

Berlin Program GSA Distinguished Lecture 2018

H. Glenn Penny

Kihawahine: German Ethnology and its Histories of the World

Kihawahine, the mother goddess, came to Berlin from Hawai'i as part of a collection created by the German dermatologist Eduard Arning. He assembled his collection of some 500 items during the mid-1880s while combating leprosy on the islands. He donated it to Berlin's Ethnological Museum upon his return. As a result of his gift, the museum holds one of the most important collections of Hawaiian artifacts outside of Hawai'i. This lecture uses the story of that gift to engage the history and potential of Berlin's ethnological collections. Berlin's Ethnological Museum remains one of the largest and most important in the world. Like the other ethnological museums in Germany, it is a treasure trove of German and human history, with a potential that has barely been tapped. In many ways, misinformation and fear have obscured that potential—a fear of the past, of German history, of complicity in the crimes of colonialism and ultimately, of National Socialism. Those complicities should not be ignored, but they also should not be permitted to eclipse the promise of these institutions, whose objects and stories are charged with power.

H. Glenn Penny is Professor of Modern European History at the University of Iowa. Much of his work is focused on relations between Germans and non-Europeans over the last two centuries. He is the author of *Objects of Culture: Ethnology and Ethnographic Museums in Imperial Germany* (UNC Press, 2002), and *Kindred by Choice: Germans and American Indians since 1880* (UNC Press, 2013). He is also the editor (together with Matti Bunzl) of *Worldly Provincialism: German Anthropology in the Age of Empire* (University of Michigan Press, 2003), and (with Laura Graham) *Performing Indigeneity: Global Histories and Contemporary Experiences* (Nebraska University Press, 2014). He is currently engaged in an in-depth study of German interactions with Guatemala and completing a book manuscript titled: *German History Unbound, 1760s-1960s* for Cambridge University Press. He is a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin during the 2017-2018 academic year. H. Glenn Penny is a Berlin Program Alumnus who spent 1995-1996 at Freie Universität Berlin.

The lecture will be followed by a commentary by German Studies President Mary Lindemann. The event will be moderated by historian Paul Nolte, Friedrich Meinecke Institute, FU Berlin.

TIME: June 18, 2018, 18-20 h (c.t.) followed by a reception 20-21 h
 LOCATION: FU Berlin, Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies
 Room 009, Ehrenbergstr. 26/28, 14195 Berlin
 LANGUAGE: The lecture and discussion will be held in English.
 REGISTRATION: Not required; participation is free of charge.
 GETTING THERE: S/U-Bahn: S1 Lichterfelde West | U-Bahn: U3 Thielplatz
 Bus: M11 Ehrenbergstr., M48 und 101 Unter den Eichen/Drakestr.