

The Future of German History

Academic Conference

22 June 2023 | Oost-Indisch Huis Amsterdam
Kloveniersburgwal 48

German history has been a highly innovative field, often taking the lead in the historical profession in developing new approaches, terminologies and methods. New societal challenges, however, have shifted the focus of public, political and scholarly interest towards problems that transcend national borders. Phenomena like globalization, climate change, or the crisis of liberal democracies have shaken up old paradigms and certainties that have shaped German historiography of the last two or three generations. Given these challenges, how can we write German history today, and what will the future of the field look like? This conference will discuss current research projects and explore future avenues of study.

13:30 Welcome

Krijn Thijs (DIA)

13:45 Parallel Panel Sessions

1. French-German interactions and reconciliations

Chair: Jacco Pekelder (ZNS)

- Jonas van Tol (UvA), Political ambiguities of borderlands. On the fringes of 'Germany' in the sixteenth century
- Maarten Doorman (VU/UM), Germany and France: Europe's Future in the Past
- Marleen Rensen (UvA), Border-Crossing Female Artists: women's role in Franco-German relations

2. Identity, Enlightenment, and the making of the Past

Chair: Hanco Jürgens (DIA)

- Matthijs Lok (UvA), Germany against Revolution. Conservatism, Enlightenment and the Making of the Past
- Ansgar Mohnkern (UvA), Peripheral Begriffsgeschichte: 'das Ungeheure' and making sense of nature
- Ezra Engelsberg (DIA/UvA), Queens, Rebels, and Rabbis: German-Jewish Playwrights Around 1860
- Stefano Lissi (UU), The Wild Bunch: transnational collaboration of German and Italian nationalists (1819-22)

3. A History without Germans? New Approaches to the History of the German Occupation of the Netherlands after the 'Local Turn'

Chair: Geraldien von Frijtag Drabbe Kunzel (UU)

- Guus Meershoek (UT), Helping society to look back on its own uncomfortable past
- Laura Brinkhorst (RU), Police corruption within the Berlin and Amsterdam police during the NS-Zeit
- Ivo van Donselaar (ZNS), The Pan-German Movement in the Netherlands, 1890-1945

15:00 Short break

15:15 Parallel Panel Sessions

4. Between East and West

Chair: Marieke Oprel (RU)

- Eveliene Veen (ZNS), Left-wing political violence and the terrorist constituency in West-Germany 1969–79
- Elian de Jong / Krijn Thijs (DIA), From fellow Colleagues to Fierce Opponents: Editing the correspondence between historians Thomas Kuczynski and Rudolf Vierhaus during German unification
- Anna Seidl (UvA): 'Ossifizierung' and 'Brauner Osten': Ingo Schulze, Bernhard Schlink, Dirk Oschmann

5. Mapping Germany: decentred and beyond

Chair: Wim van Meurs (RU)

- Quinten Somsen (UL), The Holy Roman Empire: a Backwater or Forerunner of Reform (1750-1806)
- David de Boer (UvA), Migration debates in Berlin, Amsterdam and London Newspapers (1680-1914)
- Adam Dargiewicz (ZNS), Mapping 'Bulwark(s) of Europe': Mental Maps and the Position of Germany in the Polish International Thought (1848-1871)

6. Modernity

Chair: Mario Daniels (DIA)

- Todd Weir (RUG), Red Secularism: Socialism and Secularist Culture in Germany, 1890 to 1933
- Martijn Lak (UU/RU), Occupation and recovery: Allied policy in Germany and modernity in the Netherlands, 1945-1950
- Natalie Scholz (UvA), Postwar modernity's redeeming myths – studying West Germany in a transnational context
- Hanco Jürgens (DIA), Negations and affirmative concepts, topical history and national identity since the 1980s

16:30 Break

17:00 Keynote Lecture Helmut Walser Smith

The Tocquevillian Moment: When Germans became the better Historians, 1945-2000

Speaker: Helmut Walser Smith (Vanderbilt University, Nashville)

Comment: Lorena de Vita (UU), Moritz Föllmer (UvA)

Moderation Hanco Jürgens (DIA)



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18:30 Drinks

Mede mogelijk gemaakt door:



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