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# **The German Historical Institute at 25**

**Edited by Hartmut Berghoff and David Lazar**



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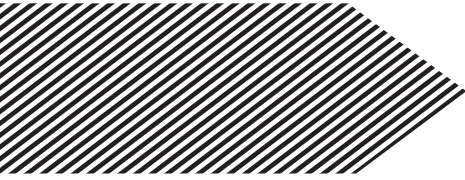
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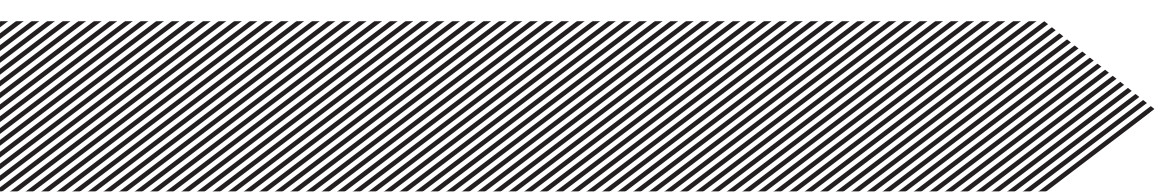
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## PREFACE

The German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington has come of age. From modest beginnings in 1987, the institute has established itself as a leading center for advanced study in history. Our work is regularly evaluated and must prove itself on the academic marketplace year after year. And over the years, we have earned much recognition and praise for the innovative research the GHI supports. Leading universities and foundations on both sides of the Atlantic are our partners. We receive more proposals for cooperation than we can possibly accept. Our fellows publish in the best peer-reviewed journals, and they receive job offers from top universities and research institutions, sometimes sooner than we would like. We cooperate with leading scholarly publishers, and our publications have won many prestigious awards.

While failure is said to be an orphan, success has many parents. This is very true in our case. Our work would not be possible without the generous support of the German government. We are especially grateful to the Federal Ministry for Education and Research, not least for its unwavering respect for our scholarly independence. Several foundations in both Germany and the United States, deeming our work worthwhile, have provided millions of dollars of funding to enable us to undertake a variety of projects and programs that would otherwise have been beyond our means. We are proud and honored to have received this extra support and would like to express our deep gratitude.

I also have to thank my three predecessors, Hartmut Lehmann, Detlef Junker, and Christof Mauch. The GHI is still harvesting the fruits of their labors. Each left his stamp on the GHI, and their influence continues to be felt. Of course, no director could achieve much without a strong team. Over the past 25 years, a remarkable group of younger scholars have served on the GHI's staff. The GHI attracts the best and the brightest. The resulting synergy is evident in the consistently high quality of the individual and collaborative research carried out at the GHI. Talent and dedication are the hallmarks of the GHI staff as a whole. Without the skills and commitment of its administrators, librarians, editors, project coordinators, research associates, IT specialists, secretaries, receptionists, and interns, the GHI would simply not function as well as it does. I would like to thank all staff members, past and present, for their untiring engagement on behalf of the GHI.

In the following pages, we present an overview of the GHI's activities over the past 25 years along with a closer look at the research projects now underway at the GHI. Historians do better in interpreting the past than in offering forecasts about the future. But looking ahead, one thing seems certain. The names and the topics of those associated with the institute will change, just as they have over the last quarter century. The odds are good that the GHI will maintain the high scholarly standards it has set, although doing so will require a continuation of the favorable circumstances the institute has enjoyed thus far. May that be the case in the next 25 years. I wish the GHI all the very best for a successful and exciting future.

Hartmut Berghoff

May 2012



## THE GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE IN WASHINGTON, 1987-2012: A SHORT HISTORY

Hartmut Berghoff and Richard F. Wetzell

GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

### Prehistory

The history of German research institutes abroad reaches back to the founding of an archeological institute in Rome in 1829 under the patronage of the Prussian Crown Prince and later King Frederick William IV, which became a Prussian state institution in 1871 and a *Reichsinstitut* in 1874, and still exists today as part of the German Archaeological Institute. The history of German Historical Institutes abroad also began in Rome, with the founding of the first German Historical Institute,<sup>1</sup> established in 1888 to facilitate the access of German scholars to the Vatican archives, which had been opened seven years earlier. The establishment of the next German Historical Institute did not occur until seventy years later, when a *Deutsche Historische Forschungsstelle* was opened in Paris in 1958 in the context of reconciliation of France and Germany under the leadership of Konrad Adenauer und Charles de Gaulle and the signing of the Treaty of Rome (1957), which established the European Economic Community. After the signing of the Franco-German Friendship Treaty in 1963, this research center was renamed German Historical Institute (GHI) in Paris to reflect its new status as a federal institute (*Bundesinstitut*) financed by West Germany's Federal Ministry for Research and Technology.

Serious discussions about opening a GHI in North America began to take shape in the aftermath of the opening of a German Historical Institute in London in 1976. By 1978 a group of German and American scholars won the support of the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology for holding a series of exploratory meetings to study the feasibility of opening a GHI in the United States. This group included two German professors of American history: Erich Angermann (University of Cologne) and Günter Moltmann (University of Hamburg); two American professors of German history: Gordon Craig (Stanford University) and Gerald Feldman (University of California at Berkeley); the director of the German Historical Institute in London, Wolfgang Mommsen; the director of the Max Planck Institute for History in Göttingen, Rudolf Vierhaus; and the historian Gerhard A. Ritter (University of Munich). Under Angermann's leadership and

1 Originally called *Preußische Historische Station*; after 1890, *Preußisches Historisches Institut*.



**Hartmut Lehmann,**  
**Founding Director of**  
**the GHI. Photo: GHI.**

with financing from the Volkswagen Stiftung, this group held symposia in Cologne (1981) and Berkeley (1982), which resulted in a detailed proposal for a German Historical Institute in the United States, which Angermann drafted and submitted to the Ministry in July 1983.<sup>2</sup> In November of that year, the Minister for Research and Technology forwarded this proposal to the Wissenschaftsrat, Germany's top advisory body on research and science, with the formal request to study the possibility of opening a German Historical Institute in the United States. A year later, in November 1984, the Wissenschaftsrat issued a formal report endorsing the Angermann group's proposal for an American GHI and recommending that the Institute be located in Washington, DC.<sup>3</sup> The following

year, on the recommendation of the Ministry for Research and Technology, the Bundeskabinett under Chancellor Kohl made the formal decision to found a German Historical Institute in the United States. Regarding the larger political context, there can be little doubt that the U.S. government's decision (1980) to establish a Holocaust Museum in the nation's capital made the proposal for a German Historical Institute in Washington especially timely in the eyes of some officials and politicians in Bonn.<sup>4</sup> Charged with setting up the new Institute, the Ministry for Research and Technology convened an advisory founding commission "Aufbau DHI USA," which included four members of the original Angermann group—Angermann, Mommsen, Ritter, and Vierhaus—as well as the historians Klaus Hildebrand (Bonn) and Michael Stürmer (Erlangen-Nürnberg) and the political scientist Peter Graf Kielmannsegg (Cologne).<sup>5</sup> In March 1986, the Ministry presented the proposal for the opening of the GHI Washington to the parliamentary committee on research and technology and then advertised the directorship of the GHI Washington.<sup>6</sup> By early summer, the ministry had set up a foundation for the Institute (Stiftung Deutsches Historisches Institut

2 "Ein deutsches Historisches Institut in den U.S.A.: Eine Diskussionsgrundlage für konkrete Überlegungen zu seiner Begründung und Ausgestaltung," Memorandum by Erich Angermann, July 24, 1983. Files of the Foundation German Humanities Institutes Abroad (Stiftung DGIA), Central Office, Bonn.

3 Wissenschaftsrat, "Stellungnahme zur Errichtung eines Deutschen Historischen Instituts in den USA," November 16, 1984. Files of the DGIA, Central Office.

4 Bundesminister für Forschung und Technologie, "Deutsches Historisches Institut in den USA: Vorlage zur Beratung im Ausschuss Forschung und Technologie am 19. März 1986." Files of the DGIA, Central Office.

5 Bundesministerium für Forschung und Technologie, Internal memo "Betr.: Deutsches Historisches Institut in den

USA," July 25, 1986. Files of the DGIA, Central Office.

6 Kurzprotokoll der 53. Sitzung des Ausschusses

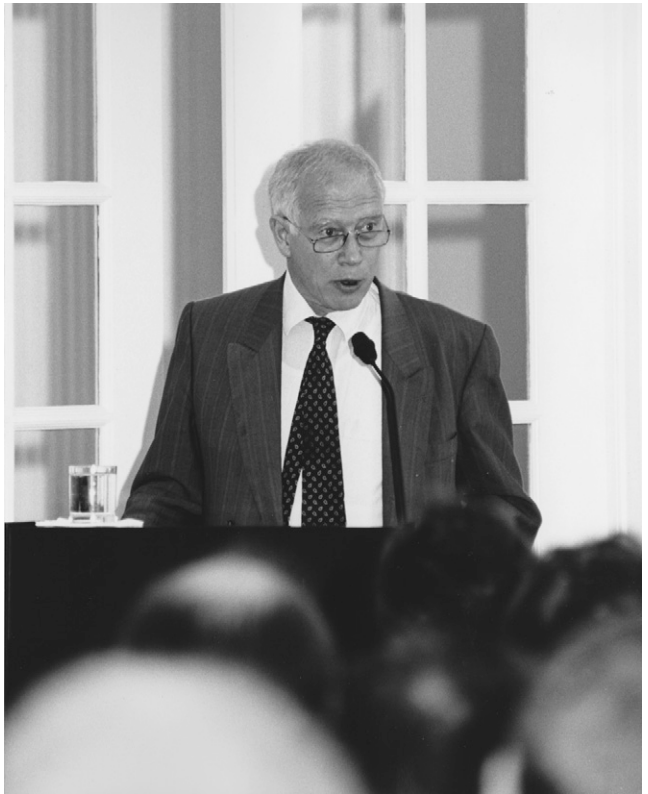
für Forschung und Technologie am 19. März 1986. Files of the DGIA, Central Office.

in den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika)<sup>7</sup> and the commission interviewed candidates for the director's position. In August 1986, the Ministry offered the directorship to Hartmut Lehmann, professor of history at the University of Kiel, who assumed the post a year later.<sup>8</sup>

### The Lehmann Era, 1987-1993

On April 1, 1987, the GHI Washington began its operations under Hermann-Josef Rupieper as acting director. Lehmann took up the director's post on August 1, and the Institute opened its doors to the public on November 18, 1987, with an official opening event that featured lectures by Heinrich August Winkler on the causes and consequences

of the Nazi regime and by Bernard Bailyn on Germans in America. In addition to Lehmann as director (1987-93) and Rupieper as deputy director (until the end of November 1987), the founding staff of the GHI included: Dieter Schneider, administrative director until 2003; Christa Brown, secretary to the director until 2011; and Gaby Müller-Oelrichs, head librarian until 1993. In early 1990, Norbert Finzsch joined the Institute as deputy director (until 1992). For its first three years, the Institute was located in temporary offices at 1759 R St. in Washington's Dupont Circle neighborhood. In April 1990, it moved to its present location, the Woodbury-Blair mansion at 1607 New Hampshire Ave., which was purchased and renovated for its use by the Volkswagen Stiftung. The building was formally opened more than a year later, on October 2, 1991, in a public ceremony that featured an



**Wolfgang J. Mommsen speaking at the opening of the GHI's building at 1607 New Hampshire Avenue on October 2, 1991. Photo: GHI.**

(Spring 2008): 39-47; remarks by Josef Rembser in "Greetings delivered on the Occasion of the Official Opening of the German Historical Institute, November 18, 1987," *Bulletin of the GHI* 2 (Spring 1988): 6-7.

7 The Stiftung came into existence on June 11, 1986; Innenminister des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen to

Bundesminister für Forschung und Technologie, July 8, 1986. Files of the DGIA, Central Office.

8 Ibid.; Interview with Hartmut Lehmann, "The Early Years of the GHI," *Bulletin of the GHI* 42

address by the German Minister for Research and Technology, Heinz Riesenhuber, and a lecture by Wolfgang Mommsen, president of the German Association of Historians (Historikerverband).<sup>9</sup>

The Institute was organized as a foundation (Stiftung Deutsches Historisches Institut in den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika) financed by Germany's Federal Ministry for Research and Technology and governed by a Board of Trustees that was chaired by Ministerialdirektor Josef Rembser as a representative of that ministry and included representatives of the Foreign Ministry and major German academic organizations such as the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the Max Planck Gesellschaft, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and the German Association of Historians. After the foundation of the GHI in Warsaw in 1993, the German Historical Institutes in Washington, London, and Warsaw were incorporated into a newly formed Stiftung Deutsche Historische Institute im Ausland (Foundation German Historical Institutes Abroad) financed by the ministry (renamed Ministry of Education and Research) and governed by a board of trustees. In 2002, all five German Historical Institutes then in existence (Rome, Paris, London, Washington, and Warsaw) became part of the new Stiftung Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland (DGIA, Foundation German Humanities Institutes Abroad), together with the German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo and the Institute for Oriental Studies in Beirut. The DGIA, too, is financed by the Ministry of Education and Research and governed by a board of trustees mostly composed of representatives of major German academic organizations. In 2009, the newly founded GHI Moscow was incorporated into the DGIA, which will be renamed Max Weber Stiftung in the summer of 2012.

From the outset, the Institute's academic work was supported and monitored by an Academic Advisory Council (Wissenschaftlicher Beirat), chaired by Erich Angermann (Cologne), that was composed of prominent German and American scholars including several members of the "founding commission"—Peter Graf Kielmannsegg (Cologne), Wolfgang J. Mommsen (GHI London), Michael Stürmer (Erlangen-Nürnberg), and Rudolf Vierhaus (Max Planck Institute for History in Göttingen)—as well as Guenter Barth (Berkeley), Karl-Dietrich Bracher (Bonn), Thomas Nipperdey (Munich), and Mack Walker (Johns Hopkins).<sup>10</sup> The Institute's close cooperation with American academics also led, in the fall of 1991, to the formation of a circle of American "Friends of the German Historical Institute," which

9 For the April 1990 move-in date, see *Bulletin of the GHI* 6 (Spring 1990): 25.

10 In November 1991 Angermann resigned his chairmanship of the Academic Advisory Council for health reasons; the Council then elected Rudolf Vierhaus as its chairman; Angermann continued as a member of the Advisory Council until his death in November 1992.

included representatives of the American Historical Association, the German Studies Association, the Society for German-American Studies, and the Conference Group for Central European History of the American Historical Association and was chaired by Vernon Lidtke (Johns Hopkins University), later by Geoffrey Giles



(University of Florida), Konrad Jarausch (University of North Carolina), Gerald Feldman (University of California Berkeley), and David Blackburn (Harvard University).<sup>11</sup> Incorporated as a nonprofit organization, the Friends of the GHI have served as a vital link between the American scholarly community and the GHI and have also done fundraising for a variety of GHI projects.

**Four founding “Friends of the GHI” at the opening of the GHI’s building at 1607 New Hampshire Avenue in October 1991. From left to right: Mack Walker, Vernon Lidtke, Gerald Feldman, Konrad Jarausch. Photo: GHI.**

The new Institute was to serve four core functions: to be a forum for the exchange of ideas between American and German historians and scholars in neighboring disciplines like political science, sociology, and economics; to assist German scholars who were pursuing research in the United States; to assist American historians of Germany, especially younger scholars embarking on research in Germany; and, finally, to give the junior scholars who joined the Institute as research fellows the opportunity to pursue their own research projects. The first group of research fellows was composed of junior historians working on wide range of topics in American history, German-American relations, and German history: Axel Frohn (1987-92), who studied nuclear control in German-American relations during the 1950s; Jörg Nagler (1987-92), who worked on enemy aliens and the American homefront during the First World War; Jürgen Heideking (1988-90), who researched the Office of Strategic Services and the German opposition to Hitler; Hanna Schissler (1988-92), who

<sup>11</sup> On the formation of the Friends see *Bulletin of the GHI* 6 (Spring 1990): 26; *Bulletin of the GHI* 9 (Fall 1991): 7-8.

studied the role of gender in the restructuring of West German society, 1945-55; Sybille Quack (1989-92), who worked on Jewish women refugees in the United States; Stig Förster (1989-92), who investigated imperialism and slavery; and Kenneth Ledford (1989-91), who studied the history of German lawyers.<sup>12</sup>

The Institute's public outreach began with its first lecture series in the spring of 1988, which featured five German scholars speaking on topics ranging from the history of gender relations in Germany to the history of life expectancy to the role of the legacy of National Socialism in the formation of West German political culture. Quite appropriately, the Institute's first conference in December 1988 examined the work and influence of the first generation of German-speaking refugee historians, who had received their training as historians in Germany before emigrating to the United States after the Nazi seizure of power. Attended by several of the refugee scholars, including Felix Gilbert and Stephan Kuttner, this landmark conference set the story of the refugee historians in the context of the evolution of the German historical profession in the twentieth century, the onset of Nazi persecution, and the relationship between German and American historiography.<sup>13</sup> The conference proceedings were published in the essay collection *An Interrupted Past: German-Speaking Refugee Historians in the United States after 1933*, edited by Hartmut Lehmann and James J. Sheehan, which appeared as the first volume in the GHI's book series with Cambridge University Press in 1991. In addition to sponsoring the conference, the Institute hired Catherine Epstein as a research associate (1987-90) to compile a biographical and bibliographical handbook of German refugee historians, which was published in 1993 as *A Past Renewed: A Catalog of German-Speaking Refugee Historians in the United States after 1933*.

The first conference's interest in historiography was continued by the conference "Paths of Continuity: Central European Historiography from the 1930s to the 1950s" (1990), which examined the work of prominent German and Austrian historians including Friedrich Meinecke, Gerhard Ritter, Hans Rothfels, and Franz Schnabel in order to assess the impact of the Nazi regime on historical scholarship and the effect that professional continuity had on the practice of history in postwar West Germany.<sup>14</sup> The Institute's early focus on German-American history was pursued in a series of conferences (and essay volumes) examining German-American relations and the experience of emigration from the eighteenth to the twentieth century from a wide variety of perspectives. Thus the 1990 conference "German

12 For descriptions of most of these projects see *Bulletin of the GHI* 6 (Spring 1990): 11-26.

13 For a detailed report, see Catherine Epstein, "Account of the discussions at the conference 'German-Speaking Refugee Historians in the United States, 1933-1970s,'" *Bulletin of the GHI* 4 (Spring 1989): 5-19.

14 Hartmut Lehmann and James Van Horn Melton, eds., *Paths of Continuity: Central European Historiography from the 1930s to the 1950s* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994).

Influences on Education in the United States to 1917“ examined American perceptions of Germany’s educational system (and vice-versa) as well as the complex process of reciprocal exchanges, adaptations, and adoptions in the field of secondary and university education.<sup>15</sup> A year later, the conference “Women in the Emigration After 1933“ (1991) employed the approaches of gender history and oral history to compare the experience of German women refugees in a wide variety of countries, including Great Britain, France, Palestine, the United States, Brazil, and China,<sup>16</sup> while the conference “The Influence of German Immigrants on American Political Thought After World War II: Hannah Arendt and Leo Strauss” (1991) examined Arendt and Strauss’s academic training and experiences in Germany and their subsequent careers and intellectual influence in the United States.<sup>17</sup>

The fortieth anniversary of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1989 gave rise to a series of conferences on postwar German history, including “A Framework for Democracy: Forty Years of Experience with the *Grundgesetz* of the Federal Republic of Germany” (organized in cooperation with the University of Pennsylvania),<sup>18</sup> “American Policy toward Germany, 1949-1955” (organized in cooperation with the University of Marburg),<sup>19</sup> and “1949-1989: The Federal Republic of Germany as History”(organized in cooperation with Harvard University).<sup>20</sup> In addition to these areas of special interest, from the outset the GHI sponsored conferences on a wide range of other topics, ranging from to the history of the Reformation (“The Reformation in Germany and Europe: Interpretations and Issues”) to the history of modern electoral politics (“Elections, Mass Politics, and Social Change in Germany, 1890-1933”)<sup>21</sup> and gender history (“Women in Postwar Germany: Culture, Society, and Politics”).<sup>22</sup>

The preparation of the conference on the Federal Republic that took place at Harvard gave rise to a conflict over the Institute’s scholarly independence. Early in 1989, the Ministry of Research and Technology had indicated that it would make available extra funds for the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Federal Republic. Shortly afterwards, the GHI’s director, Hartmut Lehmann was approached by

*World War II* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995). Other GHI conferences on the theme of migration and emigration included “Emigration and Settlement Patterns of German American Communities in North America” (1989), “Continental European Migration and Trans-continental Migration to North America” (1991), “Peopling the New World: The Transfer of Ideas, Customs, and Social Institutions from Central Europe to the Middle Colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries” (1992), and “New Approaches to Migration Research: German-Americans in Comparative Perspective” (1997).

18 See report in *Bulletin of the GHI* 4 (Fall 1989): 4-7.

19 Jeffrey M. Diefendorf, Axel Frohn, Hermann-Josef Rupieper, eds., *American Policy and the Reconstruction of West Germany, 1945-1955* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994).

20 See report in *Bulletin of the GHI* 4 (Fall 1989): 25-33.

21 Larry Eugene Jones and James Retallack, eds., *Elections, Mass Politics and Social Change in Modern Germany: New Perspectives*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992).

22 See report in *Bulletin of the GHI* 4 (Fall 1989): 14-17; compare also Hanna Schissler, ed., *The Miracle Years: A cultural history of West Germany, 1949-1968* (Princeton University Press, 2001).

15 Henry Geitz, Jürgen Heideking, and Jürgen Herbst, eds. *German Influences on Education in the United States to 1917* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995).

16 Sibylle Quack, ed., *Between Sorrow and Strength: Women Refugees of the Nazi Period* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995).

17 Peter Graf Kielmansegg, Horst Mewes, and Elisabeth Glaser-Schmidt, eds., *Hannah Arendt and Leo Strauss: German Émigrés and American Political Thought after*



**The German Historical Institute. Photo: GHI.**

the Center for European Studies at Harvard University about co-organizing a conference on the history of the Federal Republic. When Lehmann sent the program of the planned conference to the ministry in order to secure the promised special funding, the ministry refused funding on the grounds that the proposed program was too critical of the Federal Republic. Lehmann immediately contacted the chair of the Institute's Academic Advisory Council, who convened an emergency meeting, at which the Advisory Council strenuously insisted on the Institute's academic independence and opposed any interference from the ministry. In the end, the ministry gave in and agreed to make available the promised funding for the conference. Lehmann and the Academic Advisory Council had won an important victory for the Institute's academic freedom.<sup>23</sup>

The GHI's academic independence and its integration into American academia probably helped to disperse any initial suspicions that the Institute might function as the purveyor of a government-sponsored version of German history.

### **The Junker Era (1994-1999)**

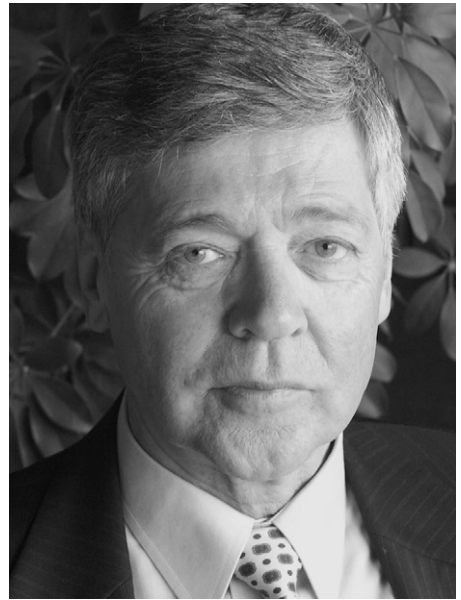
After Hartmut Lehmann's term as director ended in 1993, Hartmut Keil served as acting director for a year until Detlef Junker of the University of Heidelberg took up the post of director in 1994. The position of deputy director was held by Martin Geyer from 1995 to 1997 and by Christof Mauch from 1998. While the Institute's research and conference program continued to be characterized by a diverse range of topics and approaches, under Junker's leadership the GHI developed an academic focus in the area of twentieth-century

23 Interview with Hartmut Lehmann, "The Early Years of the GHI," *Bulletin of the GHI* 42 (Spring 2008): 44-45.



international relations and the history of the Cold War. This thematic focus gave rise to a collaborative research project on the history of the United States and Germany during the Cold War that resulted in the publication of the two-volume handbook *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War, 1945-1990*. Published in both German (2001) and English (2004) and comprised of more than a hundred essays by specialists in postwar German-American history, this handbook quickly established itself as a standard reference work providing unrivaled coverage of German-American political, economic, social, and cultural relations from the end of the Nazi regime to German unification in 1990.<sup>24</sup>

The Institute's focus on international history under Junker's leadership was also reflected in a series of major GHI conferences (and essay volumes) on the history of international relations and transnational history that had begun in the Lehman years. The nineteenth-century foundations of the international system were explored in the 1997 conference "The Transformation of European Politics, 1763-1848: Episode or Model?" which focused on whether this era witnessed a transformation of European politics from a competitive system to a concert of powers.<sup>25</sup> Two GHI conferences examined key international conferences and treaties of the interwar period: While "Genoa/Rapallo and the Reconstruction of Europe" (1989) reexamined the 1922 Genoa conference, one of the great failures of interwar diplomacy, and presented new findings on the German-Soviet Rapallo treaty,<sup>26</sup> "Germany and Versailles 75 years After" (1994) drew on newly available sources and a wealth of recent scholarship to assemble a new synthesis revising negative assessments of the Versailles Treaty.<sup>27</sup> Focusing on German-American relations, the 1993 conference "Mutual Images and Multiple Implications: American Views of Germany and German Views of America" probed the interaction between stereotypical images and changing historical circumstances,<sup>28</sup> whereas the



**Detlef Junker, Director of the GHI, 1994-1999.**  
Photo: Heidelberg Center for American Studies.

24 Detlef Junker, ed., *Die USA und Deutschland im Zeitalter des Kalten Krieges, 1945-1990: Ein Handbuch* (2 vols., Stuttgart: DVA, 2001); Junker, ed., *The*

*United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War, 1945-1968: A Handbook* (2 vols., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

25 Peter Krüger and Paul W. Schröder, eds., *The Transformation of European Politics, 1763-1848: Episode or Model in Modern History?* (Münster: LIT, 2002).

26 Carole Fink, Axel Frohn, and Jürgen Heideking, eds., *Genoa, Rapallo, and European Reconstruction in 1922* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992).

27 Manfred F. Boemeke, Gerald D. Feldman, and Elisabeth Glaser, eds., *The Treaty of Versailles: A Reassessment after 75 Years* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998).

28 David E. Barclay and Elisabeth Glaser-Schmidt, eds., *Transatlantic Images and Perceptions: Germany and America since 1776* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

29 Gottfried Niedhart, Detlef Junker und Michael W. Richter, eds., *Deutschland und Europa: Nationale Interessen und internationale Ordnung im 20. Jahrhundert* (Mannheim, 1997).

30 Martin Geyer and Johannes Paulmann, eds., *The Mechanics of Internationalism: Culture, Society, and Politics from the 1840s to the First World War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001).

31 Carole Fink, Philipp Gassert, and Detlef Junker, eds., *1968: The World Transformed* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999).

32 Andreas W. Daum, Lloyd C. Gardner, and Wilfried Mausbach, eds., *America, the Vietnam War and the World: International and Comparative Perspectives* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

33 Stig Förster and Jörg Nagler, eds., *On the Road to Total War: The American Civil War and the German Wars of Unification, 1861-1871* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

34 Manfred F. Boemeke, Roger Chickering, and Stig Förster, eds., *Anticipating Total War: The German and American Experiences, 1871-1914* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999).

35 Roger Chickering and Stig Förster, eds., *Great War, Total War: Combat and Mobilization on the Western Front, 1914-1918* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

36 Roger Chickering and Stig Förster, eds., *The Shadows of Total War: Europe, East Asia, and the United States, 1919-1939* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

1995 conference “National Interest and European Order” analyzed Germany’s role in European politics from the interwar period through the era of detente to the post-Cold War period.<sup>29</sup> Several conferences moved beyond the history of international relations to study transnational history. Thus the landmark conference “The Mechanics of Internationalization,” co-sponsored with the GHI London in 1996, proposed the term “internationalism” to analyze two interrelated processes that gained critical momentum from the mid-nineteenth century: the internationalization of cultural, political, and economic practices and the effort to reform society by way of transnational cooperation.<sup>30</sup> The conferences “1968: The World Transformed”(1996)<sup>31</sup> and “America’s War and the World: Vietnam in International and Comparative Perspectives” (1998) approached their subjects from transnational and international perspectives.<sup>32</sup>

### Conferences on “Total War”

Another major series of GHI conferences and edited collections, which began already during the Lehmann years, were the “Total War” conferences, organized by Stig Förster and Roger Chickering in collaboration with other scholars, which systematically investigated the origins and development of modern warfare. The first conference, “On the Road to Total War: The American Civil War and the German Wars of Unification, 1861-1871,” took place in 1992 and investigated the complex antecedents of total war by comparing the experiences of the U.S. Civil War and the German wars of unification, arguing that changes in weaponry, the reorganization of national economies for war, and the increasing importance of propaganda made these wars distinctly modern.<sup>33</sup> The next conference, “Anticipating Total War?” (1994), explored the discourse on war in Germany and the United States in the years 1871-1914 in a great variety of forums, including soldiers, statesmen, women’s groups, and educators.<sup>34</sup> The third conference, “How Total Was the Great War?,” convened in 1996, analyzed the experience of the First World War as the first large-scale industrialized military conflict in world history, paying special attention to the systematic erosion of distinctions between military and civilian spheres that was characteristic of “total war.”<sup>35</sup> The next conference (1999) studied the interwar era’s “Shadows of Total War” in Europe, East Asia, and the United States by exploring the lingering consequences of the First World War, including efforts to analyze its military significance, attempts to plan for another general war, and several 1930s episodes that foreshadowed the war that erupted in 1939.<sup>36</sup> The fifth conference, held in 2001, used the

“total war” paradigm to examine the Second World War by analyzing modes of combat, the mobilization of economies and societies, the vulnerability of noncombatants, and the legal and moral issues raised by industrialized warfare.<sup>37</sup> Finally, a conference on “War in an Age of Revolution” addressed the question whether revolutionary warfare on both sides of the Atlantic extended 18th-century practices or introduced new forms of warfare.<sup>38</sup>

### The Mauch Era (1999-2007)

When Detlef Junker’s term as director ended in 1999, Deputy Director Christof Mauch became acting director and was appointed to a regular term as GHI director starting in 2002. From mid-2002 until early 2007 Dirk Schumann served as deputy director. Under Mauch’s leadership, the GHI initiated two major collaborative projects: “German History in Documents and Images” and “Competing Modernities.” Started in 2003, “German History in Documents and Images” aimed at making available online a large collection of primary sources (both texts and images) on German history since 1500 in both the original German and in English translation.<sup>39</sup> Coordinated by Kelly McCullough and funded by generous grants from the Max Kade Foundation and the ZEIT Foundation Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius, the project was divided into ten chronological sections, whose primary sources were selected and introduced by leading historians: Thomas Brady (for the period 1500-1648), William Hagen (1648-1815), Jonathan Sperber (1815-1866), James Retallack (1866-1890), Roger Chickering (1890-1918), Eric Weitz (1918-1933), Richard Breitman (1933-1945), Volker Berghahn and Uta Poiger (1945-1961), Konrad Jarausch and Helga Welsh (1961-present). Completed in the spring of 2012, the GHDI project has won widespread acclaim and is being used in countless history classes across the United States and abroad; its website is visited by more than 8000 unique visitors per day from all over the world. In 2011, it was awarded the American Historical Association’s prestigious James Harvey Robinson Prize, which honors teaching aids that have made outstanding contributions to the teaching and learning of history.

The second collaborative research project, “Competing Modernities: Germany and the United States, 1890 to the Present,” sought to systematically compare the historical development of the United States and Germany from a number of vantage points over an extended period. Funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung (Stuttgart)

37 Roger Chickering, Stig Förster, and Bernd Greiner, eds., *A World of Total War: Global Conflict and the Politics of Destruction, 1937-1945* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).

38 Roger Chickering and Stig Förster, eds., *War in an Age of Revolution, 1775-1815* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

39 <http://www.germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org>



**Christof Mauch, Director of the GHI, 1999-2007.**  
**Photo: GHI.**

and co-directed by Mauch and Kiran Patel (then Humboldt University Berlin), the project resulted in the publication (in German and English) of a collection of essays co-written by German and American scholars that compare numerous aspects of American and German politics, society, economy, and culture since 1890—including religion, the environment, law, consumption, gender, popular culture, the welfare state, education, and the media—revealing that the two countries were in some respects more similar and in others more different than is widely assumed.<sup>40</sup>

The GHI's program of conferences (and essay volumes) continued to expand, with several areas of concentration. First, a number of conferences continued the GHI's exploration of the history of German-American relations:

"GIs in Germany" (2000) analyzed the social, military, and political history of the American military presence in Germany since 1945; "Berlin-Washington, 1800-2000" (2000) sought to assemble a comparative cultural history of the relations between architecture, political ideas, and social reality in the two capitals;<sup>41</sup> "American Detente and German *Ostpolitik*" (2002) investigated Willy Brandt's *Ostpolitik* with a focus on how West Germany's allies, adversaries, and governments around the world reacted to it.<sup>42</sup> Another series of conferences provided broader comparative and transnational perspectives on European and transatlantic history: the 2001 conference "Europe in Cross-National and Comparative Perspective" offered a critical analysis of the cross-national turn European history by engaging the methodological, and theoretical questions involved in comparative history;<sup>43</sup> the 2004 conference "The Atlantic Community Unravelling? States, Protest Movements, and the Transformation of U.S.-European Relations, 1969-1983" provided new insights into the changing dynamics of transatlantic relations during the era of détente;<sup>44</sup>

40 Christof Mauch and Kiran Patel, eds., *Wettlauf um die Moderne: Die USA und Deutschland von 1890 bis heute* (Munich: Pantheon, 2008); Mauch and Patel, eds., *The United States and Germany during the Twentieth Century: Competition and Convergence* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

41 Andreas Daum and Christof Mauch, eds., *Berlin-Washington, 1800-2000: Capital Cities, Cultural Representation, and National Identities* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998).

42 Carole Fink and Bernd Schaefer, eds. *Ostpolitik, 1969-1974: European and Global Responses* (New York:

Cambridge University Press, 2009).

*Europe in Cross-National Perspective* (New York: Routledge, 2004).

*The Strained Alliance: U.S.-European Relations from Nixon to Carter* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009).

43 Deborah Cohen and Maura O'Connor, eds., *Comparison and History:*

44 Matthias Schulz and Thomas A. Schwartz, eds.,

and the 2007 conference “Histories of the Aftermath: The European Postwar in Comparative Perspective” revised research on postwar Europe by arguing that postwar political stability must not be viewed as a quasi-natural return to previous patterns but as a conscious attempt to establish normality against the lingering memories of wartime violence.<sup>45</sup> A third group of conferences approached a variety of topics from the perspective of broader international and sometimes global history: the 2001 conference “Global Hollywood: Rethinking the National, Transnationality and Globalization” probed the relationship between cinema and identity by examining the ways in which Hollywood’s influence has figured in the articulation of regional, national and transnational cinemas, and the 2003 conference “Historical Justice and International Perspective: How Societies Are Trying to Right the Wrongs of the Past” (2003) explored the diversity of the ways societies have tried to right past wrongs by studying the problems of material restitution, criminal justice, memory, and reconciliation in comparative perspective.<sup>46</sup>

The Mauch era’s major new thematic accent in the GHI’s program of conferences (and essay volumes) was on environmental history. The first conferences on this theme explored key features of the physical environment: while the 2002 conference “Landscapes and Roads in North America and Europe” explored the relationship between roads and landscapes,<sup>47</sup> “Rivers in History: Designing and Conceiving Waterways in Modern Europe” (2003) studied the impact of rivers on humans and that of humans on rivers in national and transnational settings.<sup>48</sup> The relationship between nature and the built environment was the subject of the conferences “The Pursuit of Public Happiness: Gardens and Parks in Europe and North America” (2005)<sup>49</sup> and “The Place of Nature in the City in Twentieth-Century Europe and North America” (2005).<sup>50</sup> Finally, an important series of conferences focused on the intersection of environmental history with other fields of history: “Natural Disasters and Cultural Strategies: Responses to Catastrophe in Global Perspective” (2004) demonstrated that how people have dealt with natural disasters has depended on social and cultural patterns as well as political and economic structures;<sup>51</sup> “War and the Environment” (2004) examined how warfare has affected the environment and how environmental conditions have changed the character of combat;<sup>52</sup> “Turning Points in Environmental History” (2005) tackled big-picture questions in environmental history, including the land use, the challenges of cities, the rise of nation-states, and environmental

45 Frank Biess and Robert G. Moeller, eds., *Histories of the Aftermath: The Legacies of the Second World War in Europe* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2010).

46 Manfred Berg and Bernd Schaefer, eds., *Historical Justice in International Perspective: How Societies Are Trying to Right the Wrongs of the Past* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008).

47 Christof Mauch and Thomas Zeller, eds., *The World Beyond the Windshield: Roads and Landscapes in the United States and Europe* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press 2007).

48 Christof Mauch and Thomas Zeller, eds., *Rivers in History: Perspectives on Waterways in Europe and North America* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2007).

49 Sonja Dümpelmann, ed., *The Pursuit of Public Happiness: Gardens and Parks in Europe and North America*, Special Issue of *Die Gartenkunst* 18.1 (2006).

50 Sonja Dümpelmann and Dorothee Brantz, eds., *The Place of Nature in the City in Twentieth-Century Europe and the United States* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, forthcoming).

51 Christof Mauch und Christian Pfister, eds., *Natural Disasters, Cultural Responses: Case Studies in Global Environmental History* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009).

52 Charles E. Closmann, ed., *War and the Environment: Contexts and Consequences of Military Destruction in the Modern Age* (College Station, TX, 2009).



**Chancellor Helmut Schmidt delivering the 2003 Gerd Bucerius Lecture. Photo: GHI.**

activism;<sup>53</sup> “Colonialism, Post-colonialism, and the Environment” (2006) explored how colonial governments translated ideas about the management of exotic nature and foreign people into practice;<sup>54</sup> and “Environmental History and the Cold War” (2007) investigated the links between the Cold War and the global environment, ranging from the impact of nuclear weapons to the political repercussions

of environmentalism.<sup>55</sup> To bring the topic of environmental history to a larger public, the GHI also organized a public lecture series on “nature in German history,” which resulted in an important essay volume.<sup>56</sup>

### **Bucerius Lectures, German Unification Symposia, Feldman Memorial Lectures**

Under Mauch’s directorship the GHI Washington inaugurated two new public lecture series. The first was the Gerd Bucerius Lectures financed by the ZEIT Foundation Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius, which have brought to Washington a number of eminent German and European public figures, including former German Chancellors Helmut Schmidt (2003) and Gerhard Schröder (2011) as well as former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer (2007); distinguished British experts on German affairs Ralf Dahrendorf (2001) and Timothy Garton Ash (2005); Rita Süßmuth (2003), former President of the German Bundestag; and Jutta Limbach (2008), former chief judge of the German Supreme Court; Catholic theologian Hans Küng (2002) and Protestant Bishop Wolfgang Huber (2010); the director of Berlin’s Jewish Museum, Michael Blumenthal (2004); Leipzig conductor Kurt Masur (2006) as well as former Saxon Minister President Kurt Biedenkopf (2009). The second new lecture series was the German Unification Symposium, which has taken place annually on October 3, since 2001, and features lectures by public figures who played important roles in the East German revolution of 1989 and German unification. Speakers in the series have included: Joachim Gauck and Marianne Birthler, the first two Federal Commissioners for the Records of the Ministry for State Security of the Former GDR; Jens Reich and Bärbel Bohley, two key figures in the East German opposition movement; as well as Markus Meckel, Foreign Minister of the German Federal Republic in 1990. Since 2007, this annual symposium has been financed

53 Frank Uekötter, ed., *Turning Points in Environmental History* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010).

54 Karen Oslund, Niels Brimnes, Christina Folke Ax, and Niklas Thode Jensen, eds., *Cultivating the Colonies: Colonial States and their Environmental Legacies* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2011).

55 John R. McNeill and Corinna Unger, eds., *Environmental Histories of the Cold War* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

56 Christof Mauch, ed., *Nature in German History* (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2004).

by the Hertie Foundation. Under Hartmut Berghoff's directorship, the GHI added another annual lecture series, the Gerald D. Feldman Memorial Lectures, which honor the memory of the late Gerald Feldman (University of California at Berkeley) who had a long association with the Institute and served as president of the Friends of the GHI. The first three Feldman lectures were delivered by the distinguished historians Jürgen Kocka, Margaret Lavinia Anderson, and Gerhard A. Ritter.

### African Americans and Germany

Since the middle of the past decade, another thematic focus of the GHI's activities has been African American history and the experiences of African Americans in Germany. Following an earlier GHI conference (2000) on the theme "Ethnic Encounters and Identities: German, American, and African Perspectives," the 2006 conference "Crossovers: African-Americans and Germany," organized in cooperation with the University of Münster, sought to translate the paradigms of the black diaspora and the Black Atlantic into the German context and to reconstruct the interaction of African Americans and Germans from the 18th century to the present.<sup>57</sup> Exploring the subject further, the 2009 conference "Black Diaspora and Germany Across the Centuries" retraced six centuries of perception and contact between blacks of diverse origins (from the Americas, the Caribbean, the Byzantine Empire, Asia, Africa, and Europe) and people from the German-speaking parts of Europe from the Late Middle Ages to the First World War.<sup>58</sup> Shifting focus to the 20th century, the 2009 conference "African-American Civil Rights and Germany in the 20th Century," organized in cooperation with Vassar College, brought together scholars of history, literature, and cultural studies to explore the links between the African-American Civil Rights Movement and Germany throughout the twentieth century. In collaboration with

Vassar College and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, the GHI also participated in the collaborative research initiative "The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany," which

57 Larry A. Greene and Anke Ortlepp, eds., *Germans and African Americans: Two Centuries of Exchange* (University Press of Mississippi, 2010).

58 Mischa Honeck, Martin Klimke, Anne Kuhlmann-Smirnov, eds., *Germany and the Black Diaspora: Points of Contact, 1250-1914* (Berghahn Books: forthcoming 2012).



**Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer delivering the 2007 Gerd Bucerius Lecture.**  
Photo: GHI.



**Kwame Mfume (former President/CEO of the NAACP and Congressman from Maryland, 1987-1996) presenting the NAACP's Julius E. Williams Distinguished Community Service Award to Maria Höhn (Vassar College) and Martin Klimke (GHI). Photo: GHI.**

received the NAACP's Julius E. Williams Distinguished Community Service Award in 2009. This research project has created a digital archive and online research portal on *The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany*, which explores the connection between the U.S. military presence abroad and the advancement of civil rights in the U.S.<sup>59</sup> As part of this collaborative project, the GHI mounted the 2008 exhibition "African American Civil Rights and Germany," which has since travelled to nearly twenty cities in the U.S., Germany, and Great Britain. To promote research on African American and German interactions, under Hartmut Berghoff's directorship the Institute also established a doctoral fellowship program that enables two graduate students to spend a year in residence at the GHI. Most recently, the thematic focus on African American history was reflected in a 2012 conference on "The Globalization of African-American Business and Consumer Culture," which investigated the global impact of African-American businesses and consumer cultures.

### **The Berghoff Era, 2008-Present**

After Christof Mauch left the directorship of the GHI to take up a professorship at the University of Munich in April 2007, Gisela Mettele and Anke Ortlepp successively served as acting directors until April 2008, when Hartmut Berghoff, until then director of the Institute of Economic and Social History at the University of Göttingen, took up the post of GHI director. With the new director, Uwe Spiekermann and Philipp Gassert arrived as deputy directors (Gassert until his departure in 2009); in 2011, Uwe Spiekermann was joined by Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson as deputy director. In line

59 <http://www.aacvr-germany.org>. See also Martin Klimke and Maria Höhn, *A Breath of Freedom: The Civil Rights Struggle, African-American GIs, and Germany* (New York: Palgrave, 2010).



with his own expertise as an economic historian, Berghoff brought two new thematic foci on economic history and on the history of consumption to the Institute. Most importantly, perhaps, the focus on economic history is reflected in the collaborative research project “Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German-American Business Biographies, 1720-Present,” which is funded by a large five-year grant (2010-14) from the Transatlantic Program of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through funds of the European Recovery Program (ERP) of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. This project explores the entrepreneurial and economic capacity of immigrants through a study of the German-American example. By tracing the lives, careers, and business ventures of German-American businesspeople, the project seeks to integrate the history of German-American immigration into the larger narrative of U.S. economic and business history. Coordinated by a project team at the GHI and a distinguished board of editors, an interdisciplinary group of scholars from both sides of the Atlantic is contributing articles to an online biographical dictionary that integrates the biographical articles with broader contextual essays and a large collection of archival material.<sup>60</sup>

60 First results can be accessed at <http://www.immigrantentrepreneurship.org>

A second collaborative research project that has gotten underway recently is “Transatlantic Perspectives: Europe in the Eyes of European Immigrants to the United States, 1930-1980,” a four-year project (2010-14) that explores the role of European migrants in transatlantic exchange processes during the mid-twentieth century. Financed by a generous research grant from the German Ministry of Education and Research, this project is the first *Nachwuchsforscherguppe* (junior scholars’ group) for doctoral students within the foundation DGIA and is coordinated by postdoctoral Research Fellow Jan Logemann in close cooperation with Hartmut Berghoff. The project examines how migrant professionals involved in business, consumer culture, urban development, and the social sciences acted as conduits for social and intellectual transfer both by adapting their European professional heritage to their work in the United States and by translating American innovations



**Hartmut Berghoff, Director of the GHI since 2008.**  
Photo: GHI.

to the context of their European homelands. The project takes the form of four individual research projects, on emigrés and the transformation of American consumer culture, 1920-1970 (Jan Logemann), American urban planning and city life in the context of transatlantic migration since 1920 (Andreas Joch, Doctoral Fellow), gender, exile, and social science careers in Central Europe and the United States, 1940-1980 (Barbara Reiterer, Doctoral Fellow), and German business in the United States after 1945 (Corinna Ludwig, Doctoral Fellow). The project also organizes annual summer seminars, the first of which took place in 2011 on the theme “Europe—Migration—Identity” in cooperation with the University of Minnesota.<sup>61</sup>

The Institute thematic focus on economic history under Hartmut Berghoff has also been reflected in a series of conferences (and essay volumes) on different aspects of economic history and the history of consumption. Thus the 2008 conference “Decoding Modern Consumer Societies” featured studies of consumption in Europe, North America, Asia, and Africa in order to consider how political, business, and environmental history, cultural, gender, and intellectual history, anthropology, and the history of science can help us decode modern consumer societies.<sup>62</sup> In 2009, a conference on “The Short- and Long-Term Economic Effects of German Exploitation in Occupied Countries” brought together research on a wide range of Nazi-occupied countries, demonstrating that German coercion played a greater role in work relations than in company decision-making and that the occupied countries displayed substantial variations in economic development. Moving into the postwar period, the conference “Falling Behind or Catching Up? The East German Economy in the Twentieth Century” (2009), co-sponsored by the Stiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur, challenged received historical narratives by examining not just the decline but also the relative success and longevity of East Germany’s economic system. The history of Western market economies was explored by the conference “Understanding Markets: Information, Institutions and History” (2009), co-sponsored by the Hagley Museum and Library; it examined how people have sought to understand markets and thereby reduce risk, whether based on business acumen or on the tools of scholarship.<sup>63</sup> In 2010, “Cultures of Credit” investigated the history of consumer credit in Europe, the United States, and Japan with particular attention to the transition from face-to-face credit relations to institutionalized lending,<sup>64</sup> while “Globalizing Beauty” examined the global development of

61 See <http://www.transatlanticperspectives.org/>

62 Hartmut Berghoff and Uwe Spiekermann, eds., *Decoding Modern Consumer Societies* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).

63 Hartmut Berghoff, Uwe Spiekermann, and Philip Scranton, eds., *The Rise of Marketing and Market Research* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming 2012).

64 Jan Logemann, ed., *The Development of Consumer Credit in Global Perspective: Business, Regulation, and Culture* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan: forthcoming 2012).

conceptions of beauty, especially in the context of modern consumer societies, in which the pliable body, shaped by fashion, cosmetics, or surgery, has become a major object of consumption and spending. In 2011, four conferences address different aspects of economic history: “Going Global” reappraised the role of family firms (as opposed to large managerial enterprises) in the globalization process by examining the strategies that family businesses use in their international ventures, while “Risk and Uncertainty in the Economy,” co-sponsored by the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne, brought together historical, sociological, and anthropological perspectives to study how economic actors have dealt with sources of risk and uncertainty in different economic systems and periods. The conference “Feeding and Clothing the World” featured a wide range of analytical perspectives on the global history of cash crops, demonstrating the commercialization not only of goods but also of human labor; finally, the conference “Transatlantic Tourism” brought together historians of tourism, technology, and mobility to better understand the cross-continental flows of tourists from the United States to Europe, which grew to mass proportions in the last third of the nineteenth century.

As this overview demonstrates, the thematic focus on economic history encompasses a wide variety of approaches and themes and most often takes the form of comparative or transnational projects and conferences. It is also open to other historical approaches from cultural to social and political history and to neighboring disciplines. The transnational approach to economic history is also exemplified by the research projects of GHI academic staff, including Ines Prodoehl, who studies the global history of the soybean (1900-1950), Christina Lubinski, who investigates the activities of German and American companies in India (1880-1970), and Uwe Spiekermann, who examines the history of standardization and quality control during the twentieth century in transnational perspective. The conferences dealing with the history of consumption must also be seen in connection with the GHI’s new book series “Worlds of Consumption,” published with Palgrave Macmillan, in which several essay volumes featuring revised and peer-reviewed versions of the papers from several of the conferences are being published.

Moreover, despite this thematic focus, the individual research projects of the Fellows as well as the GHI’s conference program continued to be characterized by great diversity. The current fellows are working on projects in the history of communication and technology

(Clelia Caruso's project on the use and interpretation of the telephone in the United States and Germany, 1890-1980), the history of youth and youth movements (Mischa Honeck's project on the global history of American Boy Scouting, 1910-1960), the history of migration and citizenship (Miriam Rürup's project on the history of statelessness, 1919-1961), African-American history (Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson's project on Marian Wright Edelman, the Children's Defense Fund, and the civil rights movement) and legal history (Richard Wetzell's project on the history of German penal reform, 1870-1970). This diversity of interest is also reflected in the GHI's conferences, which have recently included conferences on "Twentieth-Century Youth Organizations and International Relations," "Illegality, Politics of Removal and Statelessness", "Criminal Justice in Modern Europe, 1870-1990," "The Transnational Significance of the American Civil War," and "Conceptualizing the Late Twentieth Century in German and American Historiography." The rotation of research fellows and directors, who work at the Institute for limited terms, guarantees that GHI research will remain changing and diverse.

### **Library and Publication Program**

As part of its mission to support American scholars of German history, the Institute has built up a substantial library collection. Public access to the library greatly improved in the spring of 1990, when the Institute moved into the Woodbury-Blair mansion, which features a beautiful reading room as well as movable stacks in two large basement rooms to house the previously scattered collection in one central place. At the time of the move, the library held about 8,000 titles and subscribed to about 150 periodicals.<sup>65</sup> In the days before the internet, the library made a special effort to collect printed finding aids to German archives so that Americans would be able to research archival holdings before going on archive trips. Over the course of twenty-five years, the library's holdings have now grown to over 48,000 titles and subscriptions to over 200 journals.

From the start, the Institute also developed an active publishing program. Starting in the fall of 1987, the Institute began publishing its *Bulletin* twice a year to inform a larger audience about the Institute's activities. Initially not much more than a newsletter, the *Bulletin* has since grown into a scholarly journal with a circulation of more than 7,000 copies. In 1989, the GHI began publishing a series of "Reference Guides," beginning with a German-American guide to scholarships for historians and social scientists and a guide to

65 See library report in *Bulletin of the GHI* 6 (Spring 1990): 28.

finding aids for German archives. Publishing about one reference guide per year, the Institute has now published twenty-five guides on wide range of topics including medieval history, women's history, Jewish history, East German history, American business history, and German Americana. In order to make the research presented at its conferences available to a larger audience, the Institute entered into an agreement with Cambridge University Press to publish the "Publications of the German Historical Institute" series. The first volume in the series appeared in 1991; to date, over fifty volumes have appeared in the series, which now includes not just essay volumes but also monographs. This series has become the signature series of the institute; books published in it have garnered several prestigious prizes including the Hans Rosenberg Prize of the Central European History Society<sup>66</sup> and the American Historical Association's George L. Mosse Prize.<sup>67</sup> Sales figures also attest to the success of the series. The series' bestseller, *1968: The World Transformed* edited by Carole Fink, Philipp Gassert, and Detlef Junker, had sold more than 3,000 copies as of early 2012, and several other titles had sold between 1,500 and 2,400 copies. Total sales of all titles had surpassed 52,000 copies by 2012. In 1992, the Institute also started publishing a book series dedicated to American and transatlantic history, the "Transatlantische Historische Studien," in cooperation with the Franz Steiner Verlag. This series features both monographs and essays volumes by German scholars of American history in transatlantic relations and is widely recognized as the most prestigious series in the field; to date more than forty volumes have been published. Since 2004, the Institute also publishes the series "GHI Studies in German History" in collaboration with Berghahn books, and since 2012 the "Worlds of Consumption" series with Palgrave Macmillan.

### Programs for Junior Scholars

From the outset, the Institute took seriously its mission to offer support to junior scholars on both sides of the Atlantic. As a service to German graduate students of American history or transatlantic relations, the Institute began offering dissertation scholarships designed to fund archival research in North American archives. In the first five years of the GHI's existence, the Institute awarded about ten such scholarships per year. From 1991 to 1997, the Institute also offered postdoctoral fellowships funded by the Volkswagen Stiftung, which were administered in conjunction with the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies and brought three (German as well as American) scholars per year to Washington for a year of postdoctoral

66 Awarded to Monika Black's *Death in Berlin* in 2012.

67 Awarded to Suzanne Marchand's *German Orientalism in the Age of Empire: Religion, Race, and Scholarship* in 2010.

research. Over the past twenty-five years, the Institute's fellowship program has grown tremendously. In recent years, the GHI has awarded about 25 doctoral fellowships and 12 postdoctoral fellowships per year to Germans and Americans to support archival research for up to three months. In addition, the Institute now regularly offers a number of longer-term fellowships devoted to particular topics such as a doctoral fellowship in the history of African Americans and Germans, a postdoctoral fellowship for North American history, as well as fellowships in economic and social history, the history of consumption, and international business history.

As a service to American graduate students of German history, the Institute started an annual archival summer seminar in 1990. Initially funded by the Volkswagen Stiftung, these seminars took a dozen American doctoral students on a ten-day tour of different German archives including the Bundesarchiv followed by a three-week summer course at the Herzog-August-Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel that comprised an introduction to German handwriting from the 16th to the 20th century.<sup>68</sup> More than twenty years later, the annual summer seminar has introduced about 250 American graduate students to German archives and is still one of the Institute's most successful programs. The success of the archival summer seminars in Germany eventually led the Institute to create an analogous program for American history. Starting in 2004, the Institute organized an archival seminar that brought together German and American doctoral students of U.S. history for a two-week tour of American archives and a chance to discuss the dissertation project with one another. Organized in cooperation with the University of Chicago and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, the seminar was funded by the ZEIT Foundation from 2004 to 2006. Since 2010, the seminar has been funded by the Bosch Foundation, and the Bosch Foundation Archival Seminar for Young Historians has established itself as a regular annual program.

While the archival summer seminars serve doctoral students who are at the beginning stage of research for their dissertation projects, another GHI initiative was designed to support doctoral students who are in the final stages of writing up their dissertations. Starting in 1995, the Institute has annually convened the Transatlantic Doctoral Seminar in German History, organized in cooperation with the BMW Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University. These annual seminars bring together sixteen advanced doctoral

68 For the announcement of the first seminar, see *Bulletin of the GHI* 5 (Fall 1989): 34-35.



students—eight from each side of the Atlantic—to discuss their dissertations projects with one another and with four faculty mentors. The seminar’s location alternates between Washington and different German universities, while its chronological coverage rotates from early modern history through nineteenth-century history to the twentieth century. As a testimony to the seminar’s success, most assistant professors of German history at North American universities today are alumni of the Transatlantic Doctoral Seminar. The Transatlantic Doctoral Seminar’s success led the GHI to introduce two other seminars on the same model. From 2001 to 2005, the Institute organized an annual “Young Scholars Forum” for doctoral students and recent PhD’s that was devoted to transnational themes such as “Gender, Power, Religion” (2001) and “War and Society” (2002) and later to different themes in North American history such as environmental history and “European dimensions of American history.”

In 2001, the Institute also organized the first Medieval History Seminar, bringing together North American and German doctoral students of medieval history to discuss their work with a group of mentors that has included Stuart Airlie (University of Glasgow), Michael Borgolte (Humboldt University Berlin), Carolyn Bynum (Columbia University), Johannes Fried (Frankfurt/Main), Patrick Geary (UCLA), Frank Rexroth (Göttingen), Barbara H. Rosenwein (Loyola University

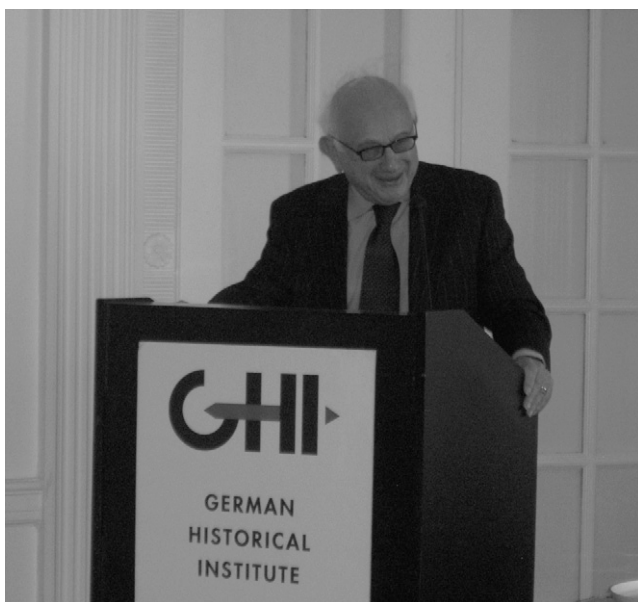
**The participants in the 2011 Bosch Foundation Archival Seminar for Young Historians in Chicago. Photo: GHI.**

Chicago), and Miri Rubin (Queen Mary, University of London). Taking place every two years, the Medieval History Seminar subsequently became a joint program with the GHI London, now takes place alternately in Washington and London, includes junior postdoctoral scholars in addition to doctoral students, and continues to draw a large number of excellent applications.

Since 2009, the Institute also convenes a Junior Scholars Conference in German Jewish History, co-organized with Michael Brenner (Munich) and with the Leo Baeck Institute as well as the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Modeled on the Transatlantic Doctoral Seminar, the Junior Scholars Conference reflects the GHI's interest in strengthening cooperation with institutions of Jewish history and in making Jewish history a regular part of the Institute's research agenda.

As part of its mission to support the work of junior scholars, the Institute also introduced several prizes. Since 1997, the Friends of the German Historical Institute have awarded the Fritz Stern

Dissertation Prize for the two best dissertations on German history completed at North American universities. Many of the books that grew out of these prize-winning dissertations have been published in the GHI's book series with Cambridge University Press. In 2006, the Institute, in association with the Franz Steiner Verlag, began awarding the biennial Franz Steiner Prize for the best German-language manuscript in the fields of North American history or transatlantic relations. The prize-winning manuscript is published in the GHI's book



**Fritz Stern speaking at the presentation of the dissertation prize named in his honor. Photo: GHI.**

series "Transatlantische Historische Studien" with the Steiner Verlag. To honor the work of senior scholars, the Institute has been awarding the Helmut Schmidt Prize in German-American Economic



History since 2004 with the support of the Zeit Foundation. The distinguished honorees include Harold James (Princeton University), Volker Berghahn (Columbia University), Richard Tilly (University of Münster), and Charles Maier (Harvard University).

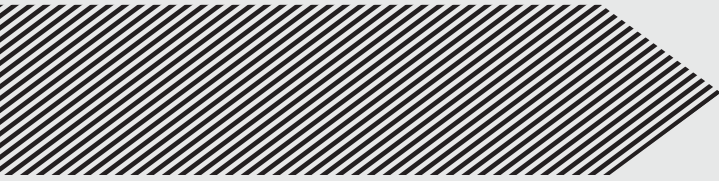


### Conclusion

Over the course of the past twenty-five years, the Institute has established itself as a key institution at the intersection of the German and American historical professions. The largest center for historical research outside a university in the United States, it has succeeded in broadening its mission well beyond furthering the study of German history in the United States and supporting the study of American history in Germany: most of the Institute's conferences and publications engage in comparative, transnational, or global history. The Institute has cooperated with more than a hundred universities in North America and its work has been supported by numerous foundations, including the Bosch Foundation, the Max Kade Foundation, the ZEIT Foundation Gerd and Ebelin Bucerius, the Hertie Foundation, the Thyssen Foundation, the Gerda Henkel Foundation, the Bertelsmann Foundation, and the Bundesstiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED Diktatur. Almost all of the Institute's former research fellows have become professors at leading European or American universities. During her 2010 visit to the GHI, Germany's Minister of Research and Education Annette Schavan recognized the GHI as an inspiring center of scholarship and "one of the most important organizations connecting Germany and the United States." The continued international expansion of the academic network organized under the roof of the Max Weber Foundation, the new name (effective July 2012) of the Foundation German Humanities Institutes Abroad, which is about to establish a presence in China and India, should help the GHI forge further international cooperations.

**German Federal Minister of Research and Education Annette Schavan speaking at the GHI, February 18, 2010. Photo: GHI.**





**GHI Research**



## STATIONED IN THE BORDERLANDS: AFRICAN AMERICAN TROOPS AND DOUBLE CONSCIOUSNESS, 1940-1953

**Sarah Barksdale**

DOCTORAL FELLOW IN THE HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS  
AND GERMANS/GERMANY, 2011-12

In this dissertation, I examine and analyze the experiences of African American servicemen in World War II through the lens of double consciousness. I argue that the black experience in the United States military and encounters with different cultures overseas changed and raised consciousness in African American troops in both productive and destructive ways. In turn, this new consciousness contributed to racial progress and new attitudes on the homefront upon their return. Using an interdisciplinary approach to the topic, I incorporate oral testimonies from black veterans, theory on double consciousness, and elements of 1940s black literature to provide a comprehensive cultural overview of the black community in general and servicemen in particular. This study also makes a critical connection between World War II and the civil rights movement. The veterans' stories and their role in the black community played an important role in the desegregation of the U.S. military and subsequently in further progress toward equal rights. The black military experience provides not only a deeper understanding of personal psychology, but also a more comprehensive picture of the implications of black service in World War II.

Overseas, African American servicemen had a variety of new experiences. Some faced a different sort of treatment than back in America, witnessed new cultures, or found common threads of humanity with people throughout the world. Many of their encounters, travels, and military and wartime experiences led to new worldviews.<sup>1</sup> These experiences enlightened many servicemen as to the unnatural character of the racial situation in America and demonstrated even more urgently the need for change. Before integration could take place, African American troops and communities had to undergo a transformation, acquire new consciousness, and bring the fight back to the homefront in new and more insistent ways.

This dissertation will examine the period from the passage of the Selective Service and Training Act in 1940 to the end of the Korean War in 1953. It will begin with an investigation of the process of

1 Maria Höhn and Martin Klimke, *A Breath of Freedom: The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2010). This recent book makes a similar point, looking at the transformations taking place and freedom felt by black servicemen in Europe, especially in the occupation of Germany. My dissertation will also look at these cultural encounters and changes, but with a larger emphasis on their experiences in World War II, a focus on attitudes, consciousness, and contributions to civil rights on the homefront.

change throughout World War II from the troops' training, deployment, tenure overseas, and return home and discharge. I will investigate what the veterans did in the postwar period, from employment to involvement in community or civil rights organizations. All four branches of the service—Army, Army Air Corps (Air Force), Navy, and Marine Corps—will be considered in this study. Each branch provides a different perspective on the war, the process of desegregation, and various geographical locations.

Theoretically, the idea of double consciousness plays an important part in the analysis of troops' experiences. W.E.B. Du Bois described double consciousness as the dilemma of reconciling black identity with American identity. He argued that African Americans were always aware of a “two-ness,” an American and a Negro, “two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body.”<sup>2</sup> This notion of a disconnect between different facets of one's identity became particularly relevant to African American servicemen fighting for a nation that refused to accept them. I plan to examine the potential and limitations of this concept in regard to black servicemen in World War II and the postwar period.

While African Americans struggled against the color line in the past, for instance in the post-World War I period, the scale of World War II as well as the political climate in the United States helped to initiate a transformation. Not everyone could cope with the harsh realities of life in the segregated military; there were “psychological casualties.”<sup>3</sup> Yet before true change and integration could take place, African American troops and communities had to undergo a transformation and acquire new consciousness and will to fight. For those who survived physically and mentally, military service brought them face to face with new realms of possibility, raised questions, consciousness, and for some, allowed them to push at the color line in the years to come.

2 W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, 1903, ed. Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Terri Hume Oliver (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999), 11.

3 Jennifer James, *A Freedom Bought with Blood: African American War Literature from the Civil War to World War II* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2007).<sup>1</sup> James used this term throughout the book to describe traumatized combat veterans.

## THE HISTORY OF CONSUMPTION IN NAZI GERMANY

### Hartmut Berghoff

DIRECTOR, GHI

Consumption is a matter not only of cultural values, lifestyle, and market transactions but also of politics. Shaped by institutions, laws, and ideologies, consumption interacts with political power to legitimize or delegitimize governments. States can control the supply and prices of consumer goods and define acceptable forms of consumption. Consumer satisfaction or discontent, conversely, can be the making or unmaking of a government's legitimacy. The burgeoning field of consumption studies has devoted relatively little attention to the political implications of consumption, however. This project deals with the very clear case of the politicization of consumption in Nazi Germany.

When Hitler came to power in 1933, he made three promises directly affecting consumer policy. First, he announced that the state would overcome the Great Depression in Germany by instituting a demand-oriented policy. It would create jobs and raise purchasing power and mass consumption to lead the country out of depression. Second, Hitler promised to assuage the German public's discomfort with the emerging consumer society by channeling its dynamic in a politically acceptable direction and then gratifying this redirected consumer demand. Clear ideological guidelines would resolve the contradiction between people's fascination with modern consumer society and their conservative-nationalist reservations. Third, in a great empire ruled by Germany, Hitler wanted to fulfill the people's hopes for prosperity that had been repeatedly and bitterly disappointed since the end of the Kaiserreich. Indeed, he sought to exceed even the most audacious visions of plenty for the German *Volk*.

These promises were broken from the very beginning of Nazi rule, however. The regime's consumption policies operated within a highly inconsistent framework of conflicting principles. Rearmament had top priority from the outset, which in effect meant that the state had to curb private in favor of public consumption. The degree of restriction, however, was never clear and was always subject to tactical considerations. Consumption was thus simultaneously promoted and suppressed. In one of its most successful propaganda ploys, the Nazi regime created a virtual reality geared to the desires of



Advertisement for the department store Kaufhof, ca. 1934: "Every purchase creates jobs."

ation—expanding demand for luxuries without secured provision of basic necessities—was profoundly abnormal in the history of consumption. For years, the regime propagated visions of abundance without ever delivering on its promises of plenty for the masses. One legacy of the dictatorship was the memory of this prolonged experience of expanding but frustrated desires. This explains why consumer politics assumed such a prominent role in both German states—and in their rivalry—after 1945.

This project examines key macroeconomic decisions as well as important sectors of the economy, ranging from the media to the leisure industry. It will look not only at political decisions affecting consumption but also at the ways consumers reacted and businesses adapted to them. More generally, the project will try to situate the Third Reich within the still unfolding history of modern mass consumption.

modern consumers. The regime announced initiatives – most never enacted – to mass market goods and services regarded as luxuries. Thanks to Hitler, so it appeared, cars, foreign vacations, convenience foods, televisions, and refrigerators would be within the reach of all Germans.

German consumers experienced extreme contradictions every day as result of the regime's policies. In the Janus-faced reality of the Nazi dictatorship, they had to grapple with harsh shortages at the same time they were being offered alluring new products. Virtual consumption – the prospect of the imminent availability of eagerly sought products – was intended to offset the widespread discontent fueled the scarcity of everyday necessities. The resulting situ-



## **MODERNITY CALLING: INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION AND THE TELEPHONE IN GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES, 1880-1990**

**Clelia Caruso**

GHI RESEARCH FELLOW

The way the telephone is used and understood is emblematic of the modern condition. The telephone helps individuals transcend ever more space in ever less time, increases the frequency of communication between people, and contributes to the mechanization of everyday life and the democratization of human exchange. Almost as soon as commercial telephone service became available the act of telephoning was widely linked to notions of modernity. Accordingly, the scholarship on the history of the telephone relies on well-known narratives of modernization to explain the spread of the device and its cultural incorporation within very different societies. Historians of the telephone have documented in detail the successful embedding of the phone in modern everyday life. They have also shown how the telephone gained general acceptance as a technical device.

The historiography of the telephone draws on media studies definitions of the telephone as a means of instantaneous dialogue. Consequently, this body of scholarship focuses almost exclusively on explaining why instantaneous dialogue has become the usual mode of using the telephone. Nowadays this might appear as the natural function of the telephone. Yet instantaneous communication between spatially separate persons did not become the predominant function of the telephone until the last third of the twentieth century. In the decades following the stringing of the first telephone lines in the late nineteenth century, several forms of usage coexisted. Although technological possibilities and limitations certainly influenced telephone use, they did not determine it.

Intertwined with the changing uses of the telephone were shifting depictions of the telephone itself. Although usage and interpretation of the phone did not march in lockstep, they certainly influenced each other. The cultural meanings assigned to telephone practices contributed to the selection of socially more acceptable uses from a multitude of potential and experimental forms. From its earliest appearance, the telephone was portrayed and discussed as the prototypical medium of the modern world. Long before long-distance calls

became an integral part of most people's routines, for example, the telephone was praised as a means of communication across borders and became a symbol of modern cosmopolitanism. The telephone also figured prominently in horror scenarios of dystopian worlds where anonymity and social indifference ruled. Whether regarded as a blessing or as a curse, the telephone was expected, at least until World War I, to fundamentally transform the communication routines of modern societies.

The spread of the telephone may or may not have directly affected cultures of communication. However, modern societies' growing reliance on mediated communications has been thought to impact their communication cultures. Since the end of the nineteenth century, it has been argued that mediated communications tended to produce their own sets of communication procedures and that the adoption of new technologies provoked changes of communication routines. It therefore stands to reason that representations of telephoning can disclose contemporary perceptions of changing communication cultures in modern societies to the historian. Contemporaries of the large-scale adoption of the telephone, I argue, processed major changes in the established communications culture whenever they observed and imagined practices of telephoning. My research focuses on exactly these observed and imagined practices of telephoning and aims at tracing the shaping of a modern communications culture.

## **G.I. RAP: HOW THE U.S. MILITARY AND MUSIC ENTREPRENEURS BROUGHT HIP HOP TO 1980S WEST GERMANY**

**Joshua Clark Davis**

GHI FELLOW IN THE HISTORY OF CONSUMPTION, 2011-12

In the 1980s, not long after the first hip hop recordings had emerged from New York, African Americans and Latino Americans serving abroad in the U.S. Army imported hip hop to West Germany, through military-affiliated, and thus state sponsored, base nightclubs, American Forces Network radio, and commissaries. Some of these soldiers even built links with German businesses off-base, teaming up with locals through music labels, record stores, and discos, as well as a number of successful performing groups. In addition to discussing the little known role that U.S. military businesses played in exporting and disseminating hip hop culture in 1980s West Germany, I seek to restore music businesses to their rightful position of importance in the growing historical discourse on the globalization of American popular culture. While acknowledging that recorded music, television and movies played important roles in bringing African American culture to Europe, I argue that most crucial to the spread of hip hop in West Germany was the infrastructure of entrepreneurial businesses such as nightclubs, labels, and magazines. These businesses allowed the small but vital community of hip hop fans in West Germany to communicate, sponsor events, and partake in a musical and consumer culture that few Europeans could readily access until the early 1990s. In a broader sense, these transatlantic business partnerships exerted a profound effect on how West Germans consumed, partook in, and understood African-American culture. Indeed, this project doubles as a case study of how the United States' overseas military empire facilitated the circulation of African American subcultures like hip hop throughout the world during the Cold War.

The Rhein-Main region in particular flourished as an incubator of transatlantic music cultures in West Germany. Although it has since been eclipsed by Berlin as the de facto musical capital of Germany, in the 1980s Frankfurt was one of the most important European cities for popular music, especially for the emergent genres of electronic dance music and hip hop. Like the larger metropolises of London, Paris, and Amsterdam, the city was home to a significant immigrant population. But among all of Frankfurt's foreign-born populations, it

was the approximately 50,000 U.S. troops stationed in the region, of whom close to a third were African American, that most influenced the city's musical life. Indeed, I argue that in West Germany and especially in the greater Frankfurt area, black Americans serving in the U.S. military—due to their large numbers and especially their opportunities to collaborate with local musicians and small businesses—participated first-hand in the global dissemination of African American popular music and consumer culture to a degree that was seen perhaps nowhere else in America's Cold War empire.

By the 1980s, for example, African American deejays playing soul and disco records could be found almost every night in at least one of the five nightclubs on Frankfurt military installations. Deejay crews consisting of African American servicemen battled each other for supremacy on the U.S. base club circuit, cultivating fans among service personnel in Frankfurt and throughout Germany. Even beyond U.S. bases, so-called G.I. discos like Frankfurt's Funkadelic club embraced African American music and opened their doors to African American soldiers, reversing a longstanding trend of racial discrimination against U.S. troops at German bar and nightclubs. In an effort to repackage hip hop for mainstream European audiences that were more amenable to electronic dance music, labels like Black Out Records in Frankfurt brought together and recorded African American rappers and vocalists (most of them former military personnel) with electronic producers, including performing groups included Snap! and LaBouche. While these acts often earned the ire of critics, they nonetheless sold millions of records in Europe, U.S. and around the world. Strangely, although the vocalists for these groups were often American, in the United States their music became widely known as "Euro-Dance" and "Euro-House."

In conjunction with this project, I convened a workshop, "The Globalization of African American Business and Consumer Culture," in February 2012 that drew scholars from three different continents and from the fields of business history, cultural history, African American history, law, and musicology.

## YOUNG PATRIOTS ABROAD: A GLOBAL HISTORY OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, 1910-1960

**Mischa Honeck**

GHI RESEARCH FELLOW

My research project probes the transnational exchanges and global engagement of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) from the Progressive era to the early Cold War. The idea of scouting, first implemented by the British officer Robert Baden-Powell in 1908, appealed to adolescents in diverse societies, yet nowhere did it gain greater traction than in the United States. Founded in 1910, the BSA grew rapidly to become one of the largest American youth organizations of the twentieth century. Its emphasis on character-building, patriotism, and faith in God, coupled with the goal of training boys in outdoor skills and responsible citizenship, made the organization extremely popular, especially among white middle-class Americans.

However typically American it might appear, the BSA has always interacted with the wider world. Boy Scouts corresponded with international pen pals, participated in foreign aid, went on overseas expeditions, launched troops in Europe and Asia, and traveled to international scout festivals. Shortly after its incorporation, the organization branched out into the country's extraterritorial possessions. Overseas councils were established in the Panama Canal Zone, the Philippines, and Guam. In the interwar period, the BSA joined the transnational bodies of global scouting, the Boy Scouts' International Conference and the World Scout Bureau, and sent delegations to the World Scout Jamborees, the large rallies of Boy Scouts of various nationalities that have been held almost every four years since 1920. After World War II, the BSA supported the United Nations and launched the Transatlantic and Far East Councils to make boy scouting available to U.S. citizens and their allies living on the front lines of the Cold War.

I am interested in studying how the BSA molded young male identities at home and abroad, and how these identities enabled American boys and men to accept, support, and critique their nation's global presence in the twentieth century. Their participation in a movement that extended beyond national borders not only highlights the role of youth in widening America's "external footprint," to borrow a phrase from Ian Tyrrell. It also demonstrates that U.S. global expansion



**American Boy Scouts en route to the 1929 World Scout Jamboree in England. Photo: Walter J. Ong.**

was tied to articulations of new cultural ideals of boyhood and manhood. As gender uncertainties caused by the disruptive forces of modernization made proving manhood increasingly difficult, the international arena came into view as one of the last sanctuaries of male authority, one well suited to creating

American men for an American century. By sending boys and men abroad, the BSA revived the equation of masculinity with national strength while at the same time adapting it to the needs of a nascent world power. I am interested, in short, in the correlation of youth, hegemonic manhood, and America's democratic empire.

My project joins a new generation of scholars who have begun to write the history of "global America." The BSA's transnational encounters reveal how young American males left their imprint upon changing conceptions of their nation's place in the world. These encounters were conditioned by region, race, ethnicity, class, and age - power structures that shaped the ways in which American boys gained access to identity-forming global experiences. Because there is always a tension between cultural norms and individual biographies, I need to be aware of how adolescents struck their own paths to manhood within the ideological constraints of scouting. Overall, though, the BSA crafted a highly gendered and racialized understanding of citizenship that transcended the domestic-foreign binary and constituted a significant auxiliary of U.S. expansion. Advertising overseas adventure and border-crossing adolescent friendship, boy scouting invited young American males to grapple with urgent questions about their country's relationship to a wider world of political and cultural affairs - questions that were worked out on the edges of American society as well as at its center.

## RUMORS OF REVOLT: UNCERTAIN KNOWLEDGE OF SLAVE INSURRECTIONS IN THE ANTEBELLUM SOUTH

### Sebastian Jobs

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW IN NORTH AMERICAN HISTORY, 2011-12

During the nineteenth century, many whites in the slave-holding American South feared violent resistance from their “servants.” Indeed, fear of insurrection and the expectation of a general slave uprising were not an exception but an integral part of everyday life in the antebellum South. To Southerners, evidence of imminent rebellion seemed ubiquitous, yet knowledge about conspiracies remained scarce. Cautious slaveholders frequently interpreted everyday occurrences such as foot-dragging on the part of their slaves or the breaking of a tool as a sign of resistance or of an insurrectionary mood. In this setting, rumor functioned as a major source of information.

My project focusses on rumors of slave revolt and of abolitionist activities in the antebellum South. Historians have been rather reluctant to incorporate everyday practices of knowledge such as rumormongering, gossiping, and giving misinformation in their research. Rumors and gossip are not merely annoying background noise, however, that threaten to distract historians’ efforts to grasp “what really happened.” If you go beyond mere fact-checking, they are, rather, an indicator of social dynamics and one means people used to make sense of their environment. Rumor and gossip are forms of what I call “uncertain knowledge.” Individuals relied on overlapping information coming from sometimes dubious sources. For reassurance, they relied on specific practices of clarification and turned to sources they regarded as trustworthy, whether institutional, like newspapers, or personal, like neighbors or friends. This perspective regards knowledge more as a dynamic process than as an entity.

Against this theoretical background, my project focuses on three aspects of uncertain knowledge of slave revolts:

- 1.) the discourses and practices of communicating uncertain knowledge and the ways in which they influenced the structures of power in the South;
- 2.) the media that were used to communicate and represent forms of slave violence (linguistic, symbolic, performative, emotive);

- 3.) the individual room for maneuver created by the production of uncertain knowledge of slave revolts (e.g. denunciation or strategic misinformation).

The question whether there was any substance to rumors of insurrection is only a side aspect of my research. Talk of rebellious slaves assumed a powerful presence in the everyday actions of Southerners, regardless of whether rumors of brewing uprisings turned out to be true. To analyze the realities of uncertain and unsettling knowledge, I use three different types of source materials. Personal papers (e.g. personal correspondence, diaries) open up perspectives on the manifold subjectivities and interpretations of uprisings. The authors were active persons insofar as writing was not only a means to convey information but also a way to apply meaning to experiences and to cope with emotions like fear. A second type of archival material helps to understand the spread of uncertain knowledge of slave revolts. Newspapers in the nineteenth century, in contrast to today, were not necessarily seen as a reliable source of objective information. Readers constantly compared and evaluated newspapers and checked them against other sources. Prominent among those sources were official documents, the third type of material I am using. Documents such as trial records, government reports, and governmental correspondence show official practices that reveal categories that served to produce solid and trustworthy knowledge. These three types of document cannot be analyzed independently of one another but must, rather, be viewed as an ensemble. To analyze the spread of news, it is necessary to interpret these documents in their local context and also as instances of transregional information exchange. They help us to understand communicative entanglements and complications that helped to make knowledge of slave revolts both more solid and more uncertain.



## **DEALING WITH THE AMERICAN CITY ON TRANSNATIONAL GROUNDS: GERMAN-SPEAKING EUROPEAN ARCHITECTS AND URBAN PLANNERS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1930-1970**

**Andreas Joch**

DOCTORAL FELLOW IN RESIDENCE

In my dissertation project, I examine the life and work of a group of European-trained, German-speaking urban planners and architects who came to the United States during the late 1920s and 1930s. I analyze the ways in which the members of this group were involved in the development of the American man-made environment in the decades following their arrival. My research is part of a larger project analyzing postwar transatlantic connections in four different areas: social work, consumption, cities, and business. This larger project, *Transatlantic Perspectives: Europe in the Eyes of European Immigrants to the United States*, aims to trace transcultural perspectives on Europe, the emergence of hybrid European identities among European migrants – including long- and short-term immigrants as well as *émigrés* – in the United States, and the role these migrants played in transnational transfers between the 1930s and 1980s.

My project contributes to *Transatlantic Perspectives* by focusing on two core themes. One is a set of questions that deals with the development of individual careers in the context of migration and exile. How did urban planners and architects who made the journey across the Atlantic, integrate into the work environment in the United States? What material and theoretical impact did they have and how did the experience of emigration affect their perceptions of urban development and city life? Studies of emigration experiences have described how ideas and identities change through a complex process of adaptation that also affects the receiving cultural space. For architects and planners these aspects have until recently been neglected by researchers.

Transatlantic exchange processes are the second core topic of my study. The development of cities and the role of building had been discussed in international networks since the late nineteenth century. These networks connected the countries of Central Europe and also bridged the Atlantic. A striking example of the involvement of individual architects and planners in these processes is the British planning scholar Jacqueline Tyrwhitt. Tyrwhitt held academic position in

England and the U.S., and she was also instrumental in organizing the Delos Symposia, which brought together urbanists from more than twenty nations on a regular basis after World War II. How did the German-speaking émigrés and migrants fit into this picture? Did they facilitate transatlantic exchange in a distinctive way? Many of them closely followed architectural and urban developments in their former home countries and, at some point, returned to Europe, even if only temporarily.

The case studies I discuss in my dissertation include Victor Gruen, who became famous for his shopping mall designs and urban revitalization projects; Ludwig Hilberseimer, a former Bauhaus master who taught city planning in Chicago; and Konrad Wachsmann, who promoted the industrialization of building in a transatlantic context. A closer look at certain aspects of their careers will be combined with a broader perspective on the larger group in the context of the questions outlined above. Of course, this group also featured two of the most prominent names in modern architecture: Walter Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. As internationally recognized experts, who had built a reputation during their time at the Bauhaus in Weimar, Dessau, and Berlin, Gropius and Mies quickly attained prestigious professional and academic positions in their host country. In the process, they gained considerable leverage on stylistic and educational developments in the architectural field. Others who had no connection to the prestigious Bauhaus or were at an earlier stage of their careers were faced with a more difficult transition period after their arrival in the United States. No matter where they stood professionally upon coming to America, all of the émigré planners and architect were forced to reconsider their work and their thoughts about the future of the city and building against the backdrop of their new environment.

This concentration on European immigrants engaging the American City provides the opportunity to address three interrelated themes that closely link aspects of perception and transfer. First, additional information can be provided about the transnational integration and production of knowledge by assessing modes, mechanisms, and long-term trends of exchange and cooperation on the micro level. Second, my work contributes to the contextualization of European and American urban history in its international framework. Third, I offer a new perspective on the actual and perceived similarities and differences between American and European cities, clarifying the background of an ongoing debate about distinct forms of urbanity.

## EUROPEAN IMPORTS? EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF AMERICAN CONSUMER CULTURE FROM THE 1920S TO THE 1960S

**Jan Logemann**

GHI RESEARCH FELLOW

Few things defined the United States at the middle of the twentieth century quite like consumer goods and consumer culture. Streamlined cars and refrigerators embodied the “American way of life” both at home and abroad. Increasingly sophisticated corporate marketing promised a “modern” world of affluence and abundance. Domestically, they helped reinforce a social compromise centered on economic growth and an expanding middle class. Internationally, enticing product designs and new marketing techniques became tools in Cold War efforts to spread the reach of what Victoria de Grazia has called America’s “irresistible empire.” Europeans in particular frequently discussed the “Americanization” of their societies in light of new advertising and consumption patterns.

Such a conception of a new, quintessentially “American” consumer culture remaking the postwar world, however, ignores the genuinely transnational and transatlantic origins of this phenomenon. In the key areas of industrial design and professional marketing, for example, European influences and exchanges with European artists and academics have played a formative role since the interwar era. As American businesses recovered after the shock of the Depression, they frequently looked to Europe for inspiration and innovation. A wave of immigrants and émigrés, fleeing the totalitarian regimes of the 1930s, came to play a prominent part in an exchange process about consumer marketing and design that continued well into the postwar era. Taking the work and careers of prominent European immigrants to the United States as a lens, this project aims to trace the impact of their concepts on American mass consumption and their role as “translators” between American and European consumption between the 1930s and 1970s.

One case study I explore in the field of marketing is the so-called Vienna school of market research. The group, spearheaded by Paul Lazarsfeld, had formed during the 1920s around research at the intersection of sociological surveys and commercial market studies. Their interest in both consumer motivations and empirical analysis

was eagerly received in the United States. While American companies had long paid attention to advertising psychology, the European newcomers helped make this nascent interest an essential part of the marketing profession. They added new qualitative and quantitative approaches, popularized methodological innovations, and can be credited with preparing the way for both segmented marketing and the “cognitive turn” in consumer research.

Industrial design similarly emerged as a new profession during the 1930s. While the streamlined styling of the era came to be seen as typically American, many of its prominent proponents, such as Raymond Loewy and Otto Kuhler, were European immigrants who consciously drew on European modernism or French Art Deco. The functionalist designs of the Bauhaus found an audience in the United States even prior to the arrival of such émigrés as Herbert Bayer, Walter Gropius, or Marcel Breuer. While the artistic visions of many of the émigrés stood in tension with the more pragmatic demands of corporate production, Bayer and others were quite willing to reconfigure the role of the artist designer in a world of commercial mass production and consumption.

What contemporaries perceived as a post-war “Americanization” of Europe amounted in some ways to a retranslation of marketing and design concepts that had genuine transatlantic roots. The European migrants played a crucial role in this postwar process as networkers, government emissaries, entrepreneurs, or visiting academics and artists. They frequently understood themselves as mediators regarding differences between American and European consumption. Despite in many cases having backgrounds in the socialist and social reform movements of interwar Europe, they - in various ways - had come to terms with the American consumer economy. There were prominent exceptions, of course, such as the design critic Bernard Rudofsky, or the Frankfurt school theorists of consumption including Theodor Adorno, Herbert Marcuse, or Erich Fromm. They frequently critiqued in their writings the very elements of “consumer engineering” that their fellow émigrés (with whom they often stood in contact) had helped to develop. Both as critics and proponents, then, European immigrants to the United States played a crucial role in the transatlantic dialogue about mid-twentieth century mass consumptions.

## **“PEACE, FRIENDSHIP, SOLIDARITY”? EAST GERMANY AND ANGELA DAVIS, 1965-1989**

**Sophie Lorenz**

DOCTORAL FELLOW IN THE HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS AND GERMANS/GERMANY, 2011-12

This dissertation explores the relationship between Angela Davis, one of the leading intellectual figures of the black freedom movement, and East Germany from a transnational perspective. Starting with Davis’ first visit to East Germany in 1965, this study focuses on the question how these black-red encounters were entangled with the attempts to gain international recognition for East Germany and domestic acceptance of the ruling Socialist Unity Party. By analyzing personal interactions and cultural perceptions as well as the political and cultural recontextualization of Angela Davis in East Germany, my project traces the roots and routes of this relationship through the 1970s and 1980s. More broadly, this study seeks to examine what the relationship can tell us about the meaning of solidarity with regard to the formation of transnational identities and nontraditional forms of collaboration in Cold War culture and the history of the struggle for racial justice in the twentieth century.

The special affiliation between Angela Davis and East Germany started during Davis’ first visit to East Berlin in 1965 while she was studying at the University of Frankfurt in West Germany. In December 1970, Davis was charged with murder, conspiracy, and kidnapping for her alleged role in an attempt to help a group of black convicts escape from a California courthouse. During Davis’s subsequent imprisonment, the East German regime organized a wide-ranging, state-funded solidarity campaign on her behalf. The campaign for Davis was part of a longer tradition of East German solidarity efforts on behalf of the African American civil rights movement. East German support for the black freedom struggle was, moreover, closely tied to the regime’s ideology. Since the 1950s, U.S. race relations had been a weapon in East Germany’s propaganda. In its efforts to gain broader diplomatic recognition around the world, East Germany’s solidarity with the African American struggle for equality was intertwined with its self-conception as the one German state free of racism and of any lingering trace of Nazi attitudes. As the Cold War was increasingly fought within a global arena, East Germany framed the defense of Angela Davis as the “front line battalion of anti-fascism,” thereby

identifying support for Davis as evidence of its progressive and anti-racist agenda at home and abroad. The solidarity campaign became a centerpiece of East Germany's international politics of recognition at the early 1970s. In the years after her acquittal in June 1972, Davis returned to East Germany as guest of honor representing what East Germany considered the "other America" of black civil rights activists.

By reframing the relationship with Angela Davis as part of its Cold War foreign policy, East Germany challenged traditional forms of diplomacy, especially vis-à-vis the United States. This would become evident during the Tenth World Youth Festival in August 1973 in which Davis participated as the head of the American delegation. Under the slogan "For Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, Peace, and Friendship," the festival, popularly labeled the "Red Woodstock", brought more than 25,000 young people to East Berlin from all over the world. Both Davis and the East German regime interpreted this meeting as a further step in strengthening their nontraditional cross-racial alliance.

The East German politics of solidarity also had an impact on East German society as the issue of legitimacy was of vital importance to the East German regime. Daily acts of solidarity on behalf of Angela Davis led to a broad identification with Davis as an icon of international solidarity, especially among East German youth. By identifying with Davis and more broadly with the idea of international solidarity, East Germans were also able to identify more closely with their state. The solidarity campaign for Angela Davis thus helped form a national identity among East German youth in the early 1970s. Often mentioned together with other famous communists like Marx, Lenin, and Liebknecht, Angela Davis had by then become a household name in East Germany and was firmly enshrined in East German national memory.

Tracing the history of this relationship also throws light on the transnational dimension of Davis's political and intellectual development from the late 1960s into the early 1980s. Angela Davis can thereby be placed in a longer tradition of leftist black radical activists with a global agenda who were able to influence Cold War discourse on racial discrimination on a national as well as international level.

## MANAGING POLITICAL RISK: GERMAN AND U.S. COMPANIES IN INDIA, 1880-1970

**Christina Lubinski**

GHI RESEARCH FELLOW

India was a popular target country for international merchants during the era of British rule, the Raj (1858-1947), and was deeply enmeshed in the global trading system. Prior to the Raj, the British East India Company had controlled foreign trade in India. It inhibited indigenous business but also initiated many infrastructure projects. The imposition of Anglo-Saxon property law ensured a more or less open field for Western businesses seeking to import manufactured goods to India or to export raw materials from there. While there is no doubt that British businesspeople were certainly the most deeply engaged, they were not alone in having an economic interest in India.

This project departs from the previous literature by focusing on German and American companies in India and their problems with political risk. Based on corporate and government files, the project compares how German and American companies in the period from the 1880s to the 1970s dealt with political risk, i.e. risk based upon the nationality - or perceived nationality - of a firm or product. It shows how thinking in nationalistically defined categories not only shaped policies starting in the late nineteenth century but also forced companies to rethink their strategies and to respond to nationalistically motivated consumption patterns. My project tracks the responses to political risk in India from German and American firms in four export-oriented industries: machine tools, chemicals, beverages, and recorded music.

Managing political risk was a relatively new challenge for Western companies in India at the turn of the twentieth century. When they first began making direct investments on a substantial scale during the late nineteenth century, by far the greatest challenge had been to overcome physical distance and infrastructure problems. My project will show how nationalism became established on the agenda of internationally active firms as receptivity to foreign firms in India waned.

Beginning in 1903, the early Indian *Swadeshi* ("from one's own country") movement in Bengal heavily criticized the influence of

foreign firms and lobbied Indian consumers to buy indigenously manufactured rather than imported products. This nationalistic argument touched off a long running debate about the categories “Indian” and “foreign” that, in hindsight, demonstrates how artificial and malleable those categories were. Comparing British firms with their German and American competitors shows that “foreign” could mean “non-British,” “Western,” or “non-Indian.” Loosely tied to the provenance of raw materials, labor, management, and capital, foreignness was not a fixed or absolute category but could, rather, vary in kind and degree.

After the outbreak of World War I, nationalistic competition and political risk reached a new level of importance when German companies found their corporate assets in India seized as “enemy property” and American, Japanese and indigenous competitors fought to increase their market shares at the Germans’ expense. During the interwar years, the spread of nationalism both in India and in the Western countries posed new problems for German and American firms. The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 triggered the imposition of tariffs and the creation of nationalistic trade zones, including the zone of “imperial preference” within the British Empire established in 1932. During World War II, German firms were once again faced with the expropriation of their assets in India.

With India’s independence in 1947, a new era of political risk opened as foreign firms faced the prospect of increasing state intervention and regulation as well as of the nationalization of certain industries. The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act of 1974 greatly restricted foreign firms’ ability to act, not least by stipulating that they could own at most a 40-percent equity stake in their Indian subsidiaries.

My project explores how German and American businesses responded to this diverse set of political risks in India. It describes similarities and differences in German and American strategies and situates them within the economic and political contexts. Some of the corporate strategies I will analyze are the creation of strong local identities, cooperation with native elites, the manipulation or temporary cloaking of nationality, and divestment from India altogether. This project shows that the management of political risk became a central concern for Western firms in India and, further, that many of the political risk strategies developed during the century I examine continue to shape the Indian business landscape and corporate decisions to this day.



## THE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS OF GERMAN COMPANIES IN THE UNITED STATES, 1945-1980

**Corinna Ludwig**

DOCTORAL FELLOW IN RESIDENCE

Early in West Germany's efforts to rebuild its economy in the wake of World War II, major West German firms sought to re-enter the international marketplace. In the United States, West German firms faced a great challenge in resuming trade relations put on hold during the war. German assets, including trademarks and licenses, had been expropriated. Nevertheless, German companies put considerable effort into re-establishing contacts in the United States and getting back into the American market.

My dissertation explores public relations and advertising by German companies in the United States from 1945 to the 1980s. Public relations and advertising are forms of communication a company uses to address its environment. Corporate communications were especially important for German companies eager to repair their reputations after World War II and to free themselves of the taint of the Nazi past. German firms also had to contend with the fact that the American market differed enormously from their home market in West Germany. Advertising and public relations played a more prominent role in the United States, where commercial competition was more intense than in Europe and mass consumption more extensive.

My study will examine the communications strategies West German companies pursued in the American market. Could they win public trust? What kind of corporate image did they want to evoke? I argue that the nationality was an ambiguous factor for German companies. On the one hand, they were confronted with lingering hostility on account of the recent past. But, on the other hand, the label "Made in Germany" could be used a selling point that called to mind traditional associations of quality and reliability.

My dissertation will look at three case studies: Bayer, Volkswagen, and Siemens. Although the firms belong to different branches, the case studies all focus on the same question: How did the firms promote themselves in the United States? To better understand their actions in the American market, the study will compare the corporate communications employed in the U.S. with the methods and strategies

pursued by the parent company back home. That comparison will shed light on the companies' learning processes in the United States. A common practice was to hire American agencies for public relations and advertising campaigns. I will thus also examine the cooperation between the corporate managers and the American account executives and consultants who helped steer West German firms' efforts to present themselves in the U.S. market. A look at the individual level is promising as a company is shaped by the people who make decisions; in this case, the managers and experts sent abroad. I will consider their experiences and the question whether knowledge gained in the U.S. influenced the companies' international strategies more generally or their practices at home in West Germany.

By examining German companies' efforts to compete in the American market, my dissertation will throw light on transatlantic business relations more broadly and ask about two-way flows across the Atlantic. Focusing on the internationalization experience of German companies and their representatives in the United States will further our understanding of the reciprocal perceptions of American and European business cultures at the middle of the twentieth century.

## SOYBEANS IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

### Ines Prodöhl

GHI RESEARCH FELLOW

In this research project, I am analyzing the economic importance and cultural perception of soybeans in the United States and Germany during the twentieth century. In both societies, the soybean became highly important commercially but inspired little cultural enthusiasm. I explore the reasons behind this indifference by focusing on the actors who, though mainly interested in soy's economic potential, participated in its cultural translation from Asia to the West.

While the soybean has been used as a foodstuff in Asia for several thousand years, its large-scale use in Europe and America dates back only a century. The Western interest in soy stemmed not from its nutritional value but rather from its oil content. Soybean oil can be employed in the manufacture of a wide range of products, including soap, margarine, plastic, lubricants, paint, rubber, and even explosives. During the first half of the twentieth century, the soybean became increasingly important in the world market. Germany and the United States became major consumers of soy in the 1920s, relying mainly on Japanese suppliers for Manchurian-produced soy.

At the same time, agricultural experts in the United States recognized the potential of the soybean as a crop to revive the fortunes of the country's hard-pressed farmers. Soy cultivation was actively promoted by the federal government during the New Deal and received a strong stimulus from war-related political and economic concerns in the 1940s. By the end of World War II, American farmers were supplying more than two-thirds of the world's demand for soybeans. Soy became the United States' most important cash crop, surpassing even cotton. Yet the soy plant remained invisible and unappealing to the general public; it never attained anything like the iconic status of cotton, corn, or wheat as a symbol of rural America and of America's agricultural bounty.

Several individuals, companies and institutions will figure in my project as cultural translators. In the 1930s, for example, soy-enthusiast Henry Ford threw soy parties and supported research in producing plastics from soy derivatives. Striking as figures like Ford and some of the other soy champions were, however, they played only



**New uses for soy: a woman displays candy made with different forms of soy flour. Photo: William J. Morse, Jackson L. Cartter, *Soybeans for Feed, Food, and Industrial Products* (USDA Farmer's Bulletin No. 2038), Washington DC, 1952.**

the use of certain oils to military purposes spurred the use of soy for margarine and soap, which in turn provided incentive for expanded soy cultivation.

Although soy oil found a ready market in Germany and the United States as a substitute for other oils in short supply, finding a market niche for the protein-rich by-product of soy oil production – known variously as soy cake, meal, and flour – proved more difficult. In the United States, the Department of Agriculture and several American soy companies made concerted efforts to promote soy flour among housewives for household baking and cooking. Little came of those efforts, though. Supplying protein rather than carbohydrates, soy flour did not fit into American eating habits. Soy was increasingly stigmatized as ersatz product associated with economic hardship and scarcity. Ingenious as the attempts of American companies to market soy protein to consumers in the 1940s and 1950s were, they ultimately failed. Instead, it found use almost exclusively as an animal fodder.

In Germany and the United States, soy was long seen as a substitute commodity and often associated with crises. This hypothesis suggests that an approach that combines the tools of cultural and economic history is most promising for analyzing the differing practices of acceptance and rejection of a certain good.

a limited role in bringing about the large-scale use and cultivation of soy. More decisive were the German and American oil mills, which were responding to governmental policies. In the 1920s, Germany's tariffs on vegetable oils discouraged the import of oils from France and the British Empire and gave a boost to demand for Manchurian-grown soybeans. As a result, Germany became Europe's largest importer of soybeans and leading exporter of soy products. Similarly, the decision of the United States War Production Board to limit

## **TRAVELING BETWEEN WORLDS: GENDER, EXILE, AND THE FRAMING OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE CAREERS IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES, 1940-1980**

**Barbara Reiterer**

DOCTORAL FELLOW IN RESIDENCE

This dissertation focuses on Austrian and German women émigrés, such as Gisela Konopka from Germany and the Viennese social worker Elsa Leichter, who fled from the National Socialists and settled in the United States, where they pursued careers as social work professionals. My project investigates these women's lives and careers and traces their professional networks as they related to the social, professional, and academic culture of the United States at a time when the social sciences were expanding greatly and gaining significant public authority. Moreover, I am exploring the role and significance of social work for exiled women as well as the parts these women played in the development of social work and their work's implications for the social sciences more generally.

My goal is to analyze the movements, networks, cultures, and identities of women émigrés in social work in the United States as well as their scholarly and professional activities. Furthermore, the project also explores the émigrés' roles as facilitators in transatlantic transfers of theories, practices, and methodologies, particularly in the post-war decades. Working in academia as well as outside the university in welfare agencies, the most successful émigrés combined a unique set of characteristics, that is, their European and American training, their experience of exile, their cultural and cognitive traditions, their encounters with social norms and role expectations in different places, and their language and connections that maintained dynamic international collaborations. These outcomes left a lasting mark on social work and related social science disciplines, on the émigrés' perspectives on society, as well as on the émigrés' personal and professional identities in ways that have yet to be examined.

Located at the intersection of the history of exile and intellectual migration, gender and (social) science, and history of the social sciences, my research applies a comparative and transnational framework along with a biographical approach to address the following questions: How did the émigré women's lives and careers compare to other groups: to their American-born colleagues, to émigrés from

other countries, and to male émigrés in the social sciences? What were women's roles in the production of social scientific knowledge and in the development of new methodologies and practices? To what extent did these contributions reflect their training and work experience in Austria and Germany? How did the experience of persecution, expulsion, and migration impact these women's identities, their career choices, and their work? Did the hierarchical structuring of the social sciences along gender lines differ in Europe and the United States? How, over the course of time, did the women's experience in the United States influence their perceptions of Europe and European social sciences in the second half of the twentieth century?

Whereas accounts on persons exiled by the National Socialist regime have traditionally focused on the experiences of male writers, political figures, or scholars of high reputation, this project adopts a gender-sensitive perspective and presents the women's experiences in their own right, thus bringing to the fore a group that has not yet received much attention from historians. Furthermore, in contrast to the majority of studies that focus on loss, disruption, and suffering, my research probes exile for its potential to offer liberation and new opportunities in addition to the hardships that forced relocation entailed. My project explores social work as an area in which women exiles had more opportunities and space for agency than in many other fields at a time when numerous highly qualified refugees competed for limited positions in a male-dominated academic and professional landscape.

As the émigré status in quite different personal and professional contexts forced many of the émigrés to reflect on their often shifting and multiple identities, the theoretical and methodological training of this specific group equipped them to engage with this issue of identity, while their activist ideologies motivated them to verbalize these considerations. This specific constellation, therefore, renders them a promising group to study systematically their self-identification as Europeans, as European-Americans, or as Americans. It also allows insights into the ways in which they forged a fresh perception of Europe as they established themselves in and adapted to the United States, which ties my project to the overall goals of the GHI's Transatlantic Perspectives project.

## LIVES IN LIMBO: STATELESSNESS AND WORLD CITIZENSHIP AFTER TWO WORLD WARS

**Miriam Rürup**

GHI RESEARCH FELLOW

“The passport is the most noble part of the human being. It also does not come into existence in such a simple fashion as a human being does. A human being can come into the world anywhere, in the most careless way and for no good reason, but a passport never can. When it is good, the passport is also recognized for this quality, whereas a human being, no matter how good, can go unrecognized.” Thus wrote Bertolt Brecht in his *Refugee Conversations* in 1940, still deeply affected by his own experience of exile. His view illustrates the vital importance that a seemingly simple administrative act—the issuance of personal identification papers—could gain. The possession of correct papers legitimated one’s right to be accepted as part of the collective defined through one’s nation-state affiliation. The passport, which has been the most important document for regulating interstate movement of people since World War I, very quickly became the most obvious symbol of this belonging, offering proof and recognition of one’s status.

The reverse was also true: the lack of valid papers expressed one’s lost link to society. Brecht’s dark observation thus highlights the logical conclusion of a longer historical process. The stateless person emerged as a sort of byproduct of the nationalization process that began in the nineteenth century with the rise of European national movements. Belonging had become synonymous with possessing the correct nationality, verifiable through proper documentation. Statelessness thus became a state of legal limbo, a *non*-status, often temporary, of *not* belonging to any of the modern national frameworks that the nation-states constitute. Whether the result of voluntary or coerced action, stateless always meant a marginalized existence at the edges of society. Hannah Arendt famously described the exclusion of a stateless person from a community of citizens as a violent act that denies him even the “right to have rights.”

My research traces how statelessness arose and how people and institutions came to grips with this challenge in Europe after each world war. It focuses on how these developments shaped international relations and on the framework within which they were

addressed. I focus on the historically and culturally specific practices of actors who experienced or dealt with statelessness. Supranational organizations such as the League of Nations, the Red Cross, and, after World War II, the United Nations were among the institutions to react to the problem of statelessness on a large scale. However, the supranational decisions made there then had to be applied within the different nation-states, thus my project concentrates on comparative case studies of Germany (West Germany in the post-World War II era) and the United States.

Within the project, I try to look at stateless people from two different points of view: as the victims of the development of strong nation-states who experience statelessness as displacement and as a loss of rights and security, but also, in some cases, as groups and individuals who understood the dissolution of their connection to a state as a welcome opportunity to escape narrow categories of belonging.

In a three-step approach, I focus first on the supranational level, that is, the discussions of the League of Nations and later the United Nations that eventually led to broad changes in international relations and international law. Next, I analyze the positions of the nation-states in direct interaction with the supranational institutions. Finally, I turn to the implementation of international agreements on the nation-state level, examining the everyday practices and experiences of the actors and groups involved: the stateless themselves, individuals and support groups who worked with them, and national as well as supranational organizations.

This project, by focusing on the moments and forces that challenged rather than strengthened the nation-state system, brings seemingly marginal phenomena to the fore. Although the stateless never constituted the majority of all refugees, their experiences reflected worldwide developments. This view, just beyond the edges and contradictions of nationality, helps us understand the concepts of national identity and the ideal citizen that were then in play. Furthermore, it helps us untangle how individuals and nonstate organizations reconceptualized ideas of belonging on the basis of humanitarian principles. This approach brings conceptions of societal belonging into a picture that clearly moves beyond nation-state affiliation to encompass such ideas as world citizenship and the growing importance of universalist ideals based on human rights.



## TRANSATLANTIC TOURISM: AMERICAN VISITORS TO EUROPE IN THE LONG TWENTIETH CENTURY

**Frank Schipper**

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW IN ECONOMIC HISTORY, 2011-2012

*Transatlantic Tourism* explores the meaning of Europe for American travelers. Focusing primarily on the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the project investigates how Europe became a commodity ready for purchase at local travel agencies and how this product materialized in the mobilities and modes of transportation on which travel critically depends. It therefore targets travel that is doubly transnational in character: transatlantic and cross-border within Europe.

There are a number of reasons to deem this research worthwhile. First, tourism became a major business in the course of the twentieth century. Second, Europe has long been the world's leading tourist destination. In 2002, the Mediterranean alone attracted 228 million visitors, making it the single most popular region with travelers.<sup>1</sup> Tourism also became the ultimate symbol of what it means to be a affluent, twentieth-century citizen throughout the industrialized world and “a quintessential feature of the twentieth century's globalizing world.”<sup>2</sup> To understand the global ramifications of modern tourism, it is imperative to take transcontinental flows into consideration. This provides a third reason, namely that by 1885 the number of Americans crossing the Atlantic annually for the purpose of tourism reached over 100,000.<sup>3</sup>

A fourth and final reason for this project is that doubly transnational tourism has received scant attention. Tourism history remains predominantly national in character, and studies that do integrate a transnational dimension most often adopt merely a bilateral framework. The available literature includes excellent bilateral studies, such as Neill Rosendorf's work on American tourism to Franco Spain and Christopher Endy's *Cold War Holidays*.<sup>4</sup> That approach does little, however, to enlighten us on how Europe the product acquired meaning through travel.

*Transatlantic Tourism* pays careful attention to the role of the “transnational travel constituency” along with that of the travelers themselves. Endy has defined the former as “a loose alliance of business groups, media elites, and government officials operating within and

1 Luciano Segreto, Carles Manera, and Manfred Pohl, eds., *Europe at the Seaside: The Economic History of Mass Tourism in the Mediterranean* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2009).

2 Christopher Endy, *Cold War Holidays: American Tourism in France* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004), 3.

3 Christopher Endy, “Travel and World Power: Americans in Europe, 1890-1917,” *Diplomatic History* 22 (1998): 567.

4 Endy, *Cold War Holidays*; Neal M. Rosendorf, “Bel Caudillo's Guest: The Franco Regime's Quest for Rehabilitation and Dollars after World War II via the Promotion of U.S. Tourism to Spain,” *Diplomatic History* 30 (2006): 367-408.

across national borders.”<sup>5</sup> We may think of travel agencies, transportation companies, or specialized travel magazines. The decision whether to travel remained individual, but a whole tourist industry emerged to try to steer that decision in certain directions rather than others.

One could even more forcefully argue that the structures on which tourism depended maintained and reinforced the shape of Europe as a tourist product in patterned, enduring flows. Despite frequent acknowledgment of the importance of this aspect, the material side of tourism has not received much attention. Orvar Löfgren’s, *On Holiday*, one of the best studies in the field, stands as a typical example. In discussing what he calls “tourist technologies,” he keenly observes that “[m]aybe it is the lightweight airiness of a few days at a beach or a hike in the wilderness that makes us forget the massive infrastructures needed to provide such moments on a large scale.” But although he directs attention to the role of the bus and the airplane as “charter tour pioneers” after World War II, he falls victim to the same forgetfulness he laments in other scholars.<sup>6</sup>

*Transatlantic Tourism* makes materiality and the mobility it supports an integral part of tourism history. It investigates the representation and experience of the transatlantic crossing and the impact of the changeover from collective to more individual means of transportation. The steam ship companies, for example, equipped their ships with garages to allow customers to bring along their own automobiles. Building on earlier patterns established in connection with the bike, cars supposedly allowed travelers to avoid the usual nodes in tourist routes where one would chiefly bump into fellow Americans and to travel instead to European rural heartlands, where one could still encounter true Europeans untouched by the homogenizing forces of globalization. In short, changes in travelers’ mobility would bring along changes in the Europe they visited.

5 Endy, *Cold War Holidays*, 4.

6 Orvar Löfgren, *On Holiday: A History of Vacationing* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999), 3, 5, 170–72.

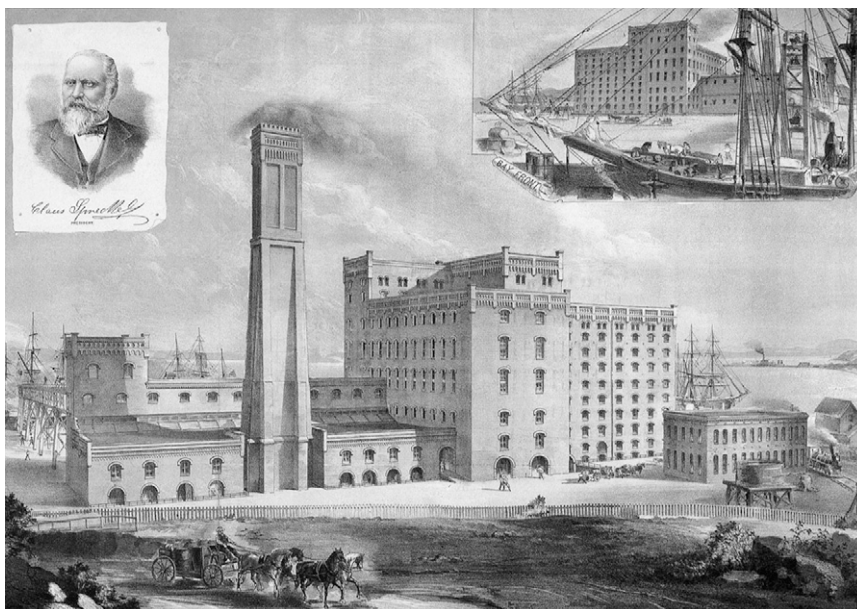
## THE SPRECKELSES: AMERICAN HISTORY AS FAMILY HISTORY

### Uwe Spiekermann

GHI DEPUTY DIRECTOR

At the turn of the twentieth-century, the German-born “Sugar King” Claus Spreckels was recognized as a representative figure of the Californian elite, and the Spreckels family was publicly perceived as representative of the West Coast. While millions of immigrants were still seen – and denounced – as foreigners, success made the Spreckelses an American family.

Conceived in conjunction with the GHI’s *Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German American Business Biographies* project, the book *The Spreckelses: American History as Family History* will examine the first four generations of the Spreckels family as a case study of the rise and development of a multicultural American elite between 1850 and 1970 and its role in American history. The Spreckelses were representative trendsetters in many respects. Robber baron Claus Spreckels was a pioneer in the sugar business, spearheading large-scale plantation in Hawaii and introducing the sugar beet industry in the United States. His four sons – John, Adolph, Claus, and Rudolph – expanded his sugar and real estate empire, but each also set their own courses. The brothers were active in the development of San Francisco and San Diego, the expansion of horse racing and tourism in the West, the expansion of the telegraph and oil industries, patronage of music and the arts, the Progressive fight against corruption, and promoting cooperation between business and government on the national level. The second generation, led by the brothers’ wives and daughters, joined the ranks of international high society, consuming conspicuously at fashionable spots on the East Coast and throughout Europe. During the interwar period, the third generation moved away from entrepreneurial leadership and focused almost exclusively on spending money. The Spreckelses became playboys and actresses, and they were notorious for their affairs and divorces. The family largely cut most of its ties to Europe during the Great Depression and the war years, focusing instead on Hollywood and Los Angeles, New York, and the American resort towns. It also cut its ties to the roots of its wealth in 1948 – a century after Claus Spreckels arrived in the U.S. – when it sold off most of its industrial holdings. The fourth generation nonetheless still had sufficient resources to cut a high profile, above all



**Claus Spreckels and his San Francisco refinery.**  
From: *San Francisco News Letter Christmas Number*, 1881.

in California. Family members made names for themselves not only in business but first of all by supporting modern art and rock n' roll, by developed new forms of surfing, and by entertaining the public by cross boundaries of taste and decency with scandalous behavior.

*The Spreckelses: American History as Family History* will present the story of a family. That story will serve as a tool to analyze fundamental changes and developments in American business and society over a period of 120 years. The family perspective allows for an analysis of developments such as the integration of immigrants, the creation of an industrial economy and the emergence of a superrich industrial elite, the formation of transatlantic and transnational commercial and social networks from both a business and private perspective. The book will give particular attention to gender issues and the shaping of consumer culture. Covered extensively by magazines and newspapers, the fashionable members of the Spreckels family became models for countless ordinary American men and women. The integration of family relations and private networks will provide insight into the workings of American business and society. In an oligarchic democracy, where power is concentrated not only in the legislatures but mainly in the hands of rich and influential families, the history of the Spreckels family will re-integrate the personal dimension into the structural changes of American history.

## FROM CIVIL RIGHTS TO CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN, THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND, AND THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

### Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, GHI

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) was established by the African American civil rights activist Marian Wright Edelman in 1973. Its mission is to improve the living conditions of children and young people in the United States, and in pursuit of that goal it supports research, engages in political lobbying, and runs social welfare programs.

A founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Edelman was among the leading figures of the civil rights movement during the 1960s and was a principal organizer of the Poor People's Campaign. From her experiences in those movements, she became convinced that continued pursuit of her goals would require direct contact and cooperation with governmental institutions in Washington, DC. In 1968, Edelman moved from Mississippi to the national capital and launched the Washington Research Project (WRP), which sought to gauge the effectiveness of recently enacted federal laws on racial equality and social welfare at the state and local level. The project uncovered a diverse array of administrative irregularities, but only in rare cases did its efforts result in redress. Edelman thus launched the Children's Defense Fund in May 1973 in the hope of creating a new coalition of progressive forces:

I'd learned the importance of being highly specific in my goals, and I got the idea that children might be a very effective means of broadening the base for change. The country was tired of the concerns of the sixties. When you talked about poor people or black people you faced a shrinking audience. That was really the beginning of looking at children and their unmet needs as a new way to build a coalition for social change.<sup>1</sup>

Martin Luther King Jr., Edelman's role model, had often called on his followers to speak out on behalf of the weak and defenseless, "to be a voice for the voiceless." Children undoubtedly count among the voiceless: they cannot vote or put forward their demands or organize for action. Through the CDF, Edelman sought to use concern for the well-being of the coming generation to create a broader basis for social justice – and in so doing she was acting fully in line with King's ideas.

<sup>1</sup> Edelman, quoted in Calvin Tomkins, "Profile: Marian Wright Edelman," *The New Yorker*, March 27, 1989: 67.

The CDF can thus be understood as an organization that emerged directly from the spirit of the African American civil rights movement. It sought to pursue that movement's goals by new means and methods after classic protest measures – boycotts, sit-ins, protest marches, demonstrations – had lost the power to shape public opinion and political decision-making. In this respect, the CDF stands as an especially striking example of the institutionalization of the social protest movements of the 1960s.

Over the last three decades, the CDF has become one of the most renowned child welfare organizations in the United States, and Edleman has been bestowed with honors ranging from the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism to the Presidential Medal of Freedom. To date, however, the CDF has not been the subject of scholarly attention. My project is envisioned as a step toward filling this lacuna. I intend to provide a comprehensive overview of the growth of the CDF and the development of its activities and programs. I will also set the CDF in the context of the history of children's aid initiatives and social welfare activism in the United States. In the process, I hope to substantiate my argument about the institutionalization of the civil rights movement.

The CDF's political work will stand at the center of my investigation. That encompasses its cooperation with other non-governmental organizations, such as African American churches and teachers' associations, as well as its often close but by no means conflict-free collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus and other progressive members of Congress. An important aspect of the CDF's political work that must not be overlooked is its publication program. Another point of focus will be the CDF's relations with the chief executives from Nixon to Obama. In addition, I will examine the CDF's diverse social assistance programs and initiatives, including the Black Community Crusade for Children, the CDF Freedom Schools program, and the Child Health Now initiative.

The main source of information for my project will be the records archived at the CDF's headquarters. I will also interview CDF staff members and participants in CDF programs along with both admirers and critics of the organization. Through an evaluation of these sources and an analysis of internal and external studies, legislative decisions, and statistical data, I will assess the long-term effectiveness of Edelman and the CDF's initiatives as an agent of progressive social change.

## THE POLITICS OF PUNISHMENT: PENAL REFORM IN MODERN GERMANY, 1870-1970

**Richard F. Wetzell**

GHI RESEARCH FELLOW

This project examines how, beginning in the late nineteenth century, a new generation of penal reformers gradually transformed Germany's criminal justice system. The reformers argued that the primary purpose of criminal justice was not retributive justice but the protection of society. To protect society effectively, they insisted, the criminal justice system must be based on a scientific foundation, namely, on scientific studies of the causes of crime and the effects of different penal sanctions. In this respect, penal reform was part of the larger process of the scientification of the social. The reformers' demand that the penal sanction must serve to prevent the individual offender from offending again led them to call for the replacement of standard fixed prison sentences with a variety of alternative sanctions tailored to the individual offender. Although the reformers still used the term "punishment," they were in fact proposing to strip the penal sanction of punitive content and to transform it into a range of individualized preventive measures drawn from non-penal areas of state intervention such as education (for juvenile delinquents), medical treatment (for abnormal offenders), and welfare (detention in a workhouse for incorrigible habitual criminals). Although the penal reformers protected the legal profession's control of criminal justice against the claims of psychiatrists and welfare officials, they gave medical doctors and welfare workers increased roles in criminal justice, both in the assessment of an offender's "dangerousness" and in the subsequent administration of the individualized penal sanction. The penal reform process thus broke down the existing boundaries between law, welfare, and medicine.

The German penal reform movement was part and parcel of an international penal reform movement that encompassed most of Western Europe as well as other parts of the world. This study therefore embeds the German penal reform debate in its transnational context and compares it to legal reform developments in other countries. The reformers found themselves attacked by critics with two different sets of arguments. While some charged that the reformers' deterministic understanding of the causes of crime undermined the notion of individual legal responsibility and the moral foundation of criminal

justice, others warned that the reformer's system of individualized, indefinite preventive measures (instead of fixed sentences) would establish a police state that had no regard for individual freedom. These contradictory critiques reflected that fact that the reformers' drive to replace the retributivist system of fixed punishments with individualized preventive measures had profoundly ambivalent implications. On the one hand, the new primacy of individualized treatment promised to liberate criminal justice from the schematism of deterrence and the harshness of retribution. By turning the penal sanction into a preventive, rather than punitive, measure the reformers opened the way for a more humane justice system, which could prescribe education or medical treatment instead of prison terms. On the other hand, if punishments were no longer limited by the principle of retributive justice or by a system of fixed punishments, the individual would be left unprotected against the potentially limitless protective needs of society, including the indefinite detention of habitual criminals.

The penal reform movement's Janus-faced character explains how its reform agenda could influence the penal policies of a succession of different political regimes, from Imperial Germany through the Weimar Republic to the Nazi dictatorship to the postwar German states. It also explains why different regimes stressed different aspects of this agenda. In this respect, the project seeks to move beyond the two dominant interpretations of law under the Nazi regime. The first of these has argued that the Nazi seizure of power in 1933 marked a radical break in legal history because the Nazi regime established an *Unrechtsstaat* that "perverted" justice and law. Challenging this view, a second interpretation has stressed continuities across 1933, focusing either on a particularly German brand of legal positivism or on the right-wing political leanings of the German judiciary. While both interpretations contain elements of truth, this study contends that both miss a crucial element of continuity that has nothing to do with German peculiarities, namely, the continuity of the transnational penal reform agenda. At the same time, it shows that the repressive side of this reform agenda could become transformed into state terror only because the Nazi regime completely abandoned the rule of law. This study also demonstrates, however, that it can be difficult to determine whether or not a criminal justice system conforms to the rule of law because the history of modern penal reform is one of changing interpretations of what the rule of law means. Probing the notion of the rule of law — the *Rechtsstaat* — in the context of criminal justice history is therefore one of the major themes of this study.



## IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP: GERMAN AMERICAN BUSINESS BIOGRAPHIES, 1720 TO THE PRESENT

In 2010, the German Historical Institute Washington DC launched an ambitious new project, *Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German American Business Biographies, 1720 to the Present*. The core of the project is a compilation of approximately 250 short biographies of German American businesspeople. The biographies will be supplemented by scholarly essays to set the biographies in context. The *Immigrant Entrepreneurship* website (<http://www.immigrantentrepreneurship.org>) will make available a rich selection of supplemental source materials in a variety of media, including documents, photographs, and audio recordings.

Generously supported by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, *Immigrant Entrepreneurship* makes a significant contribution to a wide array of academic disciplines and offers unique tools for teaching and research. The project aims to:

- deepen our understanding of immigrant entrepreneurship by focusing on one group over an extended period,
- contribute to the ongoing effort to globalize American history and situate the American past in a transnational framework,
- provide an innovative resource for students and scholars in a variety of fields and lay the groundwork for further research, and
- make invaluable materials on immigration and entrepreneurship readily available to the interested public.

### An Historical Perspective on Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is a *sine qua non* of economic development. Long neglected, the study of entrepreneurship has received growing attention since the 1980s. Entrepreneurship's historical variations have, however, remained largely unexplored. *Immigrant Entrepreneurship* aids in tracing changes in entrepreneurship over the past three centuries.

The questions why individuals become entrepreneurs and what strategies they pursue have been raised repeatedly in studies of entrepreneurship and are central to this project. Individual experience will be considered in conjunction with the opportunity structures—social, economic, and cultural—that shape entrepreneurial undertakings. The *Immigrant Entrepreneurship* project will give particular attention



**Inventor-entrepreneur Emile Berliner (1851–1929) made a fortune with his improvements to the telephone and phonograph. He was also a pioneer in aeronautical engineering. This photo (ca. 1911) shows aviator Paul Peck at the controls of a helicopter Berliner designed. Photo: Library of Congress.**

eighteenth century to the present day. The United States has long defined itself as a “nation of nations” and as “the land of opportunity.” *Immigrant Entrepreneurship* aims to shed light on the intersection of these two facets of American identity.

### **German Americans**

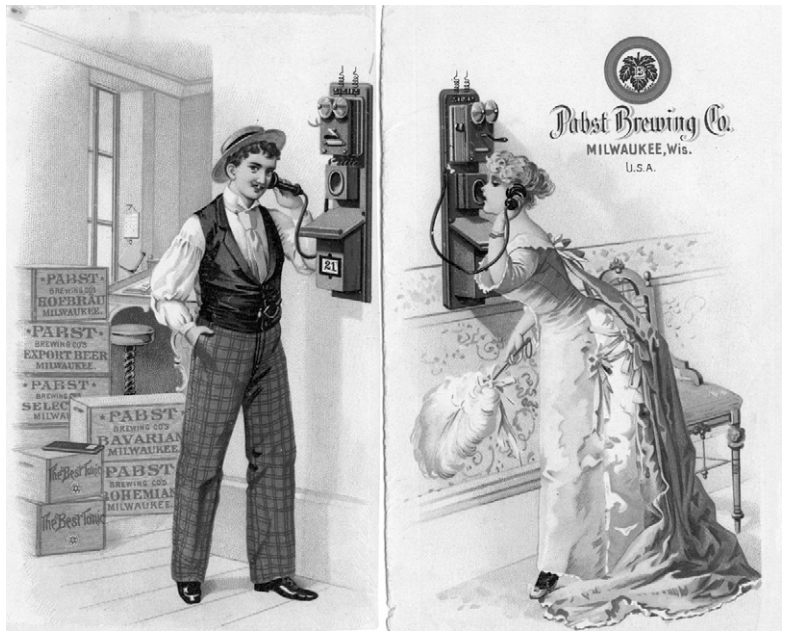
The German American case richly exemplifies the history of immigrant entrepreneurship in America. German immigrants began arriving in Britain’s North American colonies in the early eighteenth century. Germans were the largest group of immigrants arriving in the U.S. for much of the nineteenth century, and a variety of factors—such as political persecution at home in the 1930s or the allure of Silicon Valley in the 1980s and 1990s—continued to spur migration from Germany over the course of the twentieth century. In 2000, more than 15 percent of the U.S. population claimed German ancestry. Germans are not, however, a widely visible ethnic group in twenty-first century America. And although some of the country’s best-known corporations bear the names of their German immigrant founders, the large scholarly literature on German migration to the United States gives short shrift to entrepreneurs.

German immigrants and their descendants have played an important but often unrecognized role in building the American economy and business community. Over the past three centuries, German American enterprises have been active in the most crucial sectors of the American economy, and changes in German American entrepreneurship

to the transformation of opportunity structures over time and the changing nature of the constraints on entrepreneurial endeavors.

*Immigrant Entrepreneurship* aims to reconstruct the responses of individuals to the challenges and opportunities linked to immigration. It will analyze the role of immigrant entrepreneurs in the formation—and continual re-formation—of the American business elite from the early

reflect important turns in American history. Heinz, Strauss, Anheuser-Busch, Miller, Pabst, Pfizer, Steinway, Boeing, and Merck are but a few examples of prominent entrepreneurs who founded well-known companies. More recently, German immigrants have taken leading roles in emerging sectors of the economy, including microelectronics and biotechnology.



A Pabst trading card, ca. 1900. Courtesy of the Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware.

## Key Questions

*Immigrant Entrepreneurship* looks at how German American entrepreneurs were influenced by and participated in the cultural, social, and economic processes associated with the rise and transformation of industrial capitalism. A series of key questions guides and structures the research. For example:

- Migration: What circumstances prompted the decision to migrate? In what ways did the migration experience support or hinder entrepreneurial success?
- Social origins: What were the social origins of the immigrant entrepreneurs? Were they self-made? Where did they first achieve business success, in Germany or the United States?
- Entrepreneurial sources: How did German American entrepreneurs discover business opportunities? What kind of obstacles did they encounter? How did they overcome them?
- Comparative advantage: Did German immigrant entrepreneurs draw on comparative advantages rooted in Germany? Did, for example, German craft traditions or technical education give them a leg up in competing in the American market?

- Business strategies: What was the nature of the business opportunity? Did German American entrepreneurs choose to serve an ethnically defined consumer base, target a specific market segment, or advertise an ethnic brand?
- Transnationalism: What kind of transfer of skills, capital, or knowledge took place between Germany and the United States? Was there a subgroup of “transnational entrepreneurs” with continuous and close connections to Germany?
- Religion: What was the significance of religion for German American entrepreneurs?
- Politics: How did German American entrepreneurs position themselves in political terms? What roles did they play in political parties, parliaments, councils, and lobby organizations?
- Ethnic networks: Did expressions of ethnic solidarity in the form of loans, solidarity, advice, information, or networks contribute to success in the U.S.? How active were the businesspeople in German clubs, associations, and cultural institutions?
- Family life: What role did spouses and/or children play in shaping the public representation of the family? Were they involved in business endeavors?
- Integration/Americanization: Did German American entrepreneurs actively maintain—or sever—ties to Germany? Did German American businesspeople develop multiple identities? Did they strive for and/or achieve social and cultural inclusion?
- Change over time: How did general changes in the U.S. economy, political situation, and society affect German American businesspeople?

### **Project Structure**

*Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German American Business Biographies, 1720 to the Present* consists of five chronologically defined volumes:

1. From the Colonial Economy to Early Industrialization, 1720–1840
2. The Emergence of an Industrial Nation, 1840–1893
3. From the End of the Gilded Age to the Progressive Era, 1893–1918
4. The Age of the World Wars, 1918–1945
5. From the Postwar Boom to Global Capitalism, 1945 to the Present

All material will be published electronically on a comprehensive online platform. It will include statistics and raw data on businesses and immigration; maps; visual and media materials such as archival photos, video clips and audio recordings; interviews with contemporary

entrepreneurs; and business documents. This electronic resource will be an invaluable tool for teaching and research.

### **Project Team**

*Immigrant Entrepreneurship* builds on the knowledge and expertise of a large team of contributors. Both junior and senior scholars have been commissioned to write biographies and contextual essays. Each volume is edited by a specialist in the field. The volume editors are:

Volume 1: Marianne S. Wokeck (Indiana University, Purdue University Indianapolis)

Volume 2: William J. Hausman (College of William & Mary)

Volume 3: Giles R. Hoyt (Indiana University, Purdue University Indianapolis)

Volume 4: Jeffrey Fear (University of Redlands)

Volume 5: R. Daniel Wadhvani (University of the Pacific).

Hartmut Berghoff and Uwe Spiekermann are the project's general editors and direct the *Immigrant Entrepreneurship* team at the German Historical Institute.

### **Conferences and Panels**

Immigrant Entrepreneurship: The German American Experience in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Panel at the Deutscher Historikertag, Berlin

October 2010

German Immigrants in the American Business World: 300 Years of Transatlantic Knowledge Transfer

Panel at the annual meeting of the Business History Conference, St. Louis

April 2011

German Immigrant Entrepreneurs in American Material Life, Politics, and Culture:

(1) The Rise of a Modern American Consumer Culture

(2) Businessmen and Progressive Politics

(3) Hollywood Dream Worlds

Panel series at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association, Louisville

September 2011

Unternehmer und Migration  
Symposium of the Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte,  
Frankfurt am Main  
October 2011

In Search of a New Balance: Meat in Twentieth-Century American  
History  
Panel at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association,  
Chicago  
January 2012

Social Goals - Entrepreneurial Means: Corporate Governance and  
Business Principles in Social Ventures  
Panel at the annual meeting of the Business History Conference,  
Philadelphia  
March 2012

The Struggle with Beer: Morals, Markets and Marketing, 1880-1940  
Panel at the annual meeting of the Organization of American His-  
torians, Milwaukee  
April 2012

Immigrant Entrepreneurs: Influences of German Immigrants on  
Business and American Consumer Culture, 1920s to 1950s  
Panel at European Business History Association, Paris  
August 2012

Immigration & Entrepreneurship: An Interdisciplinary Conference  
Conference sponsored by the German Historical Institute and the  
University of Maryland, College Park  
September 2012

From Peddlers to Millionaires: Jewish Immigrant Entrepreneurs  
from Central Europe and the Transformation of American Fashion  
and Retail  
Panel at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association,  
Milwaukee  
October 2012

Frontiers of Profit: Immigrant Entrepreneurs and the Economic De-  
velopment of Northern California  
Panel at the annual meeting of the Western History Association,  
Denver  
October 2012

## **TRANSATLANTIC PERSPECTIVES: EUROPE IN THE EYES OF EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS TO THE UNITED STATES, 1930-1980**

This four-year project explores the role of European migrants in transatlantic exchange processes during the mid-twentieth century. It is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and receives further academic and financial support from the German Historical Institute in Washington. Directed by Hartmut Berghoff and Jan Logemann, the project focuses on migrant professionals involved in business, consumer culture, urban development, and the social sciences. By adapting their European professional heritage to their work in the United States and by translating American innovations to the context of their European homelands, these migrants acted as conduits for social and intellectual transfer.

Migration not only entailed cultural transfers but also the emergence of new and hybrid identities. For many migrants, experiencing America meant reevaluating their ideas of European culture and society. Some even transcended their national identifications by embracing a European or European-American self-understanding. In particular, World War II era émigrés were pioneers of a new, comprehensive view of Europe.

The project pursues the following set of overarching questions:

- Can we trace a connection between migration experiences and the emergence of a European sense of belonging among migrants?
- What patterns of perception predominate among migrants with regard to specific aspects of European society, such as the European city, the European economy, or European consumption?
- Did the transatlantic perspective lead migrants to weigh a widely perceived lack of modernization of Europe vis-à-vis the United States — as in predominant narratives of “Americanization” during the postwar years — against more positive images of Europe or elements of it such as the European city, business, or consumer culture?
- What role, finally, did European immigrants and émigrés play in transnational processes of transfer and exchange in the postwar Atlantic world?

Four individual research projects take up elements of these larger questions. Andreas Joch's dissertation pursues networks and exchanges facilitated by migrants in the field of urban planning, reflecting on mutual perceptions about the European and the American city. Jan Logemann's habilitation research looks at transfers in the area of product design and marketing and the role of European migrants in a transatlantic dialogue about mass consumer culture. Corinna Ludwig's doctoral research focuses on the postwar market entry of German corporations in the United States and the role business expatriates played in localizing the companies' marketing and advertising as well as in communicating innovations between the European headquarters and the American subsidiaries. Barbara Reiter's PhD work, finally, explores transatlantic differences in the social sciences and the profession of social work by looking at female émigrés and their professional careers between central Europe and the United States.

Several project events are designed to foster wider scholarship at the intersection of migration history and scholarship on both Europeanization and transatlantic transfers. A summer seminar for graduate students from Europe and North America was held in cooperation with the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota in August of 2011. Convened by Donna Gabaccia (Minnesota), Sally Gregory Kohlstedt (Minnesota), and Jan Logemann, and titled "Europe - Migration - Identity," the seminar brought together young researchers and senior scholars who were interested in the impact of migration experiences on perceptions of Europe and a European self-understanding among migrants. Selected papers from the conference will be prepared for a special issue of the interdisciplinary journal *National Identities*.

The workshop "More Atlantic Crossings? Europe's Role in an Entangled History of the Atlantic World, 1950s-1970s," to be held at the GHI in Washington in June of 2012, was organized by Jan Logemann, Mary Nolan (NYU), and Daniel Rodgers (Princeton). This workshop will explore the degree to which we can still trace reciprocal "Atlantic Crossings" into the postwar decades, akin to those traced by Rodgers in his seminal *Atlantic Crossings* for the early part of the twentieth century. In what ways and areas, specifically, did Europeans and European social, economic, and cultural models continue to shape transatlantic debates despite the seemingly overwhelming role played by the United States? Bringing together new research from American



and European scholars, the event focuses among other areas on urban history, the history of political movements and on transatlantic institutions. Aspects of the project have furthermore been presented on panels at the Business History Conference, the 2011 German Studies Association meeting, and the 2012 meeting of the American Historical Association. A section at the 2012 German Historikertag in Mainz will be held in cooperation with two partner projects from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research's program "Europe Seen From the Outside." Another project sponsored conference is planned for the fall of 2013.

The project website, [www.transatlanticperspectives.org](http://www.transatlanticperspectives.org), finally, is designed to introduce students and scholars to individual migrants and their transatlantic careers. It highlights the transatlantic institutions and networks that facilitated transfers and exchanges between Europe and the United States. The website also contextualizes the migrants' professional biographies within the frame of transatlantic relations during the second half of the twentieth century by providing links to mass media articles that illustrate the mutual perceptions of Europe and the United States. Finally, the website provides documents, bibliographies, links to archival records, and tools for educators.

The project is advised by an academic advisory board, headed by Hartmut Berghoff (GHI). Its members include Sally Gregory Kohstedt (Minnesota), Jan Otmar Hesse (Bielefeld), Hartmut Kaelble (Berlin), Friedrich Lenger (Giessen), and Daniel Rodgers (Princeton).



## **AFRICAN AMERICANS AND GERMANY/ THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE, AFRICAN AMERICAN GIs, AND GERMANY**

Since 2008, African American history and the experiences of African Americans in Germany have been a focal point of the GHI's activities in U.S. and transatlantic history. This commitment to African American history was signaled by the spring 2008 lecture series "African Americans and Germans: Historical Encounters." In collaboration with the Humanities Council of Washington, DC, Vassar College, and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, the GHI mounted the exhibition "African American Civil Rights and Germany" in November 2008. The opening of that exhibition featured a panel discussion on "Martin Luther King Jr. and Germany in the 1960s." The exhibition travelled to nearly twenty sites in the U.S., Germany, and Great Britain between 2009 and 2011, and it is scheduled to be shown in at least another ten. To promote research on African American-German interactions and African American history generally, the GHI established a doctoral fellowship program that enables two graduate students to spend a year in residence at the GHI. The central project in the GHI's efforts to promote research into the African American experience is the collaborative initiative "The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany," which received the NAACP's Julius E. Williams Distinguished Community Service Award in 2009. Several events associated with the African Americans and Germany were jointly sponsored by the GHI and the Humanities Council of Washington, DC. In recognition for its contributions to public life and scholarship in the District, the Humanities Council bestowed its Partner Award on the GHI in 2010.

### **The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany**

"The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany" is a joint project sponsored by the GHI, Vassar College, and Heidelberg Center for American Studies, and it is directed by Maria Höhn (Vassar College) and Martin Klimke (GHI Research Fellow 2009-2011). The project explores the connection between the U.S. military presence abroad and the advancement of civil rights in the U.S. It investigates the role that African-American GIs played in carrying the civil rights movement to Germany, which was host to the largest contingent of U.S. troops deployed abroad. The central activity of this multifaceted project is the creation of a digital archive and online research portal ([www.aacvr-germany.org](http://www.aacvr-germany.org)).



**Presentation of the Humanities Council of Washington, DC 2010 Partner Award. From left to right: Marianne Scott (Board Chair of the Humanities Council), Martin Klimke (GHI), Hartmut Berghoff (GHI), Joy Ford Austin (Executive Director, Humanities Council). Photo: GHI.**

expand the story of the African-American civil rights movement beyond the boundaries of the U.S.

The digital archive has three main goals: First, it will gather and preserve materials on an important, but little known chapter of American and African-American history as well as transatlantic relations after the Second World War. Second, it will make these materials available worldwide and free of charge to scholars and teachers in the humanities. Third, it will foster the growth of a community of scholars, teachers, and students who are engaged in exploring the African American civil rights movement and its reverberations beyond the United States.

### **Why Germany? From the Project Mission Statement**

If nothing else, the election of Barack Obama to the presidency in 2008 underscored once more the many ways in which events in this country, for better or worse, can affect the hearts and minds of people across the globe. Writing shortly before the election, for example, British historian and commentator Timothy Garton Ash gave voice to the sense of hope the prospect of an Obama victory had aroused throughout Europe and, indeed, the rest of the world. "This is our election," Garton Ash wrote, "The world's election. Our future depends on it, and we live it as intensely as Americans do. All we lack is the vote." In a very similar way, the civil rights movement

Between 1945 and the end of the Cold War, some 15-20 million American soldiers, families and civilian employees lived in Germany. Between 2-3 million of those Americans were African American. By giving voice to their experience and to that of the people who interacted with them, the project will ex-

in the United States during the late fifties and, in particular, the early sixties, received the worldwide attention. With its spectacular nature and the imagery of civil rights actions, as well as its moral implications set in the propaganda battles of the Cold War, it transcended national borders and was formative for a variety of people outside the U.S. The iconography and content of the African-

American struggle also seized the attention of many Germans, East and West. Its leaders, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., were very much aware of this global impact, which they used as leverage in their struggle to bring about domestic reform.



**Angela Davis with Erich Honecker, First Secretary of the German Democratic Republic's Socialist Unity Party, in East Berlin, September 1972. Photo: Bundesarchiv, Berlin.**

Few people saw this interconnectedness and the global dimension of American history clearer than Dr. King. When invited to Oslo in December 1964 to accept the Nobel Peace Prize, King circled around themes that were of global significance, then and now: racial injustice, poverty, and war. In a world threatened by nuclear extinction and the Cold War confrontation between East and West, Dr. King stressed that, "In one sense, the civil rights movement in the United States is a special American phenomenon which must be understood in the light of American history and dealt with in terms of the American situation. But on another and more important level, what is happening in the United States today is a relatively small part of a world development." King argued that all human beings were tied together in a "worldwide fellowship" and that "However deeply American Negroes are caught in the struggle to be at last at home in our homeland of the United States, we cannot ignore the larger world house in which we are also dwellers."

Dr. King's visit to Germany and the city of Berlin three months before had undoubtedly sharpened this belief. Invited by Mayor Willy Brandt to come to the city which had only one year before prepared a triumphant welcome for President John F. Kennedy, King completed a whirlwind tour in his only two and a half days in Berlin. Most importantly though, King used the opportunity to extend his spiritual message of brotherhood to the situation of Berlin in his sermon at

the Waldbühne, arguing that although the city “stands as a symbol of the division of men on the face of the earth,” it was clear that “on either side of the wall are god’s children and no man-made barrier can obliterate that fact.”

King even went a step further and compared the civil rights struggle in the U.S. to the political struggle of the divided city:

Here in Berlin, one cannot help being aware that you are the hub around which turns the wheel of history. For just as we are proving to be the testing ground of races living together in spite of their differences, you are testing the possibility of co-existence for the two ideologies which now compete for world dominance. If ever there were a people who should be constantly sensitive to their destiny, the people of Berlin, East and West, should be they.

Regrettably, historical memory has largely ignored King’s visit to Cold War Berlin at the invitation of Willy Brandt. Even when Barack Obama was welcomed by more than 200,000 enthusiastic Berliners in the summer of 2008, only very few people noted this historical connection. This lack of tradition is particularly astonishing given the role the civil rights movement and Dr. King played in Obama’s campaign rhetoric—not only as mere references, but also in terms of signature phrases such as “the fierce urgency of now.”

In fact, Obamas’s speech in Berlin reads like a response to Dr. King’s Nobel Peace Prize lecture on the “world house” from the vantage point of the twenty-first century. Obama not only presented himself as “a fellow citizen of the world,” but employed the same transatlantic connection and global vision when he proclaimed:

People of the world – look at Berlin, where a wall came down, a continent came together, and history proved that there is no challenge too great for a world that stands as one.... While the 20th century taught us that we share a common destiny, the 21st has revealed a world more intertwined than at any time in human history.

The story of our research project and this digital archive is thus a story of this entanglement and shared destinies on both sides of the Atlantic throughout the twentieth century. By tracing the encounter between

African Americans and Germany, we seek to expand the geographical boundaries of the civil rights movement and are trying to illustrate how America's struggle for democracy reverberated across the globe. Since American forces occupied Germany in 1945, almost 3 million African American soldiers, their families and civilian employees of the U.S. Department of Defense have lived and worked in the country.

For many African Americans, the encounter with Germany left a deep impression. Remembering his tour of duty in West Germany as a young officer in the U.S. Army, the later general and Secretary of State Colin Powell remarked in his memoirs that for black soldiers, "but especially those out of the South, Germany was a breath of freedom. [They could] go where they wanted, eat where they wanted, and date whom they wanted, just like other people."

This "breath of freedom" and the interactions between African-American civil rights activists and Germans, East and West, will be documented by *The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany* project's digital archive and web portal.

### **Associated Publications**

Maria Höhn and Martin Klimke, *A Breath of Freedom: The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010)

Mischa Honeck, Martin Klimke, Anne Kuhlmann-Smirnov, eds., *Germany and the Black Diaspora: Points of Contact, 1250-1914* (forthcoming)

### **Conferences and Public Events**

African Americans and Germans: Historical Encounters  
GHI Spring Lecture Series 2008

Martin Luther King Jr. and Germany in the 1960s  
Panel discussion at the GHI  
November 19, 2008

Black Diaspora and Germany Across the Centuries  
Workshop at the GHI  
March 19-21, 2009

African American Civil Rights and Germany in the Twentieth Century  
Conference held at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY  
October 1-4, 2009

Crossing the Color Line: A Global History of the African American  
Freedom Struggle

GHI Spring Lecture Series 2011

Crossing the Color Line: Global Perspectives on the Black Freedom  
Struggle in the Twentieth Century

Conference at the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African  
American Research,

Harvard University

In preparation



## THE NUCLEAR CRISIS: COLD WAR CULTURES AND THE POLITICS OF PEACE AND SECURITY, 1975-1990

On December 12, 1979, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) passed the so-called Double-Track Decision. If arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union were to fail, the West would station intermediate nuclear forces to provide a counterweight to the new Soviet SS-20 missiles. This momentous decision, alongside the almost simultaneous Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, directly affected international politics as well as domestic developments in Europe and North America, as the world moved from an era of détente to a newly heightened East-West confrontation.

*The Nuclear Crisis: Cold War Cultures and the Politics of Peace and Security* explores the discourse about atomic energy and weapons during the final decades of the Cold War from three distinct but interrelated angles:

### 1) Cultural Representations of the Nuclear Threat

The project looks at manifestations of the nuclear threat in popular culture (music, film, novels) as well as in high art, embedding them in larger transformational processes in the media landscape and new forms of political communication.

### 2) Changes in the Sociopolitical and Economic Spheres

The nuclear crisis is considered as an interrelated discourse that is both an expression and catalyst of structural transformations of the sociopolitical and economic sectors during the 1970s and 1980s, such as shifting value systems (e.g., postmodernism) and the transition from Keynesian global control to the liberalization of society and to economic and social policies that were critical of the role of government.

### 3) Transatlantic and Global Transformations

The project examines the diplomatic, political, and strategic debates surrounding nuclear power and nuclear armaments. Traditional actors such as political, diplomatic, and military elites carried these debates forward as did anti-establishment forces and non-state actors on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

By analyzing establishment perspectives in tandem with protest cultures, *The Nuclear Crisis: Cold War Cultures and the Politics of Peace*

*and Security* transcends the traditional East/West divide in Cold War history and brings non-state actors, intellectual discourses, and culture back into international history. Contextualizing an increasingly global debate, the project explores the crisis of détente from the mid-1970s, notions of Atlantic and European identities, Soviet policies in Afghanistan and Africa as well as transnational connections and imaginations based on peace and human rights and their impact on official decision-making.

A central element of *The Nuclear Crisis: Cold War Cultures and the Politics of Peace and Security* is a digital archive that will preserve and make easily accessible materials on this important chapter of contemporary history ([www.nuclearcrisis.org](http://www.nuclearcrisis.org)). These materials available free of charge to scholars and teachers.

*The Nuclear Crisis: Cold War Cultures and the Politics of Peace and Security* is a joint venture of the German Historical Institute, Washington, DC, the University of Augsburg, and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA). It is directed by Philipp Gassert (Augsburg), Martin Klimke (GHI Research Fellow 2009–2011) and Wilfried Mausbach (HCA).

### **Conferences**

Zweiter Kalter Krieg und Friedensbewegung: Der NATO-Doppelbeschluss in deutsch-deutscher und internationaler Perspektive  
Conference at the Hertie School of Governance, Berlin  
March 26–28, 2009

Accidental Armageddons: The Nuclear Crisis and the Culture of the Second Cold War, 1975–1989  
Conference at the GHI  
November 4–6, 2010

“Trust, but Verify”: Confidence and Distrust from Détente to the End of the Cold War  
Conference at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars and the German Historical Institute, Washington, DC  
November 7–9, 2011

## COMPETING MODERNITIES

The German Historical Institute and the Humboldt University Berlin joined forces in 2005 for the project “Competing Modernities: Germany and the United States, 1890 to the Present.” Made possible by a grant from the Robert Bosch Stiftung (Stuttgart), the project was organized by Christof Mauch, then director of the GHI, and Kiran Klaus Patel. Additional support was provided by the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies. The project’s goal was to systematically compare the historical development of the United States and Germany from a number of vantage points over an extended period of time. To that end, the project directors assembled a group of leading German and American scholars and paired them off in “tandems.” Each tandem was asked to produce a synthetic essay comparing developments in a particular sphere in the two countries during the twentieth century. They presented preliminary versions of their essays in Washington as the GHI’s spring and fall lecture series in 2006. The essays were subsequently published in both German and English: *Wettlauf um die Moderne. Die USA und Deutschland 1890 bis heute* (Munich: Pantheon Verlag, 2008); *The United States and Germany During the Twentieth Century: Competition and Convergence* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

### Public Events

Competing Modernities: Germany and the United States, 1890 to the Present  
German Historical Institute Spring and Fall Lecture Series 2006  
Fourteen lectures held at the GHI between February and December 2006

Wettlauf um die Moderne: Die USA und Deutschland 1890 bis heute  
Book presentation at the Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin  
June 20, 2008

Die USA und Deutschland im Wettlauf um die Moderne  
Book presentation at the Forschungsstelle für Zeitgeschichte  
Hamburg October 30, 2008

Immer eine Nasenlänge voraus? Amerika und Deutschland im  
Wettlauf um die Moderne  
Book presentation at the Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz,  
Kaiserslautern  
January 20, 2009



## THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY IN THE ERA OF THE COLD WAR, 1945-1990

As part of its research focus on the Cold War during the directorship of Detlef Junker, the GHI undertook a major collaborative project that sought to explore relations between two nations more fully than had previously been attempted. Plans to compile a comprehensive handbook on German-American relations over the half century from the collapse of the Third Reich to the fall of the Berlin Wall were announced in June 1995. The participants in the initial workshop on the project agreed that to do justice to the depth and breadth of German-American relations in this time period, it would be necessary to look beyond state actors and diplomatic relations. The proposed handbook would thus include extensive treatment of cultural, social and economic ties between Germany and the U.S. as well as their multifaceted political and military relations. Although “Germany” usually meant the Federal Republic for the U.S. during the Cold War, the handbook would also give attention to the points of contact between the U.S. and the German Democratic Republic.

The basic structure of the handbook was proposed at the June 1995 workshop. The handbook would consist of two chronologically defined volumes: the first covering the period from the beginning of the Allied occupation of Germany in 1945 to upheavals of 1968, the second 1968 to the unification of the two German states in 1990. Each volume would be divided into five thematic sections: Politics, Security, Economics, Culture, and Society. Each thematic section would open with a comprehensive survey essay and include a series of shorter, narrowly focused chapters.

Detlef Junker served as general editor of the project; he was assisted by associate editors Philipp Gassert, Wilfried Mausbach, and David B. Morris. In all, 132 scholars, divided roughly equally between Germans and Americans, contributed 146 essays to the handbook.

*Die USA und Deutschland im Zeitalter des Kalten Krieges* was published in 2001 by the Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, Stuttgart. The English edition, *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War*, followed in 2004 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press). Major funding for the project was provided by the German Federal Ministry of Economics’ ERP-Sondervermögen Transatlantic Program.



## **SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDENT PROGRAMS**

The GHI is committed to assisting historians at the very beginning of their careers. It runs a variety of programs for graduate students and awards approximately 40 doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships each year. One aim of both the graduate student programs and the fellowship program is to foster dialogue between junior and more senior scholars.

The GHI currently runs four programs for graduate students and recent PhDs. The longest running of these programs is the Summer Archival Seminar in Germany. Led by a GHI research fellow, the Summer Archival Seminar introduces doctoral students at American universities to the workings of German archives and gives them basic paleographic training. The Robert Bosch Foundation now generously funds a complementary program, the Bosch Foundation Archival Seminar for Young Historians, which brings together German and American doctoral students in the field of U.S. history and offers them a broad overview of research opportunities and resources in the United States. The Transatlantic Doctoral Seminar, a joint project with the BMW Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University, brings together equal numbers of German and American doctoral students in the field of German history with a similarly international group of senior scholar mentors. The TDS focuses on a different period each year, and alternates between Washington and a different host institution in Germany. Now organized in collaboration with the GHI London, the Medieval History Seminar follows the model of the TDS. Discussion of the seminar participants' dissertation projects is led by the participants themselves, and the faculty mentors offer comments and advice once the participants have had their say.

The GHI awards short-term fellowships (one to six months) to German and American doctoral students as well as postdoctoral scholars in the fields of German history, the history of German-American relations, and the history of the role of Germany and the USA in international relations. Fellowships are also available to German doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars in the field of American history. The research projects must draw upon primary sources located in the United States.

In addition to the short-term fellowships for research in the GHI's core subject areas, the GHI also awards fellowships lasting between

six months and a year to scholars working in the institute's special research fields. During the directorship of Christof Mauch, for example, the GHI offered one-year postdoctoral fellowships in environmental history and established a new year-long fellowship in North American history. Director Hartmut Berghoff established a doctoral fellowship in international business history and postdoctoral fellowships in economic and social history and in the history of consumption.

The GHI has offered a variety of fellowships with other institutions and organizations over the years. From 1991 to 1997, for instance, it collaborated with the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies in offering the Volkswagen Postdoctoral Fellowship in the field of post-1945 German history. For several years in the early 2000s, the GHI offered doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships in memory of the historian Jürgen Heideking funded, respectively, by the Annette Kade Charitable Trust and the Fritz Thyssen Foundation. Since 2007, the GHI and the Philadelphia-based German Society of Pennsylvania have offered short-term fellowships to scholars interested in working in the society's Joseph Horner Memorial Library, one of the nation's most important repositories of source materials on German American history from the colonial era onward.

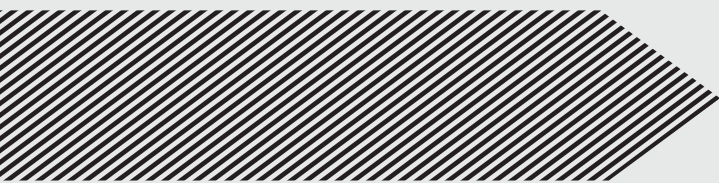
*As the recipient of the Kade-Heideking fellowship in 2005, I was able to mine a broad array of sources in various US archives. I owe it to the generosity and support of the GHI that my dissertation and the book that came out of it, We Are the Revolutionists, saw the light of day.*

*Mischa Honeck, GHI Research Fellow*

*The GHI provides a stimulating environment to do research. The intellectual climate is outstanding. Above all, I cherish the fact that the GHI has provided me with the possibility to dedicate myself exclusively to research for a solid half year. It simply creates the necessary conditions to achieve more in research, which sometimes seems next to impossible during teaching cycles.*

*Frank Schipper, University of Leiden, Fellow in Social and Economic History, 2011-12*





# **Publications and Public Outreach**



## GHI PUBLICATIONS AND BOOK SERIES

The GHI maintains an active publishing program. Its flagship publication is the *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute*. Published semi-annually since 1987, the *Bulletin* documents GHI-supported research as well as the institute's diverse activities. In addition to articles on the projects of the GHI's Research Fellows and fellowship recipients, the *Bulletin* routinely provides detailed accounts of the conferences, panels, and public programs the GHI organizes. It now also publishes the GHI Annual Lectures and select scholarly essays that had been published individually, principally in the *Occasional Papers* series, during the GHI's first decade. The *Bulletin* has been accompanied by an annual *Supplement* since 2004. Thematically focused, the *Supplements* have dealt with topics ranging from "New Perspectives on German Environmental History" to "1968: Memories and Legacies of a Global Revolt." A complete archive of the *Bulletin* and *Supplements* is available on the GHI's website ([www.ghi-dc.org](http://www.ghi-dc.org)).

The GHI publishes four book series. The ***Publications of the German Historical Institute*** series was established with Cambridge University Press shortly after the GHI's founding. The series attests to the breadth and thematic diversity of the GHI's research program. German history, the history of German-American relations, transatlantic history, and international history are the major subject areas of the *Publications of the German Historical Institute*. In recent years, a number of monographs that have their origins in doctoral dissertations awarded the Friends of the GHI's Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize have appeared in the series.

### Recent and Forthcoming Titles

Astrid M. Eckert, *The Struggle for the Files: The Western Allies and the Return of German Archives after the Second World War*

Winson Chu, *The German Minority in Interwar Poland*

Hartmut Berghoff, Dieter Ziegler, and Jürgen Kocka, eds., *Business in the Age of Extremes: Essays in Modern German and Austrian Economic History*

Yair Mintzker, *The Defortification of the German City, 1689–1866*

### **Recent Prizes Awarded Titles in *the Publications of the German Historical Institute Series***

Myrna Benrath Book Award, 2010, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations: awarded to Michaela Hoenicke Moore for *Know Your Enemy: The American Debate on Nazism, 1933-1945* - best book by a woman in the field of international history, 2009-10

George L. Mosse Prize, 2010, American Historical Association to Suzanne L. Marchand for *German Orientalism in the Age of Empire: Religion, Race, and Scholarship* - an annual award to recognize "an outstanding major work of extraordinary scholarly distinction, creativity, and originality in the intellectual and cultural history of Europe since the Renaissance."

Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History (Category B), 2010, Wiener Library, to Monica Black for *Death in Berlin: From Weimar to Divided Germany* - awarded annually to an "outstanding work" in twentieth-century history

Hans Rosenberg Prize, 2011, Central European History Society, to Monica Black for *Death in Berlin: From Weimar to Divided Germany* - awarded annually to the best book in the field of Central European history.

Published in collaboration with the Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart, the ***Transatlantische Historische Studien*** series focuses on the history of the United States and all aspects of German-American relations, including German migration to the U.S. and transatlantic cultural and social transfer. "The goal of the series *Transatlantische Historische Studien*," series founders Hartmut Lehmann and Norbert Finzsch wrote in 1991, "is to contribute to better understanding of the fundamental problems and particular aspects of the complex of transatlantic relations - of the great realm of political, intellectual, social, and economic interaction, the poles of which have constituted the Western world since the seventeenth century." Comparative studies are a cornerstone of the series.

### **Recent and Forthcoming Titles**

Ulrike Weckel, *Beschämende Bilder: Deutsche Reaktionen auf alliierte Dokumentarfilme über befreite Konzentrationslager*

Reinhild Kreis, *Orte für Amerika. Deutsch-amerikanische Institute und Amerikahäuser in der Bundesrepublik seit den 1960er Jahren*

Joachim Surmann, *Shoah-Erinnerung und Restitution: Die US-Geschichtspolitik am Ende des 20. Jahrhunderts*

Rainald Becker, *Nordamerika aus süddeutscher Perspektive. Deutungen der Neuen Welt in der gelehrten Kommunikation des 18. Jahrhunderts*

***Studies in German History*** is published in collaboration with Berghahn Books. The first volume, *Nature in German History*, edited by Christof Mauch, appeared in 2004. A venue for the work of both European and North American scholars, the *Studies in German History* series aims to foster transatlantic dialogue on all facets of the German past.

### Recent and Forthcoming Titles

André Steiner, *The Plans That Failed: An Economic History of the GDR*

Marion Desmukh, Françoise Forster-Hahn, and Barbara Gaehtgens, eds., *Max Liebermann and International Modernism: An Artist's Career from Empire to Third Reich*

Mischa Honeck, Martin Klimke, Anne Kuhlmann-Smirnov, eds., *Germany and the Black Diaspora: Points of Contact, 1250-1914*

Richard F. Wetzell, ed., *Crime and Criminal Justice in Modern Germany*

***Worlds of Consumption***, the newest of the GHI's book series, signals the GHI's concentration on the history of consumption during the directorship of Hartmut Berghoff. Published in cooperation with Palgrave Macmillan, *Worlds of Consumption* takes a global perspective on the development and transformation of habits of consumption. The series focuses on the emergence of consumer societies in Europe and North America and the globalization of mass consumption. It is also conceived as a venue for interdisciplinary research, reflecting the GHI's longstanding commitment to fostering scholarly dialogue across both national and disciplinary borders.

### Inaugural Titles

Hartmut Berghoff and Uwe Spiekermann, eds., *Decoding Modern Consumer Societies*

Jan Logemann, ed., *The Development of Consumer Credit in Global Perspective: Business, Regulation, and Culture*

Hartmut Berghoff, Philip Scranton, and Uwe Spiekermann, eds., *The Rise of Marketing and Market Research*

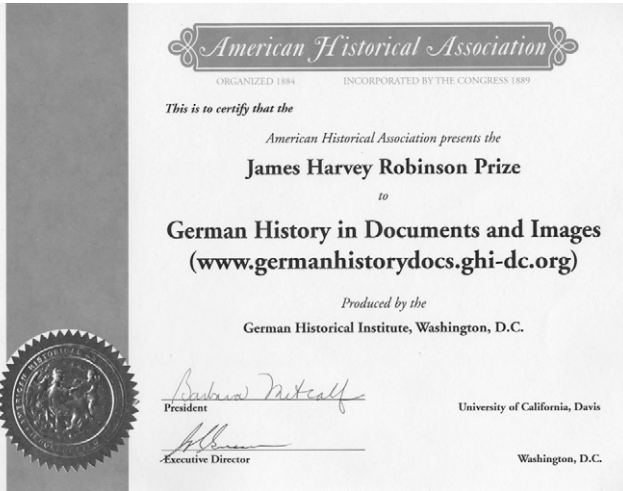
## GERMAN HISTORY IN DOCUMENTS AND IMAGES (GHDI)

German History in Documents and Images (GHDI) is a major GHI initiative to support the study and teaching of German history. The GHDI website (<http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org>) makes available a comprehensive collection of primary source materials documenting Germany's political, social, and cultural history from 1500 to the present. The materials are presented in ten chronologically defined sections. Each section was edited by one or two leading specialists on the period and includes:

- an introduction to key developments in Germany's social, political, and cultural history during the period;
- a selection of primary source documents, in both German and English, from the period;
- a selection of images dating from or relating to the period;
- a selection of maps.

All of the materials can be accessed through keyword and author searches. Many of the documents available through GHDI are difficult to locate in print publications, especially outside of Germany. All of the documents included in GHDI are accompanied by English translations, almost all of which were commissioned for the project. The images included in the websites are fully captioned and displayed at a size and resolution that makes them useful for classroom instruction. All of the materials can be downloaded free of charge for teaching, research, and other non-commercial educational purposes.

Since the first materials were posted online in late 2003, GHDI has established itself as an unrivaled resource for study of German and European history. By the time of GHDI's completion in the spring of 2012, the project's website provided more than 1,300 documents, 3,000 images, and 100 maps, all of which are accompanied by explanatory texts. The bilingual nature of the website makes it attractive to users in both English- and German-speaking countries, not to mention readers of those languages all over the world. On any given day, between 8,000 and 10,000 unique visitors use the GHDI website for extended periods. Additionally, materials from the GHDI website are frequently republished in university course readers, and GHDI translations have been reprinted in recent textbooks and anthologies published in both the United States and Germany. To provide guidance in incorporating GHDI in syllabi and classroom instruction,



**German History in Documents and Images was awarded the American Historical Association's James Harvey Robinson Prize in 2010.**

ossible by the generous support of the Max Kade Foundation and the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, the project has been undertaken in cooperation with the Friends of the German Historical Institute, the Bildarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz, and IEG-MAPS, Institute for European History, Mainz. The GHI will continue to maintain and update the GHDI website after the project's completion in 2012.

the GHI sponsored roundtable discussions on the website's utility as a teaching tool at the 2009 annual meeting of the German Studies Association and the 2010 annual meeting of the American Historical Association. In 2010, GHDI was awarded the James Harvey Robinson Prize by the American Historical Association.

GHDI is an initiative of the German Historical Institute, Washington, DC. Made possible



## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The GHI aims not only to support innovative scholarly research but also to foster dialogue between the scholarly community and the broader public. To that end, the institute sponsors a broad range of programs for the general public. The Annual Lecture, inaugurated the year of the GHI's founding, is envisioned as an opportunity for two noted scholars – one German and one American; one as principal speaker, the other as commentator – to address a topic of interest to professional historians and the educated public alike. Since 1988, the GHI has organized a public lecture series each spring and fall. The spring and fall lecture series initially spotlighted new research in German and German-American history. Since the fall of 1993, the lecture series have each been devoted to a particular topic. In some instances, the lecture series have dealt with new approaches to historical research or with subjects at the center of current scholarly debate. The spring 2010 lecture series, for example, focused on “History of Globalization – Globalization in History.” Other lecture series have sought to offer a historical perspective on contemporary issues and problems. The rationales behind the spring 2009 series “Financial Crises: How They Changed History” and the spring 2012 series “Get Out the Vote! Mobilization, Media, and Money” are self-evident.

The GHI has partnered with other institutions and foundations in organizing events aimed at a general audience. From 1991 to 1998, the institute and the *Stifterverband für die deutsche Wissenschaft* sponsored an annual Alois Mertes Memorial Lecture. Mertes (1921–1985), who divided his career between the Bundestag and the Foreign Ministry, was broadly interested in transatlantic relations and particularly concerned with ties between Germany and the United States. The Alois Mertes Memorial Lectures recognized outstanding scholars whose work centered on the issues to which Mertes devoted his career. From 2001 to 2011, the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius and the GHI sponsored an annual Gerd Bucerius Lecture in memory of the influential publisher-politician. The Bucerius Lecture featured prominent commentators on transatlantic relations – Ralf Dahrendorf in 2001, for instance, and Timothy Garton Ash in 2005 – as well as major German public figures, including Chancellors Helmut Schmidt and Gerhard Schröder, Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, Bundestag President Rita Süßmuth, and Federal Constitutional Court President Jutta Limbach. Starting in 2003, the Hertie Foundation has sponsored the GHI's annual German Unification Symposium on October 3. The



Lecture audience at the GHI. Photo: GHI.

Hertie Lecture, the central event of the symposium, is an occasion for a participant in East Germany's peaceful revolution and the unification process to reflect upon developments in united Germany since 1990. Finally, the GHI has repeated teamed up institutions in Washington -

notably the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, and the German Marshall Fund of the United States - in organizing lectures, panel discussions, and book presentations. Those events are generally open to the public free of charge.

The GHI's scholarly work and public outreach efforts frequently overlap. Conferences at the GHI commonly open with a keynote lecture

open to the public. The March 2012 conference "Adolescent Ambassadors: Twentieth-Century Youth Organizations and International Relations," for example, featured a public keynote address by Akira Iriye of Harvard University. Organized in collaboration with the Humanities Council of Washington, DC, the Black German Cultural Society, and the Goethe-Institut Washington, DC, the GHI's spring 2011 lecture series



Former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder delivering the 2011 Gerd Bucerius Lecture. Photo: GHI.

"Crossing the Color Line: A Global History of the African American Freedom Struggle" was an integral part of the institute's special research program on African Americans and Germany.

## **GHI Lecture Series 2012**

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### *Get Out the Vote! Mobilization, Media, and Money*

Mobilizing the Nineteenth-Century American Electorate: The Elections of 1828 and 1840

Michael Holt, University of Virginia

March 22

Voters Without Democracy: Elections in Imperial Germany

James Retallack, University of Toronto

April 12

Americanizing the Electoral Process? Elections in the Federal Republic of Germany

Frank Bösch, Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam

May 3

American Campaign Mobilization in the Age of New Media

Kate Kenski, University of Arizona

May 31

### *Social Justice in Times of Crisis: A Transatlantic Comparison*

The Idea of Social Justice: Genuine or Spurious?

Wilfried Hinsch, University of Cologne

September 6

Markets, States, and Social Justice in the Era of High Industrial Capitalism: Contrasts and Connections across the Atlantic

Daniel Rodgers, Princeton University

October 11

Parallels, Networks, and Convergences: Women and Social Justice in Transnational Perspective

Sonya Michel, University of Maryland, College Park

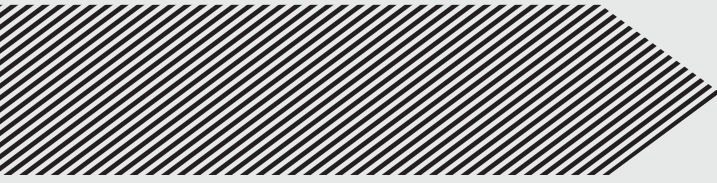
October 25

The End of the Social Democratic Era? Crisis in the Conceptualization of Social Justice in the 1970s and 1980s

Martin H. Geyer, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

December 6





# The GHI Team





**Hartmut Berghoff, Director**  
**Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson, Deputy Director**

*The GHI offers fabulous opportunities for German historians of North America, and being part of facilitating this transatlantic scholarly exchange is a great pleasure for me. Another special attraction of being here is the institute's bilingual and multicultural atmosphere; it provides a uniquely stimulating and enjoyable work environment.*

— Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson



**Uwe Spiekermann, Deputy Director**



**Andreas Fischer, Administrative Director**

*What do I like about being in Washington? Great quality of life,  
international environment, arts, culture, and blues skies.*

*—Jörg Schröder*



**Jörg Schröder, Deputy Administrative Director**  
**Betsy Hauck, Administrative Assistant**  
**Heather Hester, Receptionist**  
**Julie Martin, Administrative Assistant**





**Susanne Fabricius, Foreign Language Assistant  
Nicole Kruz, Assistant to the Director  
Bärbel Thomas, Foreign Language Assistant**

*Shortly after the GHI celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary, I will be retiring after sixteen years at the institute. I have worked for three directors – Professors Junker, Mauch, and Berghoff – and have helped many research fellows over the years with the organization of conferences. In my final months at the GHI, I participated in the preparations for the anniversary celebration. The coincidence of the anniversary celebration and my retirement make this final event very special to me. I have always enjoyed working at the GHI and wish it all the best for the next twenty-five years.*

— Bärbel Thomas



**Christoph Bottin  
IT and Web Manager**



**GHI Research Fellows (from left to right)**  
**Christina Lubinski**  
**Jan Logemann**  
**Celia Caruso**  
**Miriam Rürup**  
**Richard F. Wetzell**  
**Mischa Honeck**

*I love working in an international environment with American colleagues and having the chance to host to scholars from all over - every historian seems to come to DC at some point! It's simply great to be at a place where as a researcher you can enjoy using the amazing Library of Congress and the National Archives on a daily basis.*

*— Miriam Rürup*



**GHI Research Fellow Ines Prodöhl**

*When I arrived at the GHI as an intern in the summer of 2009, it was my first time in the United States. The friendly atmosphere at the GHI made me feel at home right away. My internship gave me an opportunity to become acquainted with several research projects and to contribute to them. The international focus of the GHI makes it possible to establish contact with scholars and students from both sides of the Atlantic. The experience of interning at the GHI reinforced my determination to continue my studies and pursue a doctorate in history.*

— Corinna Ludwig



**The Transatlantic Perspectives Project (from left to right)**  
 Lauren Shaw, Research Associate  
 Corinna Ludwig, Doctoral Fellow in Residence  
 Andreas Joch, Doctoral Fellow in Residence  
 Jan Logemann, Project Coordinator  
 Barbara Reiterer, Doctoral Fellow in Residence



**The Immigrant Entrepreneurship Project Team (from left to right)**  
 Bryan Hart, Research Associate  
 Benjamin Schwantes, Research Associate  
 Jessica Csoma, Project Manager  
 Atiba Pertilla, Research Associate  
 Kelly McCullough, Project Associate



**The *German History in Documents and Images* Project Team**  
**Kelly McCullough, Project Coordinator**  
**Fredrick Reuss, Research Associate**  
**Not shown, Insa Kummer**

*The GHI is my bridge to Germany.*

*—Anita Brown*



**The Library Team (from left to right)**  
**Anita Brown, Library Associate**  
**Marianne Schmitz, Librarian**  
**Elisabeth Mait, Library Associate**



**Editorial Staff (from left to right)**  
**Mark Stoneman, Editor**  
**David Lazar, Senior Editor**  
**Patricia C. Sutcliffe, Editor**

*Being editors at the GHI really gives us the best of both worlds — the academic and professional, as well as Germany and the United States. We get to engage with stimulating texts on a wide range of historical subjects and experience the satisfaction that comes from helping authors achieve publication success.*

*— Patricia C. Sutcliffe*



**Visiting Research Fellows, 2011–2012 (from left to right)**  
**Joshua Clark Davis, Research Fellow in the History of Consumption**  
**Sebastian Jobs, Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of North America**



**GHI Interns, Winter-Spring 2012 (from left to right)**  
**Luisa Gaa (University of Heidelberg)**  
**Alexander Konrad (University of Hamburg)**  
**Tania Strützel (University of Freiburg)**

*The GHI provided a great opportunity to experience a research environment in a transnational context and to think about German history from a comparative perspective.*

— Tania Strützel

*My internship gave me a chance to see an transatlantic research institute from the inside. The GHI intelligently links the cultures of Germany and the U.S. both in its scholarly work and in its pleasant everyday work environment.*

— Alexander Konrad

*Working at the GHI was a great opportunity for me to experience a transnational work environment. The internship fits perfectly with my studies, and Washington provides dozens of opportunities to broaden one's horizons. It was great!*

— Luisa Gaa



**Christa Brown**

Christa Brown was a pillar of the GHI for nearly 24 of its first 25 years of existence. One of founding director Hartmut Lehmann's initial hires, she played a decisive part in translating the ambitious plans for the new institute into action. "I started my career at the GHI with a leased typewriter and worked at a folding table," she recently recalled.



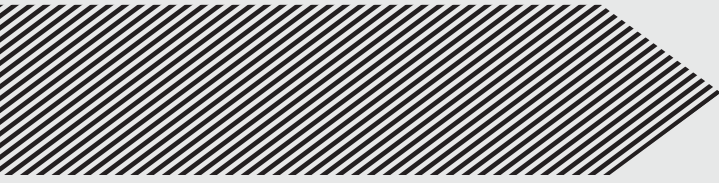
**Christa Brown with Chancellor Gerhard Schröder  
at the Twelfth Gerd Bucerius Lecture, May 2011**

Once she had taken care of creating and equipping a functioning office, Christa Brown turned her hand to an ever-expanding list of responsibilities. Her job title was “foreign language assistant,” but “master juggler” might have been more accurate. It was a rare day when Christa Brown was not tending to multiple projects and events simultaneously. Typically, she might jump from wrangling rooms from hotels without vacancies one moment to straightening out the director’s travel itinerary the next before shifting attention to the 1,001 details of hosting a conference at the GHI. Christa Brown retired from the GHI in the summer of 2011. She is fondly remembered by all who worked at the GHI during its first quarter century and much missed by the colleagues she left behind.

*Christa Brown was for many people the face of the GHI. It was Frau Brown who tended to visitors and dignitaries, and it was also Frau Brown who took interns, grad students, and newcomers to Washington under her wing. Nobody knows more about all that has gone on at the GHI—both on and off the record—over the past twenty five years. During my time as director, I was impressed that she was never shy about speaking her mind and that she always spoke out for fair treatment of all GHI staff members. If I were limited to a single sentence, I would say simply, “Christa Brown is wonderful.”*

*Christof Mauch, Director of the GHI, 1999–2007*





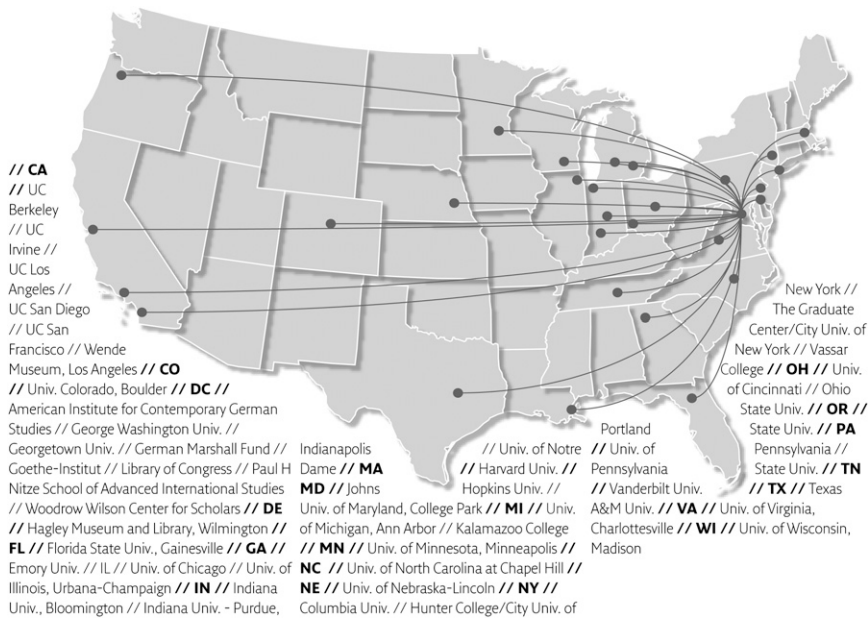
# Appendix



## TAKING THE MEASURE OF THE GHI

The GHI undertakes a variety of activities in trying to fulfill its multi-faceted mission. Accordingly, there is no one measure of how well it is doing its job. One of the institute's functions, for example, is to support the work of promising younger scholars and to facilitate their move up the academic career ladder. Recent placement figures suggest the GHI has been quite successful in that function. During the five-year period from 2007 to the end of 2011, eleven GHI research fellows (including two deputy directors) left the GHI. Six moved on directly to professorships; two took junior faculty positions; and three went to other research institutions. Research is at the very heart of the GHI's mission, and perhaps the clearest measure of research productivity is publication. As of early 2012, a total of 113 titles had been published in the GHI's four current book series. Another eleven were in press, six under contract, and three under review. Those numbers will quickly change - between three and five completed book manuscripts are expected to be submitted for possible inclusion in the GHI's book series in the course of 2012 - and therein lies the challenge of trying to take measure of the GHI. The GHI is an active, dynamic institution. Circulation of the *Bulletin*, which doubled over the past decade and recently passed the 7,000-mark, has been growing by about 300 readers annually. With each conference, the GHI gains new cooperation partners and expands its list of contacts. As the research fellows and recipients of doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships (43 awarded in 2011) complete their projects, the list of GHI-supported dissertations, *Habilitationsschriften*, and monographs will continue to grow. Most any measure of the GHI's activities or any measure of its performance will be quickly outdated.

One simple measure suggests the GHI has been consistently successful over the years in one of its most important functions. The GHI is a forum for international scholarly dialogue, and the great majority of the programs it runs and events it organizes are intended to bring together researchers from Europe, North America, and beyond. Conferences, symposia, and workshops (284 from 1987 to 2011; 9 scheduled for 2012) stand at the center of the GHI's calendar of activities. Three conferences, held at ten-year intervals from one to the next, stand as typical examples. The 1992 conference "On the Road to Total War: The American Civil War and the German Wars of Unification, 1861-1871" gathered 40 scholars from 35 institutions in 6 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, New Zealand, and the U.S.). The institutions represented included 2 major research institutes not affiliated with universities and a museum.



The conference “Landscapes and Roads in North America and Europe” in 2002 counted 18 participants from 15 institutions in 5 countries (Germany, Great Britain, Italy, New Zealand, and the U.S.). The participants included a public historian employed by a U.S. government agency and the director of an acclaimed research center and library. The conference “Living on the Margins: ‘Illegality,’ Statelessness, and the Politics of Removal in Twentieth-Century Europe and the United States” brought 24 participants from 23 institutions in 6 countries (Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, and the U.S.) to Washington in early 2012. Time and again over the past 25 years, as this sample suggests, the GHI has made it possible for scholars from around the world to engage in discussion and lay the foundations for collaboration.

Collaboration stands atop the GHI’s agenda. Almost all of the conferences the GHI sponsors are organized by GHI research fellows in collaboration with colleagues at other institutions. Institutional partners frequently join with the GHI in funding conferences, workshops, and other programs. The GHI has not only hosted thousands of scholars and graduate students but has also sponsored conferences and events at institutions stretching from the outskirts of Washington to the interior of China. The map above shows the locations of American universities and research institutes that have hosted programs co-sponsored by the GHI. Adding more dots to the map will be one of the GHI’s priorities in the years ahead.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Comprehensive documentation of the GHI's programs and activities is available on its website, [www.ghi-dc.org](http://www.ghi-dc.org). The *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* also provides detailed coverage of the Institute's activities. All issues of the *Bulletin* as well as the annual *Supplements* are available, free of charge, on the GHI's website. The GHI has also published three overviews of its activities:

*The German Historical Institute, 1987–1997: A Ten-Year Report*. Edited by Detlef Junker with the assistance of Thomas Goebel and Edmund Spevack (1998).

*The German Historical Institute, Washington, DC: A Summary of Programs and Activities*. Compiled by Birgit Zischke (2003).

*The German Historical Institute, 2003–2007: Programs and Activities*. Edited by Gisela Mettele and Patricia C. Sutcliffe (2007).

