Budget

Round Trip flight economy to Israel and Germany	1500\$
Three Weeks stay in Israel	1000\$ rent
Four weeks stay in Germany	1000\$ rent
	500\$ Transportation
In Total:	4000\$

Nitzan Lebovic (Lehigh Univeristy)

Articles edited by ZfL members:

- "Benjamin's Nihilism: The Rhythm of Time," in *Benjamin- Studien 2* (2011), ed. By Daniel Weidner, pp. 191-212.

Chapters in books published by the ZfL:

- "Geschichte der nichtexistierenden Verfassung in Israel oder warum es keine Grundordnung vor dem Ende der Politik geben kann" [A History of a Non-Existent Constitution to Israel or why the Basic-Order Comes after the End of Politics] in: *Grundordnungen. Wechselbeziehungen zwischen Geographie, Religion, Kultur und Gesetz*, eds. Zaal Andronikashvili, Sigrid Weigel (Forthcoming: Kadmos, Berlin 2012), pp. xxx- xxx.

- "Benjamins *Sumpflogik*: Ein Kommentar zu Agambens Kafka-und Benjamin Lektüre," *Profanes Leben*, ed. Daniel Weidner, (Frankfurt a. Main: Suhrkamp Verlag, 2010), pp.190- 212.

- "Dionysische Politik und der Rausch-Diskurs: Entwicklungen und Widersprüche zwischen Romantik und Lebensphilosophie," in Arpad von Klimo and Malte Rolf, eds., *Rausch und Diktatur*, (Frankfurt and New York: Campus-Verlag, 2006), pp. 79-92.

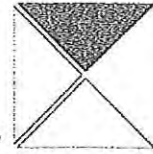
Conferences and Workshops at the ZfL:

- "Taubes's End-Time," Zentrum für Kultur und Literaturforschung, Berlin, 21-22 February, 2011.

- "Constituting Order, Grounding the End: Why Grundordnung cannot come before the End of Politics," Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturfoorschung, Berlin, February 18-20, 2010.

- "Benjamin's *Living*: Between Total Critique and Political Radicalism," Konzept Benjamin Festival, Berlin, Oct. 17-22, 2006.

ZENTRUM FÜR LITERATUR- UND KULTURFORSCHUNG
GEISTESWISSENSCHAFTLICHE ZENTREN BERLIN



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Dr. Martin Tremel

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Berlin, December 10, 2011

Re: Letter of cooperation

Dear Prof. Lebovic,

As discussed in our last meeting in July 2011, I am glad to inform you that Prof. Sigrid Weigel has confirmed our plan for cooperation on the edition of parts of the literary estate, mostly the letters to and by Jacob Taubes.

The frame we were thinking of includes a series of publications and workshops. Taubes's contribution, as proven in recent publications by Stanford UP, is essential to any current discussion of political philosophy, political theology, contemporary Jewish and Christian theology since antiquity. As agreed, we would like to proceed in the following way, in order to start our formal cooperation in summer 2012:

1. Following the recent interest shown in Jacob Taubes's work in the US, we would like to collect and edit his correspondence with the major Jewish intellectuals in Palestine and Israel. As our initial research proved, most of the material is located at the manuscript department of the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem. Other parts are to be found in New York (JTS and Yivo archives) and Berlin (the ZfL).

2. We would like to edit a volume of collected essays that are partly taken from our conference in winter 2011 and invite external contributions from the Jewish Studies field.

3. We would also like to plan a series of conferences and workshops that would further develop and summarize Taubes's work and contribution to current debates.

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Your work in Jerusalem has already proven essential to any such future plans. We would like to offer you to edit both volumes with us, and help us construct the conferences and workshops. For that reason, we would like to offer a formal cooperation between the ZfL and Lehigh University. Our plan for such a cooperation is to apply for funding in both Germany and the United States. We would be grateful for any assistance in such an effort.

Necessary for such a successful cooperation are the following:

1. Two full time research positions, one in Jerusalem and another in Berlin. We would like to draft the proper funding for such doctoral or post-doctoral assistants that would help us in gathering and transcribing the letters, and in finding and organizing the material needed for a through commentary on them.
2. We would like to collect enough funding to support the organization of two workshops, one in the fall of 2013, and another in the spring of 2014.
3. We would like to apply for funding for two visits, one of Dr. Martin Tremel in New York and Lehigh, and another for Prof. Nitzan Lebovic in Berlin.

In hoping that our efforts will be fruitful,

Sincerely yours,

