

PREFACE

The issue's first feature article presents the German Historical Institute's 33rd Annual Lecture, delivered last November by the distinguished historian Dagmar Herzog (CUNY Graduate Center). In her lecture, "Moral Reasoning in the Wake of Mass Murder," Herzog examines the complicated ways in which increasing public awareness of the Nazi regime's mass murder of people with disabilities influenced German debates over disability rights and reproductive rights in 1980s and 1990s. As Herzog shows, West Germany's 1989 "Singer Affair" — a controversial visit by the Australian philosopher Peter Singer, who called for legalizing the killing of infants with severe disabilities — helped to bring the Nazi euthanasia murders and the contemporary disability rights movement to the attention of a broader public. At the same time, Singer's blurring of the distinction between abortion and infanticide contributed to a drastic reconfiguration of the relationship between disability rights and reproductive rights. Whereas West German disability activists had previously defended women's rights to abortion, including the so-called eugenic indication (if an embryo showed signs of disability), in the late 1980s the tide turned as influential disability activists began to oppose abortion on eugenic grounds, thereby pitting disability rights against reproductive rights in a way that lent support to antiabortion activists and left a mark on the reconfigured abortion legislation of unified Germany.

The long shadow cast by the Nazi regime is also at the center of Anna-Carolin Augustin's article "The Object's Afterlife," in which Augustin (Research Fellow at the GHI) traces how the Nazi looting of objects — especially Jewish ceremonial objects — made of gold and silver influenced the trajectory of art history, connoisseurship, and Jewish history in postwar West Germany. By examining the intersecting careers of Wolfgang Scheffler, an art historian who used the expertise he gained cataloguing these looted objects during the Nazi years to further his postwar career, and Bernhard Brillling, a Jewish historian and emigré who returned to West Germany to pursue his research on Jewish goldsmiths, Augustin sheds light on the disturbing ways in which Nazi looting opened up research opportunities from which scholars continued to benefit after the war — and on the no less fraught ways in which some Jewish and non-Jewish German scholars, including some who

were deeply implicated in the crimes of the Nazi regime, engaged in scholarly interaction after the war.

The following two feature articles shift focus to the history of migration. Michelle Lynn Kahn's article "Between *Ausländer* and *Almançı*" presents her research on the transnational history of Turkish-German migration, for which she was honored with the 2019 Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize, awarded annually by the Friends of the German Historical Institute for the best dissertation in German history completed at a North American university. While there is now a great deal of excellent historical research on Turkish migrants in West Germany, Kahn explores a hitherto neglected aspect of Turkish-German migration, namely the re-migration of Turkish migrants living in Germany back to Turkey, be it temporary — many Turkish *Gastarbeiter* returned to Turkey every year during their summer vacations — or permanent, as happened on a large scale when, in 1983, Helmut Kohl's government provided monetary incentives for Turkish migrants to return to Turkey permanently. By studying this transnational flow of migration and remigration, Kahn is able to elucidate the complicated figure of the *Almançı*, the dually estranged and dually discriminated migrant, who was treated as an *Ausländer* in Germany and as a "Germanized Turk" (*Almançı*) in Turkey.

This issue's final feature article addresses a different aspect of the history of migration, namely the migration of free Chinese migrants to North and South America since the mid-nineteenth century. In his article, Albert Manke (Research Fellow in the "Knowledge Unbound" project at the GHI's Pacific Regional Office in Berkeley) examines not only the cycles of discrimination and exclusion directed against Chinese migrants in the United States since the 1840s but also the question to what extent similar dynamics in Latin America were the result of U.S. influence and to what extent they reflected regional and local factors. By examining the entanglement between North and South American migration patterns and policies, Manke reveals the important role that transnational networks played, both among the governments shaping policies and among the migrants who sought to preserve their own agency in the face of discrimination and violence.

Our conference reports reflect the diversity of research topics supported by the Institute. Two conferences at the Institute's Pacific Regional Office in Berkeley focused on migration: last fall's Bucerius

Young Scholars Forum, which was dedicated to “Histories of Migration: Transatlantic and Global Perspectives,” and the Annual Academic and Policy Symposium “Innovation through Migration,” which explored “Archives of Migration.” In addition, this issue’s reports document conferences on medieval history, digital history, Jewish history, and twentieth-century bioscience and biopolitics.

Please turn to our news section for recent GHI news. For up-to-date information on upcoming events, publications, fellowships, and calls for papers, please also consult the GHI website (<http://www.ghi-dc.org>), Facebook page, and twitter account. Although we have had to temporarily suspend conferences and lectures due to the Covid-19 pandemic and stay-at-home orders in Washington DC and Berkeley, all GHI staff have been working productively out of our home offices: among other things, launching a completely redesigned version of the GHI website and issuing a report on the Pacific Regional Office that can be downloaded at <https://www.ghi-dc.org/pazifikbuero-bericht>. Please stay safe and healthy. We look forward to welcoming you once again at the GHI Washington and at the PRO in Berkeley when the crisis is over.

Simone Lässig (Director) and Richard F. Wetzell (Editor)