

Rethinking German Modernities
February 14-15, 2009
Garrison 1.102

Modern German history was once dominated by the *Sonderweg* thesis, or the premise that Germany's cataclysmic twentieth century could be explained by its failure in the nineteenth century to follow the normative path of modernization as supposedly epitomized by France and Great Britain. Already in the 1980s leading German historians began to ask whether the normative model of modernization was really an adequate measure for historical explanation. In recent years, German historians have been looking to developments in postcolonial theory, transnational and imperial historiographies, and theories and historiographies in aesthetics, religion, citizenship, and subjectivity to consider anew the problem of Germany's "modernity." This workshop will examine the empirical and theoretical developments that have resulted as the premises of a singular conception of modernity have been removed from German and European historiography.

Note that all papers will be pre-circulated and are available online at: <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/rgm/>. For user name and password, please contact Tracie Matysik at matysik@mail.utexas.edu.

Schedule for Discussion:

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009

8:30-9:30 – Breakfast: Garrison Hall, 4th Floor

9:30-12:00 – Culture and Aesthetics: Garrison Hall, 1.102

Jennifer Jenkins, University of Toronto: "Domesticity, Design, and the Shaping of the Social"

Manuela Achilles, University of Virginia: "Designing Weimar Democracy: Art, Politics, and the Republican Project of Symbolic Reform"

Kevin Repp, Yale University: "A Strange Indifference: The Reduction of Culture in German History"

John Maciuika, Baruch College, City University of New York: "Alternative Takes on the Wilhelmine Institutional Landscape: What German Historians and Art Historians of Germany Can Learn from Each Other in Rethinking German Modernities"

12:00-1:00 – Lunch: Garrison Hall, 4th Floor

1:00-3:00 – Colonialism and the Transnational: Garrison Hall 1.102

Andrew Zimmerman, George Washington University: “German Colonial Modernity as a Two-Fold Origin of International Liberalism”

Scott Spector, University of Michigan: “Elsewhere in Central Europe: Habsburg Jewish Culture Between ‘Habsburg Myth’ and the ‘Central Europe Effect’”

Katherine Pence, Baruch College, City University of New York: “Challenges in Exhibiting West German Modernity to Africa: The Mobile Exhibitions of 1961 and 1963”

Ari Sammartino, Oberlin College: “Alternative Modernities: Imperial Germany Through the Lens of Russia”

Dennis Sweeney, University of Alberta: Paper TBA

3:00-3:30 – Coffee Break: Garrison Hall 1.102

3:30-5:30 – Paradigms of Modernity: Garrison Hall 1.102

Mark Roseman, University of Indiana at Bloomington: “Nazism and Modernity”

Richard Steigmann-Gall, Kent State University: “Modernity, Secularity, Continuity: Antisemitism in Nazi Germany”

Geoff Eley, University of Michigan: “What *Was* German Modernity?”

Edward Ross Dickinson, University of California at Davis: “Not So Scary After All? Social Theory, National Socialism, and Reform in Imperial and Weimar Germany”

Sunday, February 15

8:30-9:30 – Breakfast: Garrison Hall 4th Floor

9:00-11:00 – Subjectivity and the Private/Public Divide: Garrison Hall 1.102

Kathleen Canning, University of Michigan: “‘Sexual Crisis’, the Writing of Citizenship, and the State of Emergency in Germany”

Marti Lybeck, University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse: “Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakthrough: Sexuality, Emancipation, Authority, and the Process of Gendered Self-Reform”

Tracie Matysik, University of Texas at Austin: “The Subject of Reform, or the Subjective Resistance to Synthesis”

Larry Frohman, State University of New York, Stony Brook: “Planning, Population, and Security: The Politics of Personal Information and the Origins of Privacy Protection in West Germany”

11:00-12:00 – Concluding Thoughts

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