

Borders, Belonging, and Moral Obligation in German History

Third Annual Conference of the *Platform Duitse Geschiedenis*

Radboud University Nijmegen, 27 June 2025

9.30–10.00: Arrival

10.00–10.15: Introduction – David de Boer (Nijmegen)

10.30–12.00 SESSION 1

Panel A – The Construction of Regional and National Identities in Western Borderlands

- Ivo van Donselaar (Münster), *Dutch Interpretation of Germanic Kinship and Pan-Germanic Politics between 1880 and 1945*
- Jeremy DeWaal (Exeter), *From National Bulwarks to Open Bridges? Shifting Regional Identities in West German Border and Maritime Regions, 1945-1965*
- Jaya Sharma (New Delhi), *Ecology, Culture, and the Rhine: Analysing Germany's Political Borders through Literature and History*

Panel B – Demarcating the Moral Community

- Petar S. Ćurčić (Belgrade), *Werner Sombart and Capitalism as (Non-)German Virtue*
- Ezra Engelsberg (Amsterdam), *Jewish Antiquity on the German Stage: Dramatized Histories of the Hasmoneans and the Formation and Representation of Jewish Identity, 1850–1870*
- Richard van Berkel (Münster), *Mental Discomfort and Spatial Planning: The Dutch Poor Colony as an Example for German Social Activism and 'Economic Philanthropy' in the Nineteenth Century*
- Arvid Rohtus (Leuven), *Borders, Belonging, and Moral Obligation in the Constitutional and Political Thought of Ernst-Wolfgang Böckenförde*

12.00–13.00 LUNCH

13.00–14.30 SESSION 2

Panel A – The Construction of Regional and National Identities in Eastern Borderlands

- Stanislav Holubec (Prague), *Czech-German Borderland: Belonging and Moral Obligation in the Nineteenth Century*
- Imre Gábor Majorossy (Budapest), *Wahrnehmung der Machtergreifung und des Deutschtums in der Presse der Banater Schwaben*

- Thomas von der Dunk (Amsterdam), *The Germanization of an un-German city. Prussians Posen as an Architectural Appropriation Problem for the German Empire 1871-1914*

Panel B – Memory and Moral Duty

- Anne-Lise Bobeldijk (Amsterdam), *The Moral Obligation of Transitional Justice in Germany? The Changing Position of the Holocaust Survivor within German Society through the Lens of the Georg Heuser Trial*
- Anne Peiter (Saint-Denis, Réunion), *Der Genozid an den Tutsi Ruandas oder die „Ungnade der zu frühen Geburt“: Räumliche und zeitliche Entgrenzungen bezüglich der deutsch-ruandischen Gewaltgeschichte*
- Grigori Khislavski (Erfurt), *Contemporaneity and Supratemporaneity in the Historical Consciousness of the New Right*

14.45–16.15 SESSION 3

Panel A – Borders and Migration in an Age of Globalization

- Otto Sander (Utrecht), *Outsider Perspectives of the GDR: the Lived Experiences of Vietnamese Students in Leipzig from the 1970s and 1990s*
- Carolin Liebisch-Gümüş (Potsdam), *From Asylum Seekers to Inadmissible Passengers: Jet Age Refugees and the Externalization of the West German Border Regime in the 1980s*
- Hanco Jürgens (Amsterdam), *Globalisation and Transformation of the GDR Society and of the New Federal States in the 1980s and 1990s*

Panel B – Political Representation and National Integration

- Wim van Meurs (Nijmegen), *Bukovinian Deputies in the Habsburg Reichsrat (1861–1918): Background, Representation, and Identity*
- Marcel Mouson (Trier), *Pro Prussia or Pro Austria: The Debate about the Claim of ‘Rightful’ German Leadership*
- Johan van Merriënboer (Nijmegen), *Helmut Kohl and Ruud Lubbers Crossing the Oder-Neisse Line*

17.00–18.15 PUBLIC LECTURE

- Frank Trentmann (London), *Complicity, Conscience and Compassion: History and Morality in Germany since the Second World War*

19.00 – DINNER