Engineering Society. The Scientization of the Social in Comparative Perspective, 1880-1990

International Conference, 20-22 November 2008, held at the Humanities Research Institute of the University of Sheffield

Supported by the German Historical Institute London, the German Historical Institute Washington, DC, the German History Society and the Department of History, University of Sheffield

Venue: Douglas Knoop Centre, Humanities Research Institute, 34 Gell Street, Sheffield S3 7QY

Thursday, 20 November

From 2pm: Conference Registration

3.00-3.30pm Introduction Kerstin Brückweh/ Benjamin Ziemann

3.30pm-5.30pm

Public Keynote Lecture: Lutz Raphael (University of Trier): Experts, Ideas and Institutions: Main Trends in Embedding the Human Sciences in Western Societies since the 1880s

5.30-6.30pm Wine Reception at the HRI

7pm: Conference Dinner at Rafters Restaurant, 220 Oakbrook Road, Sheffield S11 7ED

Friday, 21 November

9am-1pm Panel 1: Social and Penal Policy

Peter Becker (University of Linz), New Members of the Research Family? Neurosciences and their Presence in Criminological Debates


Julia Moses (Oxford University): Compensation and Legal and Scientific Expertise about Workplace Accidents, 1880-1920

Coffee break: ca. 10.30-10.45am

Ted Porter (UCLA): How Society Became Statistical

Commentator: Richard Wetzell (German Historical Institute, Washington DC)

1pm-2.30pm Lunch

2.30pm-6.15pm Panel 2: Diagnosis and Therapy

Elizabeth Lunbeck (Vanderbilt University): Narcissism as Social Critique
Mathew Thomson (University of Warwick): Psychology and the Engineering of Society in Twentieth-Century Britain

Coffee break: ca. 4-4.20pm


Commentator: Sabine Maasen (University of Basel)

7pm: Dinner at Antibo's, Unit 10 The Plaza, Fitzwilliam Street, Sheffield S1 4JB

Saturday, 22 November

9am-1pm Panel 3: Organizations, Polling and Marketing

Sarah Igo (Vanderbilt University): Hearing the Masses. The Modern Science of Opinion
Anja Kruke (Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Bonn): Polls in Politics. Restructuring the Body Politic in West Germany, 1940s to 1980s
Kerstin Brückweh (German Historical Institute London): How to Streamline a Diverse Society: Market Research and Social Classification in Britain

Coffee break: ca. 10.30-10.45am

Emil Walter-Busch (University of St Gallen): Business Organisations, Foundations, and the State as Promoters of Applied Social Sciences in the USA and Switzerland, 1900-1950
Stefan Schwarzkopf (Queen Mary, London): The ‘Consumer Jury’: Historical Origins, Theoretical Implications and Social Consequences of a Marketing Myth

Commentator: Felix Keller (University of Zürich)

1pm-2pm Lunch

2pm-3pm: Thematic Wrap-Up and Final Discussion, chaired by Dirk Schumann and Richard Wetzell

Convenors: Kerstin Brückweh (German Historical Institute London), Dirk Schumann (Georg-August-University Göttingen), Richard Wetzell (German Historical Institute Washington DC), Benjamin Ziemann (University of Sheffield)

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