Entangling the Pacific & Atlantic Worlds Past & Present
A Symposium Commemorating Helmut Schmidt

March 25-27, 2019 | UC Berkeley

Organized by
The German Historical Institute Washington
& ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius
In cooperation with
Institute of European Studies & Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley

About
This symposium addresses one of today’s central geopolitical developments: the shift from an international order centered on the Atlantic to one in which the Pacific claims its weight. Helmut Schmidt was a pioneer among Western political leaders in recognizing this transformation and, in particular, the implications of China’s growing economic and political influence. The German chancellor strove for a respectful dialogue and a partnership of equals at a time when the world was still divided into communist and capitalist camps. Building on Schmidt’s reflections about the remaking of the global order, this symposium will analyze the unfolding situation and its historical background. Scholars, policy experts, and journalists will discuss the changing relationship between the Atlantic and Pacific regions, and the growing complexity of a world with multiple and competing poles.

The Atlantic and Pacific worlds have always been separate yet simultaneously interconnected spheres. Linked by ancient trade networks – most prominently the Silk Road – Eastern and Western civilizations exchanged goods, technologies, knowledge, and people. With the rise of European imperialism, transfers became increasingly imbalanced and dominated by the West. At the turn from the nineteenth to the twentieth century, the Pacific became an arena of global conflicts, not least during the Second World War. The postwar decades were marked by decolonization and the Cold War, whose major proxy wars were fought on shores of the Pacific, as well as by the economic rise first of Japan, then of the “Four Asian Tigers.”

With China’s ascent and the end of the Cold War, the gradual shift of power from the Atlantic to the Pacific gained momentum. Under Donald Trump, America’s “Pacific Century” has taken quite an unexpected turn. The line between friend and foe has been blurred, and international trade tensions are brewing. Beijing’s increasingly bold military activity, Pyongyang’s nuclear aspirations, and territorial disputes in the South China Sea and beyond further aggravate the tense atmosphere in the Pacific. Economic and military confrontations in the region increasingly threaten the global order.

This symposium in commemoration of Helmut Schmidt aims to enrich the ongoing discussion of the ascendancy of the Pacific by revisiting the multifaceted history of Atlantic-Pacific interconnections. Interdisciplinary in approach, the symposium is envisioned as an opportunity for dialogue and exchange across professional boundaries.

Conveners
Sarah Beringer
German Historical Institute Washington
Wencke Meteling
Johns Hopkins SAIS
Sören Urbansky
German Historical Institute Washington

Monday, March 25
David Brower Center

18:00 Welcome
Simone Lässig
German Historical Institute Washington
Michael Göring
ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius
Patrick Heinz
Deputy Consul General, German Consulate San Francisco

18:30 Shifting Tides: Rise, Resurgence, and Deep Histories from the Atlantic to the Pacific
(Registration Required)
Keynote
Matt Matsuda
Rutgers University

Registration
All events are open to the public. Due to limited space, please register to attend the keynote lecture (March 25) and fireside discussion (March 26) at events.west@ghi-dc.org
For more information contact Heike Friedman
friedman@ghi-dc.org
### Tuesday, March 26

**Anthony Hall, UC Berkeley**

**9:30** Imperialism, Decolonization, and the Cold War in the Pacific Theater

**Panel 1**
- Sarah CM Paine
  - U.S. Naval War College
- David Wolff
  - Hokkaido University
- Wen-hsin Yeh
  - UC Berkeley

**Moderator**
- Lok Sui
  - UC Berkeley

**11:30** The Japan and China Shocks: Atlantic Debates on Emerging Pacific Competitors

**Panel 2**
- Mario Daniels
  - Georgetown University
- Amy Studdart
  - German Marshall Fund of the United States
- Franz Waldenberger
  - German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo

**Moderator**
- Wencke Meteling
  - Johns Hopkins SAIS

**15:00** The Power of Interpretation: Transformations of China Expertise in the West

**Round**
- Richard Madsen
  - UC San Diego
- Shi Ming
  - Freelance Journalist
- Rudolf G. Wagner
  - Heidelberg University

**Moderator**
- Sören Urbansky
  - German Historical Institute Washington

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### Wednesday, March 27 Cont.

**Anthony Hall, UC Berkeley**

**11:30** The Global Reach of Security Politics in the Pacific Region

**Round**
- Ulises Granados
  - Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo México
- Thanh Hai Do
  - Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam
- Anna Hayes
  - James Cook University
- Andrew Wilson
  - U.S. Naval War College

**Moderator**
- Lukas Danner
  - Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence & Bond University

**15:00** The Future of Transatlantic Relations in the Pacific Century

**Round**
- Karen Donfried
  - German Marshall Fund of the United States
- Peer Steinbrück
  - Former Minister of Finance, Federal Republic of Germany

**Moderator**
- Jeroen Dewulf
  - UC Berkeley

**17:00** Storm Clouds of a New Order? An Outlook in the Age of Trump

**Keynote**
- Ann Lee
  - Coterie New York