

**Berlin Program Alumni Panel
at the 28th Annual GSA Conference
Washington, D.C., Oct. 6-10, 2004**

**Negotiated Identities: The Struggle to Define German
and Immigrant Identities in the Twentieth Century**

Friday, Oct. 8, 2004. 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM Salon J

For over two decades, the dominant explanation of how identity formation occurs has centered largely on Benedict Anderson's concept of "imagined communities." Scholars have since elaborated on Anderson's work by demonstrating that collective identities are not monolithic, but rather spring from negotiations among divergent groups within a given society. The papers in this panel all explore the negotiation of identities at different stages during the 20th Century - during the interwar period, the Nazi era, West German reconstruction, waning years of the GDR, and contemporary Germany. Specifically, the papers examine how constituencies such as German youth, Jewish-Germans, second and third generation Turkish immigrants, and artists in West and East Germany developed evolving, complex, and overlapping identities. In each case, members of these constituencies used the resources available to them to negotiate and influence collective identity. As a panel, these papers produce a long-term perspective that contributes to the ongoing discussion regarding the identity formation process in Germany and how this process changed over time.

Moderator: Rita Chin, University of Michigan, Berlin Program Fellow 1995-1996

Commentator: Kimberly Redding, Carroll College, Berlin Program Fellow 1997-1998

Jewish Anti-Nazi Resistance and its Relation to Jewish Identity during the Third Reich

John Cox, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Berlin Program Fellow 2001-2002

Life before *documenta*: The Deutscher Künstlerbund and the Struggle for Artistic Autonomy in West Germany

Heather E. Mathews, University of Texas at Austin, Berlin Program Fellow 2001-2002

Monumental Art or Monumental Propaganda? How East German Artists Negotiated for Autonomy in Public Memory Projects

Jon Berndt Olson, Texas Tech University, Berlin Program Fellow 1999-2000