

Culture without Borders: Writing in a Foreign Language

Lena Gorelik and Josip Novakovic

Reading

Monday, March 9, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Goethe-Institut Chicago, 150 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 200

Presented in English and German

Throughout this year and the next, the Goethe-Institut Chicago will be hosting literary readings for our series, Culture without Borders: Writing in Foreign Language. Every invited author lives in a different country and culture than the one in which they grew up, and they do not write in their native language. Through these readings we hope to gain a better understanding of how these authors have integrated these experiences with their writing.



Josip Novakovich moved from Croatia to the U.S. at the age of twenty. He has published a novel, *April Fool's Day* (in ten languages), three story collections (*Infidelities: Stories of War and Lust, Yolk*, and *Salvation and Other Disasters*) and two collections of narrative essays. His work was anthologized in *Best American Poetry*, the *Pushcart Prize* collection, and *O. Henry Prize Stories*. He has received the *Whiting Writer's Award*, a *Guggenheim fellowship*, two *National Endowment for the Arts fellowships*, the *Ingram Merrill Award*, and an *American Book Award*, and he has been a writing fellow of the *New York Public Library*. He teaches in the *MFA program* at *Penn State University*. He writes in English as a second language and has edited an anthology, *Stepmother Tongue*, stories in ESL.



Lena Gorelik was born in Saint Petersburg in 1981. Eleven years later, she and her Russian-Jewish family came to Germany as “quota refugees”—immigrants granted refugee status before having left their country of origin. After finishing her studies at the *German School of Journalism* in *Munich*, where she still lives today, she completed a major in the highly selective *Eastern European Studies program*. Her two novels, *My White Nights (Meine weißen Nächte)* and *A Marriage in Jerusalem (Hochzeit in Jerusalem)* were published to much critical acclaim in Germany.



Moderator **Elizabeth Loentz** is Associate Professor of *Germanic Studies* and a member of the *Jewish Studies Program faculty* at the *University of Illinois at Chicago*. Her research and teaching interests include: *German-Jewish literature*, *minority literatures*, *Yiddish culture*, and *women's writing*. Recent publications include: a book on the *German-Jewish feminist leader, social worker, activist, and writer Bertha Pappenheim* (better known as the hysteric *Anna O. of Freud and Breuer's Studies on Hysteria*), *Let Me Continue to Speak the Truth: Bertha Pappenheim as Author and Activist* (*Hebrew Union College Press, 2007*) and “*Beyond Klezmer: The Legacy of Eastern European Jewry*,” a special issue of *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* (Fall 2006), co-edited with *Sander Gilman*. Current research projects include a study of *Yiddish in Germany from the fin-de-siècle to the new millennium*.

This event is free and open to the public.

Please RSVP with Lisa Lux:

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