

BERLIN PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED GERMAN AND EUROPEAN STUDIES

IN COOPERATION WITH THE FRIEDRICH-MEINECKE-INSTITUTE, FU BERLIN

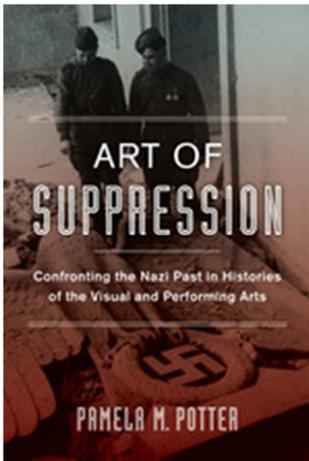
GUEST LECTURE PAMELA POTTER



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

THE GHOSTS OF DENAZIFICATION IN HISTORIES OF THE ARTS

MODERATOR: PAUL NOLTE (FU BERLIN)



In her recent book *Art of Suppression: Confronting the Nazi Past in the Visual and Performing Arts*, Pamela Potter considers how historians of the arts distorted the image of cultural life under Hitler as far more repressive than it actually was. Her investigation showed how their accounts were influenced by the Cold War, the ambiguity of modernism, the experiences of exiles, and the wish to preserve the idea that true art and politics cannot mix. This talk looks at another factor not covered in the book, namely the flawed Allied project of denazification and its lasting impact on biographies of artists, composers, and other creative individuals. The high drama of denazification proceedings lasted only a few years, but the failure to assess its shortcomings allowed its black-and-white categorizations of guilt and innocence to persist. This talk will reveal the enduring myth that artists in the Third Reich stayed “above politics” and consider how the failure to acknowledge the psychological legacy of denazification has hindered us from moving beyond worn classifications of guilt or innocence and from exploring the complex cultural negotiations both during and after the Hitler years.

TIME

Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018, 4-6 p.m.

The lecture will be followed by a reception 6-7 p.m.

LOCATION

Berlin Program, FU Berlin
Ehrenbergstr. 26/28, Room 009

GETTING THERE

S/U-Bahn: S1 Lichterfelde West
U-Bahn: U3 Thielplatz
Bus: M11 Ehrenbergstr., M48 or
101 Unter den Eichen/Drakestr.

REGISTRATION: not required

LANGUAGE: English

PAMELA POTTER is Professor of German and Music at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Director of the DAAD Center for German and European Studies. Her research interests have concentrated on relating music, the arts, and the writing of cultural history to ideological, political, social, and economic conditions, focusing primarily on twentieth century Germany. She is the author of – to name just two of her works - *Most German of the Arts: Musicology and Society from the Weimar Republic to the End of Hitler's Reich* (Yale University Press, 1998) and *Art of Suppression: Confronting the Nazi Past in Histories of the Visual and Performing Arts* (Weimar and Now series, University of California Press, 2016). Professor Potter is the recipient of many honors including e.g. the Alfred Einstein Award of the American Musicological Society. Her research has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, DAAD, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Berlin Program (1987-1989).

PAUL NOLTE is Professor of Modern and Contemporary History and Director of the Dahlem Humanities Center at the Freie Universität Berlin. His research interests in recent years have centered on transformations of democracy, on public intellectuals, the historiography in the Federal Republic as well as transatlantic history. As a member of program's Academic Advisory Committee Professor Nolte advises fellows and regularly heads the research colloquium.