

History 845: Whither German Histories?

Spring 2017, T 1:00-3:15, 5257 Mosse Humanities

Instructor: R. Koshar (rjkoshar@wisc.edu)

Office hours: 4101 Mosse Humanities, Thursdays, 2-3:30

Rationale:

This seminar examines how we study modern German histories in the twenty-first century. In an era of contestation over neo-liberal economics, Europeanization, and “transnationalism,” nationalist discourses have demonstrated not only their limits but also their powers of endurance. Most historians of the German experience no longer rely on a univocal narrative of “German history.” But what combination of narratives might replace older, notionally more coherent “national” story lines? How do multiplicity and complexity also raise questions of narrative strategies? Does German history consist of fragmented and discontinuous pasts? Or are there broader continuities and coherences—cultural, economic, political, social, emotional—that demand historical attention? Where should we (should we) look for the global in the national, and the national in the global? How do such questions interplay with the study of other social identities—class, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, locale, region, generation? And what of history’s relation to the increasingly strident voices of ethno-national memory and anti-European affect?

Required Reading:

In addition to a substantial number of scholarly articles available for download from the course web site (see course schedule), we’ll read and discuss the following books:

Konrad H. Jarausch and Michael Geyer, *Shattered Past: Reconstructing German Histories* (2003)

Kathleen Canning, et al, eds., *Weimar Publics / Weimar Subjects: Rethinking the Political Culture of Germany in the 1920s* (2010)

Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich* (2008)

Mary Fulbrook, *The People’s State: East German Society from Hitler to Honecker* (2005)

Discussion— Each week students discuss a common set of readings designed to highlight key issues in the literature. For seminar meetings, by noon of the day before we meet, each student should submit (via email to all class participants) three discussion questions pertaining to weekly readings. These questions among others will be the basis of seminar discussions.

Research—Students may complete either a research paper of 18-20 pages, using primary sources, on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor; or a historiographical essay of similar length that builds on our weekly readings and discussion. The latter option may be especially useful for students who plan to prepare a prelim field in modern German history. Students will preview their end-of-semester project in a brief presentation in seminar during the last class meeting.

Course Schedule

Jan 17: Introduction

Jan. 24: Shattered Pasts

Reading: Jarausch and Geyer

Jan. 31: Wilhelmine Germany: Contingency and Possibility

Reading:

Suzanne Marchand, "Popularizing the Orient in Fin de Siècle Germany," *Intellectual History Review* 17, 2 (May 2007): 175-202.

Robert Beachy, "The German Invention of Homosexuality," *Journal of Modern History* 82 (December 2010): 801–838.

Michael Ermarth, "Recovering the Full Palette of Possibilities for Wilhelmine Germany, 1890-1914," *Modern Intellectual History*, 3, 3 (2006): 535-45.

H. Glenn Penny, "Latin American Connections: Recent Work on German Interactions with Latin America," *Central European History* 46 (2013): 362-94.

H. Glenn Penny, "Reflections: German Polycentrism and the Writing of History," *German History* 30, 2 (2012): 265-82.

Dennis Sweeney, "Reconsidering the Modernity Paradigm: Reform Movements, the Social, and the State in Wilhelmine Germany," *Social History* 31, 4 (November 2006): 405-34.

Simon Constantine, "Particularities of Persecution. The Policing of Gypsies in Saxony 1871–1914," *Immigrants & Minorities* 32, 1 (2014): 38-61.

Feb. 7: Weimar: Gauging the Weimar Republic

Reading:

Canning, *Weimar Publics/ Weimar Subjects*, 1-28

David Crew, "The Pathologies of Modernity: Detlev Peukert on Germany's Twentieth Century," *Social History* 17, 2 (May 1992): 319-28.

Peter Fritzsche, "Did Weimar Fail?" *Journal of Modern History* 68, 3 (September 1996): 629-56.

Rüdiger Graf, "Either-Or: The Narrative of "Crisis" in Weimar Germany and in Historiography," *Central European History* 43, 4 (2010): 592–615.

Detlev Peukert, *The Weimar Republic* (Hill & Wang, 1992), 3-18

Eric Weitz, "Weimar Germany and its Histories," *Central European History* 43, 4 (2010): 581–91.

Benjamin Ziemann, "Weimar was Weimar: Politics, Culture, and the Emplotment of the German Republic," *German History* 28, 4 (2010): 542-71.

Feb. 14: Weimar as Postwar History

Reading:

Canning, *Weimar Publics/ Weimar Subjects*, 31-92.

- John Boonstra, "Women's Honour and Black Shame: *Coloured Frenchmen* and Respectable Comportment in the Post-World War I Occupied Rhineland," *German History* 33, 4 (2015): 546-69.
- Jason Crouthamel, "'Comradeship' and 'Friendship': Masculinity and Militarization in Germany's Homosexual Emancipation Movement after the First World War," *Gender & History* 23, 1 (April 2011): 111-29.
- Robert Gerwarth, "The Past in Weimar History," *Contemporary European History* 15, 1 (February 2006): 1-22.
- Fredrik Schulze, "*Auslandsdeutschtum* in Brazil (1919-41): Global Discourses and Local Histories," *German History* 33, 3 (2015): 405-22.

Feb. 21: New Citizens/ New Subjectivities in Weimar Republic

Reading:

- Canning, *Weimar Publics/ Weimar Subjects*, 95-172.
- Timothy Scott Brown, "The SA in the Radical Imagination of the Long Weimar Republic," *Central European History* 46 (2013): 238-74.
- Larry Frohman, "Prevention, Welfare, and Citizenship: The War on Tuberculosis and Infant Mortality in Germany, 1900-1930," *Central European History* 39 (2006): 431-81.
- Rudy Koshar, "Cars and Nations: Anglo-German Perspectives on Automobility between the World Wars," *Theory, Culture & Society* 21, 4/5 (August 2004): 121-44.
- Andrea Meissner, "Against 'Sentimental' Piety: The Search for a New Culture of Emotions in Interwar German Catholicism," *German History* 32, 3 (2014): 393-413.
- Till van Rahden, "Jews and the Ambivalences of Civil Society in Germany, 1800-1933: Assessment and Reassessment," *Journal of Modern History* 77, 4 (December 2005): 1024-47.
- Cornelie Usborne, "Rebellious Girls and Pitiably Women: Abortion Narratives in Weimar Popular Culture," *German History* 23, 3 (2005): 321-38.

Feb. 28: Weimar Symbols, Rituals, Discourses of Democracy

Reading:

- Canning, *Weimar Publics/ Weimar Subjects*, 175-253.
- Eric Bryden, "Heroes and Martyrs of the Republic: Reichsbanner *Geschichtspolitik* in Weimar Germany," *Central European History* 43 (2010): 639-65.
- Corey Ross, "Mass Politics and the Techniques of Leadership: The Promise and Perils of Propaganda in Weimar Germany," *German History* 24, 2 (2006): 184-211.
- Nadine Rossol, "Performing the Nation: Sports, Spectacles, and Aesthetics in Germany, 1926-1936," *Central European History* 43 (2010): 616-38.
- Stefan Vogt, "Strange Encounters: Social Democracy and Radical Nationalism in Weimar Germany," *Journal of Contemporary History* 45, 2 (April 2010): 253-81.

Mar. 7: Weimar Publics, Publicity and Mass Culture

Reading:

Canning, *Weimar Publics/ Weimar Subjects*, 257-317.

Molly Loberg, "The Fortress Shop: Consumer Culture, Violence, and Security in Weimar Berlin," *Journal of Contemporary History* 49, 4 (2014): 675-701.

David Imhoof, "Sharpshooting in Göttingen: a Case Study of Cultural Integration in Weimar and Nazi Germany," *German History* 23, 4 (2005): 460-93.

Anna Menge, "The Iron Hindenburg: A Popular Icon of Weimar Germany," *German History* 26, 3 (2008): 357-82.

Corey Ross. "Mass Culture and Divided Audiences: Cinema and Social Change in Weimar Germany," *Past and Present* 193, 1 (November 2006): 157-95.

Michael Schmidt, "Visual Music: Jazz, Synaesthesia and the History of the Senses in the Weimar Republic," *German History* 32,2 (2014): 201-23.

Mar. 14: Nazism

Winson Chu et al, "A Sonderweg through Eastern Europe? The Varieties of German Rule in Poland during the Two World Wars," *German History* 31, 3 (2013): 318-44.

Tom Lawson, "Coming to Terms with the Past: Reading and Writing Colonial Genocide in the Shadow of the Holocaust," *Holocaust Studies* 20, 1-2 (2014): 129-56.

Matthew P. Fitzpatrick, "The Pre-History of the Holocaust? The *Sonderweg* and *Historikerstreit* Debates and the Abject Colonial Past," *Central European History* 41 (2008): 477-503.

Moritz Föllmer, "Was Nazism Collectivistic? Redefining the Individual in Berlin, 1930-1945," *Journal of Modern History* 82 (March 2010): 61-100.

Moritz Föllmer, "The Subjective Dimension in Nazi Germany," *The Historical Journal* 56, 4 (2013): 1107-32.

Kiran Klaus Patel and Sven Reichardt, "The Dark Side of Transnationalism: Social Engineering and Nazism, 1930-40s," *Journal of Contemporary History* 51, 1 (2016): 3-21.

Maren Röger, "The Sexual Policies and Sexual Realities of the German Occupiers in Poland in the Second World War," *Contemporary European History*, 23 (2014): 1-21.

Mar. 17-26: Spring Recess**Apr. 4: Life and Death in Nazi Germany**

Reading: Fritzsche

Apr. 11: Postwar Germany (mostly West)

Reading:

Till van Rahden, "Clumsy Democrats: Moral Passions in the Federal Republic," *German History* 29, 3 (2011): 485-504.

Frank Biess, "'Everybody has a Chance': Nuclear Angst, Civil Defense, and the History of Emotions in Postwar West Germany," *German History* 27, 2 (2009): 215-43.

- Monica Black, "Miracles in the Shadow of the Economic Miracle: The 'Supernatural' in West Germany," *Journal of Modern History* 84, 4 (December 2012): 833-60.
- Laura J. Hilton, "The Black Market in History and Memory: German Perceptions of Victimhood from 1945 to 1948," *German History* 28, 4 (2010): 479-97.
- Atina Grossman, "Grams, Calories, and Food: Languages of Victimization, Entitlement, and Human Rights in Occupied Germany, 1945-1949," *Central European History* 44 (2011): 118-48.
- Jannis Panagiotidis, "Germanizing Germans: Co-Ethnic Immigration and Name Change in West Germany, 1953-93," *Journal of Contemporary History* 50, 4 (2015): 854-74.
- Tara Zahra, "The Psychological Marshall Plan: Displacement, Gender, and Human Rights after World War II," *Central European History* 44 (2011): 37-62.

Apr. 18: German Democratic Republic

Reading:

- Eli Rubin, "Amnesiopolis: From *Mietskaserne* to *Wohnungsbauserie 70* in East Berlin's Northeast," *Central European History* 47 (2014): 334-74.
- Anna von der Goltz, "Attraction and Aversion in Germany's '1968': Encountering the Western Revolt in East Berlin," *Journal of Contemporary History* 50, 3 (2015): 536-59.
- Timothy S. Brown, "'1968' East and West: Divided Germany as a Case Study in Transnational History," *American Historical Review* (February 2009): 69-96.
- Alexander Burdumy, "Reconsidering the Role of the Welfare State Within the German Democratic Republic's Political System," *Journal of Contemporary History* 48, 4 (2013): 872-89.
- Peter Monteath, "A Day to Remember: East Germany's Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Fascism," *German History* 26, 2 (2008): 195-218.
- Andrew I. Port, "Love, Lust, and Lies Under Communism: Family Values and Adulterous Liaisons in Early East Germany," *Central European History* 44 (2011): 478-505.
- Paul Betts, "The Twilight of the Idols: East German Memory and Material Culture," *Journal of Modern History* 72, 3 (September 2000): 731-65.
- Jonathan R. Zatlín, "Unifying Without Integrating: The East German Collapse and German Unity," *Central European History* 43 (2010): 484-507.

Apr. 25: GDR as People's State

Reading: Fulbrook

May 2: Discussion of Research Papers

Helmut Walser Smith, "When the Sonderweg Debate Left Us," *German Studies Review* 31, 2 (May 2008): 225-40.

Celia Applegate, "Metaphors of Continuity: The Promise and Perils of Taking the Long View," *German History* 27, 3 (2009): 433-39.

William W. Hagen, "Master Narratives Beyond Postmodernity: Germany's 'Separate Path' in Historiographical-Philosophical Light," *German Studies Review* 30, 1 (February 2007): 1-32.

H. Glenn Penny, "Ambiguities, Fractures and Myopic Histories: Recent work on German Minorities in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe," *Contemporary European History* 23 (2014): 135-49.

Annemarie Sammartino, "After Brubaker: Citizenship in Modern Germany, 1848 to Today," *German History* 27, 4 (2009): 583-99.

Konrad J. Jarausch, "Beyond the National Narrative: Implications of Reunification for Recent German History," *German History* 28, 4 (2010): 498-514.

Larson Powell, "The Meaning of Working Through the East," *German Studies Review* 37, 3 (October 2013): 597-614.

H. Glenn Penny, "German Polycentrism and the Writing of History," *German History* 30, 2 (2012): 265-82.

Matthew Fitzpatrick, "A State of Exception? Mass Expulsions and the German Constitutional State, 1871-1914," *The Journal of Modern History* 85, 4 (December 2013): 772-800.

Keith Neilson, "1914: The German War?" *European History Quarterly* 44, 3 (2014): 395-418.

Robert Gerwarth, "The Past in Weimar History," *Journal of Contemporary History* 15, 1 (2006): 1-22.

Benjamin Zieman, "Weimar was Weimar: Politics, Culture, and the Emplotment of the German Republic," *German History* 28, 4 (2010): 542-71.

