URSULA HEINZELMANN TO SPEAK AT WILLIAMS COLLEGE

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass., DATE – On Thursday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m., Ursula Heinzelmann will deliver a talk at Williams College titled "Risen and punched, from black to white and back again: Bread and 20th century Germany." The talk will take place in Griffin Hall, room 6, and is free and open to the public.

This talk will use bread as a point of departure to look at history and society, and to discuss morale and taste. A regular supermarket’s offerings and those of three very distinctive Berlin bakers will include the following main protagonists: Schrippen, white rolls which became more widely affordable with industrialization in late 19th century; the Life Reform countermovement’s Vollkornbrot, wholemeal bread, later appropriated by the Nazis; Schnittbrot, sliced and packaged and convenient; Mohnhörnchen, crescent-shaped wholemeal rolls with blue poppyseed; Dinkelseelen, large bread sticks made from spelt, sprinkled with coarse salt and caraway seeds. Rooted in (or rather risen from) the larger social and cultural developments, these and other breads open a window on the last century of Germany’s food history and politics.

Berlin native Ursula Heinzelmann is a freelance wine and food journalist and independent scholar and culinary historian. She has trained as a professional chef and received a sommelier diploma. She writes regular articles on food subjects in various magazines, including Gastronomica and Culture. Since 2003 she has attended the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery with a number of papers presented and published in the proceedings; since 2010 she has acted as a trustee of the symposium. In 2004 and 2006 she received the Sophie Coe Prize in food history, and in 2008 she won the Prix Lanson for German-speaking wine journalists. She has written five books on food-related subjects, including Food Culture in Germany (2008) and contributed to an encyclopedia of vegetarianism. Her research interests include artisanal cheese and German food history and identity.

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