

Diese Ehrung von Prof. Andress durch seine Universität freut uns sehr

Spotlight On: Reinhard Andress

Reinhard Andress, PhD, Professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literature and Director of the German Studies program in the College of Arts and Sciences at Loyola University Chicago, recently published the previously unreleased autobiographical texts penned by Egon Schwarz, a Jewish refugee who was exiled from Austria in 1938 and went on to become a leading Germanist and academic in the United States. The edition, titled *Literatur als Überlebensstrategie: Eine Erinnerung an Egon Schwarz* presents a unique perspective on Schwarz's life and the experiences of the German-Jewish communities who survived the Holocaust and World War II.

"Dr. Andress' dedication to cultivating a deeper, more robust understanding of the intellectualism that emerged from the German diaspora is both academically rich and intellectually stimulating," said Peter J. Schraeder, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Loyola University Chicago. "His approach to interdisciplinary research and experiential pedagogy is an outstanding example of the College's commitment to building bridges with both our local community of Chicago and around the world."

Beyond teaching, Andress' research has taken him down a path that explores the far-reaching influence of Germans around the world and even in our own backyard of Chicago, driven largely by German and Austrian intellectuals who migrated, were forced to flee, or exiled during tumultuous and violent periods in German history.

One of these intellectuals was Egon Schwarz, a Jewish teenager living in Austria in 1938 when Nazi troops invaded. Schwarz and his family fled Vienna and ended up in South America. He spent ten years in Bolivia, Chile, and Ecuador as a refugee before he was finally able to complete his high school diploma, begin university, and immigrate to the United States to get his PhD in German language and literature.

Schwarz went on to champion an iconic career in the field of German Studies as a literary scholar, essayist, editor, and academic.

In 2017, Schwarz passed away at 95 years old. To honor the fifth anniversary of his death, when he would have been 100 years old, Andress reached out to Schwarz's widow, Irène Lindgren-Schwarz, to collect his unpublished autobiographical texts.

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