

BERLIN PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED GERMAN AND EUROPEAN STUDIES

Our cooperation with the German Studies Association (GSA) offers Berlin Program Fellows and Alumni a chance to present their work at the annual GSA Conference to an expert audience. Each year, one or more Berlin Program Panels and Roundtables at the GSA serve as a site for critical engagement.

Panels and roundtables in recent years have been:

Integration in Theory and Practice, 1960-2010 (2014)

Studying Memory: Methodologies and Tools for Research (2013)

New Era of German Bevölkerungspolitik? (2012)

Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies

Freie Universität Berlin | Ehrenbergstr. 26/28 | 14195 Berlin | Germany

<http://www.fu-berlin.de/bprogram>

COVER ILLUSTRATION Photography: "Mapparium Eastern Hemisphere [front]", by Boston Public Library @flickr, licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0 (Source: flickr). Digital design: Daniel Calzada.

Writing Histories of Germans Abroad: Approaches and Methodologies to German Sources on Africa and the Middle East

BERLIN PROGRAM ALUMNI ROUNDTABLE
AT THE 39TH ANNUAL GSA CONFERENCE
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 4, 2015, 8:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Skyview

BERLIN PROGRAM
for Advanced German & European Studies

German
Studies
Association

GSA

Freie Universität



Berlin

Moderator

Randall Halle (University of Pittsburgh, German/Film, Berlin Program 2004-2005)

Participants

Brittany Lehman (UNC Chapel Hill, History, Berlin Program 2013-2014)

Nicholas Ostrum (SBU, History, Berlin Program 2013-2014)

David Pizzo (Murray State University, History, Berlin Program 2002-2003)

Sara Pugach (CSULA, History, Berlin Program 2001-2002)

Historians of Germany have recently extended their gaze beyond the traditional European and Atlantic spatiality of German history, increasingly incorporating the global South into their studies. This trend is most evident in works readdressing prewar Germany's flirtation with colonialism (Conrad, Zimmerman), Nazi Germany's wartime aims in colonial Africa and the Middle East (Linne, Herf), and German experiences of the Cold War in relation to the Third World (Hong, Slobodian). What is common and novel about many of these studies is their focus on Germans — rather than the traditional Imperialist powers and later the United States — as formidable international and transnational actors in territories formerly considered closed off to German influence and the reciprocal effects Germany's plans for and policies towards colonial and postcolonial countries had on Germany society and domestic and foreign policy. Focusing on the experiences of its participants and recent trends in research, this roundtable intends to address potential and proven methodologies and considerations to further this wave of scholarship.

In the roundtable, we will pose questions about methods and approaches to researching sociopolitical and geopolitical developments in Africa and the Middle East through German archival sources. We will inquire into the benefits and difficulties associated with researching countries such as Cameroon, Libya, Morocco, Tanzania, Togo, and Turkey when the archival material in those states may be impeded by political instability, restricted access, or the researchers' own limited knowledge of local languages. We will discuss the challenges of studying and writing about these countries while remaining conscious that we are viewing them primarily through German (and other Western) sources. In the end, we hope to spark a discussion on the value and limitations of researching German international and transnational relations with the countries, companies, and people of the South, as well as the contributions Germanists can make to national and regional historiographies by bringing focus to these international and transnational relations and interactions.

The roundtable will consist of four panelists and one moderator. All panelists are former fellows of the Berlin Program:

Randall Halle is the Klaus W. Jonas Professor of German Film and Cultural Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. His books include *The Europeanization of Cinema* and *German Film after Germany*. His essays have appeared in journals such as *New German Critique*, *Screen*, *Camera Obscura*, *German Quarterly*, and *Film-Philosophy*. Halle has received grants from the NEH, the DAAD, and the SSRC.

Brittany Lehman is a PhD candidate in modern European history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Funded by a fellowship with the Berlin Program and grants from the DAAD, and the Central European History Society, her dissertation "Teaching Migrant Children: The Evolution of Education Policy in the FRG and Europe, 1949-1992" is an interdisciplinary look at school initiatives for foreign nationals in Germany after the Second World War.

Nicholas Ostrum is a PhD candidate in modern European history at Stony Brook University. He received his MA in 2012. A Berlin Program Fellow in 2013-2014, he is currently writing his dissertation, "From Autarky to Globalization: The West German Pursuit of Oil in the Arab World, 1957-1974", which follows the Deutsche Erdoel AG and Gelsenberg AG — two of Germany's largest energy concerns — in their quests to acquire Syrian and Libyan petroleum to feed the growing West German demand. The research for this project has received additional support from the CES, GHI, and SBU.

David Pizzo is a professor of history at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky (USA). His research interests include German history, modern European history, imperialism, genocide, and structures of power. He regularly leads student programs abroad and has lived and worked in Germany, South Africa, Tanzania, Italy, and Greece.

Sara Pugach is an associate professor of African and German history at California State University, Los Angeles. She is the author of *Africa in Translation: A History of Colonial Linguistics in Germany and Beyond, 1814-1945*, which appeared with University of Michigan Press in 2012. Currently, she is working on a new book about African students in the German Democratic Republic.