ELEVENTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE FRIENDS OF THE GHI AND AWARD OF THE FRITZ STERN DISSERTATION PRIZE

Symposium at the GHI, November 15, 2002. Convener: Konrad Jarausch (President, Friends of the GHI). Participants: Julia Roos (Princeton University), Rebecca Wittmann (Marquette University), and Ari Sammartino (GHI/ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor).

The Friends of the German Historical Institute convened in Washington on November 15, 2002, for their eleventh symposium, chaired by Konrad Jarausch, President of the Friends. The morning session featured the presentation of the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prizes, awarded every year for the two best dissertations in German history at a North American university. This year’s prizes were awarded to Julia Roos, who earned her Ph.D. at Carnegie Mellon University, for her dissertation “Weimar’s Crisis Through the Lens of Gender: The Case of Prostitution,” and to Rebecca Wittmann, who earned her Ph.D. at the University of Toronto, for her dissertation “Holocaust on Trial? The Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial in Historical Perspective.” This year’s award was generously funded by the German Marshall Fund of the United States. The Stern Prize Selection Committee was composed of Prof. Donna Harsch (Carnegie Mellon University), Prof. Steve Hochstadt (Bates College), and Prof. Eric A. Johnson (Central Michigan University), who chaired the committee. The committee’s prize citations commended Roos for “show[ing] how to use one issue, prostitution, to analyze the wider struggle over changes in the conception and politics of gender during the Weimar Republic” and Wittmann for “mak[ing] a major empirical and interpretive contribution to our understanding of both the [Auschwitz] trial itself and, more broadly, to the wrenching and contested process of Vergangenheitsbewältigung in the Federal Republic.” The presentations of their work that Roos and Wittmann gave following the awarding of the prizes are featured, in revised form, in the “Stern Prize” section of this Bulletin. In the afternoon session, GHI Research Associate Ari Sammartino gave a presentation of her dissertation research, titled “Migration, Utopia and Exile: Germany and Russia in the Early Weimar Republic,” which is featured in the “GHI Research” section of this Bulletin.

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