German Past Futures in the Twentieth Century

Conference at the German Historical Institute Washington (GHI), February 23-25, 2017

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Thursday, February 23:

16:00 – 18:00

Welcome and Introduction

Panel 1: Theory and Methodology

Chair: Kai Evers (Irvine, CA)

Alexander Honold (Basel)
“Yesterday's tomorrows. Modern Literature as a Time Machine.”

Rüdiger Graf (Potsdam)
“Ignorance Is Bliss. The Pluralization of Modes to Generate the Future as a Challenge to Contemporary History”

Arnd Bauerkämper (Berlin)
“Contingency and Cultures of Security”

Friday, February 24:

9:00 – 11:00

Panel 2: Futures of the Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany

Chair: Anne Schenderlein (GHI)

Kai Evers (Irvine, CA)
“Strategies of anticipating multiple futures in modernist literature: Next war scenarios in the works of Musil, Kafka, and Schmidt”

Adelheid Voskuhl (Philadelphia, PA)
“Philosophy of technology and visions of the future (and the past) in engineers’ class struggle in the Second Industrial Revolution (1900 to 1930)”
David Jünger (Berlin)
“The shattered consistency of time. Future prospects of German Jews and their emigration from Germany between 1929 and 1939”

11:00 – 11:15: Coffee

11.15 – 13:15

Panel 3: Socialist Futures in East Germany (1949-1990)

Chair: Richard Wetzell (GHI)

Colleen Anderson (Cambridge, MA)
“Shared Dreams, Competing Realities: The Future in East and West German Political Posters, 1949-1961”

Wolfgang Bialas (Berlin)
“Science fiction struggling with East German past futures”

Philipp Ebert (Cambridge, UK)
“Imagining transitional justice in a future reunited Germany. Conceptions of how to deal with socialist injustice in West Germany, 1961-1989”

13:15 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 – 17:00

Panel 4: West German Futures

Chair: Elisabeth Engel (GHI)

Pierre-Frédéric Weber (Szczecin)
“‘Self-limitation’. The FRG’s past escape from frightful futures (1949-1990)”

Frank Biess (San Diego, CA)
“The Past as a Source of Anxiety: The 1960s as Crisis Decade”

Jennifer Allen (New Haven, CT)
“Reclaiming Utopia in Late-Twentieth-Century Germany”

19:00 Conference Dinner, TBD


Saturday, February 25:

9:00 – 11:00

Panel 5: Social Conflicts and Cultural Milieus

Chair: Frank Biess (San Diego, CA)

Sindy Duong (Berlin)
“‘Timeless Bugaboo of the Chicken-Hearted’ or ‘Fuel for Future Social Conflict’? Envisioning, Measuring, and Debating the ‘Academic Proletariat’ in West Germany in the 1970s and 1980s”

Joachim C. Häberlen (Warwick, UK)
“The Future of the Self: Dystopias and Utopias about the Self in the Alternative Left around 1980”

Jeff Hayton (Wichita, KS)
“Paranoid Futures, Reoccurring Pasts: 1984 and 1933 in the West German Punk Imaginary”

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee

11:15-13:15

Panel 6: Utopias and the Past in 20th Century Germany

Chair: Arnd Bauerkämper (Berlin)

Anna Pollmann (Leipzig/Jerusalem)

Terence Renaud (New Haven, CT)
“Crisis Theory and Futurology in the 1940s”

Elke Seefried (Augsburg/Munich)
“Shaping the Future. The Emergence and Crisis of Futures Studies since 1945”

13:15 – 14:15 Lunch

14:15-15:45 Concluding Discussion