

2017 Fellowship Report – Sebastian Haselbeck

Dear members of the The Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation and of the IES at the University of California Berkeley,

Last year I received a fellowship from the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation to continue with my dissertation work and to conduct further research pertaining to my dissertation project *Specters of Sovereignty. “Sad Stories of the Death of Kings” or the Unpredictability of Political Remains*. The project is situated at the intersection of literary studies, political theory, and cultural history. It explores the changing notions of political sovereignty between 1910 and 1919 in Germany and in the late Habsburg Empire by focusing on literary texts by Hugo Ball, Franz Kafka, and Stefan George, as well as popular media (early film and newspapers) and socio-political theory, such as Max Weber’s speech “Politics as a Vocation” (1919).

During my stay – in the summer of 2017 – I have been able to take full advantage of the University of Vienna’s, the Filmarchiv Austria’s and the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek’s wonderful research facilities and to present and discuss my project in different contexts at the Universität Wien. At the *Institut für Germanistik* at the Universität Wien I participated in Prof. Dr. Eva Horn’s colloquium.

The environment in Vienna was very conducive to my work. I had direct access to source material (newspaper archives and library holdings that are not accessible in Berkeley), while not having to teach.

I particularly enjoyed the program of lectures, workshops, and conferences at the University and at other institutions, like the Austrian Filmarchiv. Especially from the exhibition “Archiv der Schaulust. Film- & Kinokultur von 1896 -1918” at the Metro Kinokulturhaus (conceptualized by the Filmarchiv Austria) and its catalogue (published in 2016) I gained new insights into the history of early Austrian film and cinema.

I have since then successfully completed my dissertation, which I submitted in August 2017 under the title *„Dieses furchtbare Doppelgängertum der Repräsentation.“ Gespenstische Figuren der Souveränität zwischen 1910 und 1919* at the University of California, Berkeley.

The time in Vienna has been invaluable and allowed me to advance my own dissertation in significant ways. I am very grateful for the opportunity and the support from the Marshall Plan Foundation.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Haselbeck