

THE GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO

# Toward a Spatial Narrative of the 1935 Harlem Riot

## Mapping and Storytelling after the Geospatial Turn

STEPHEN ROBERTSON (GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY)



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE  
1607 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20009

This lecture will consider spatial narrative as a form of digital scholarship, and particularly as a means of building arguments and interpretations from the maps combining and displaying sources that have proliferated with the expansion of web-based mapping. It will explore the process of shaping a narrative of the 1935 Harlem Riot based on Year of the Riot, a deep map of the Harlem neighborhood developed as an extension of the award-winning Digital Harlem project. A riot offers a particularly rich example for exploring the possibility of spatial narrative: an event that, while beginning at an identifiable origin, spirals out in multiple directions and changes over time in ways that expose the limitations of the existing linear web-based story-map authoring platforms.

Stephen Robertson is Director of the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, and Professor in the Department of History

and Art History, at George Mason University and one of the creators of the web site, Digital Harlem. Robertson is currently collaborating with other scholars on a spatial history of the 1935 Harlem riot.

### PROGRAM

6:00 PM RECEPTION

6:30 PM LECTURE

*This keynote lecture is part of the symposium "Creating Spatial Historical Knowledge New Approaches, Opportunities and Epistemological Implications of Mapping History Digitally."*