This issue of the *Bulletin* features the 26th Annual Lecture of the GHI, which was delivered by Johannes Paulmann last November on the topic “The Straits of Europe: History at the Margins of a Continent.” Paulmann approaches European history in the period 1850-1914 by “circumscribing the continent” and focusing on what he calls the “straits of Europe,” ranging from the Kara Strait in the Arctic to the Straits of Gibraltar and the Bosphorus in the South. Paulmann’s approach decenters European history: the perspective from the periphery reveals the “fluid and permeable” character of Europe’s borders and highlights the continent’s global, imperial, and international connections. From this perspective, he argues, the nineteenth century appears not so much as an age of nationalism, but of internationalism and globalization. Helmut Walser Smith’s wide-ranging comment examines the venerable historical pedigree of approaching Europe from the margins, but also notes that the accelerated interaction of contact zones such as the straits was not typical of all of nineteenth-century Europe.

The following two articles present the research of the two winners of the 2012 Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize, awarded annually by the Friends of the GHI. Adam Rosenbaum’s “Timeless, Modern and German? The Remapping of Bavaria through the Marketing of Tourism, 1800-1939” examines the self-representation of Bavaria through the marketing of two tourist attractions, the mountainous area of “Franconian Switzerland” and the city of Nuremberg, two case studies drawn from his dissertation. The Bavarian tourism industry, Rosenbaum argues, promoted an image of what he calls “grounded modernity,” a romanticized version of the modern present that “reconciled tradition with progress and nature with technology.” Sarah Thomsen Vierra’s article “At Home in Almanya? Turkish-German Spaces of Belonging in West Germany, 1961-1990” examines how Turkish immigrants and their children made themselves “at home” in German society by constructing “spaces of belonging” within German society. Focusing on the Sprengelkiez neighborhood in Berlin-Wedding, Vierra’s dissertation examines the practice of “space-making” in the workplace, home, school, and places of worship. In her article, Vierra argues that the school was a site of significant conflict but was also perceived as a space of opportunity and provided a forum for cross-cultural socialization.
Our final feature article presents the 2012 Hertie lecture, delivered by the German writer Ingo Schulze at the GHI’s German Unification Symposium. Schulze begins by noting that the key event of the East German revolution of 1989 was not November 9, when the Berlin wall fell, but October 9, the date of the decisive Leipzig “Monday demonstration” that opened the floodgates of revolution. The main point of his lecture is to highlight a paradox: after the East German revolution resulted in German unification, East Germans found themselves in a very un-revolutionary “world without alternatives”. “Democracy, freedom, social justice, and prosperity seemed only to be possible in a market economy where the means of production were privately owned.” In his lecture, Schulze seeks to challenge the “self-evident truths” (Selbstverständlichkeiten) that govern present-day politics.

In this issue’s “GHI Research” section, two Research Fellows present their current research projects. In “An Empire of Youth: American Boy Scouts in the World, 1910-1960,” Mischa Honeck examines the nexus of “youth, hegemonic manhood, and American Empire” by exploring how transnational forces shaped the identities of American Boy Scouts and how these identities enabled them to endorse or challenge America’s role in twentieth-century world politics. In “European Imports? European Immigrants and the Transformation of American Consumer Culture from the 1920s to the 1960s,” Jan Logemann argues that European immigrants of the interwar period — many of them émigrés fleeing Hitler’s Germany — played a key role in the development of consumer psychology, market research, and product design in the United States, all of which were crucial in turning this country into a mass consumer culture after the war.

The remainder of this Bulletin presents conference reports of recent GHI conferences, whose topics once again ranged widely: from the American Civil War to the trial of Adolf Eichmann, and from American music in the Cold War to an interdisciplinary conference on the role of immigrants as entrepreneurs. The “News” section presents recent prizes, fellowships, and staff publications and includes a calendar of events that informs you of upcoming GHI events and conferences, at which we hope to welcome you.

Hartmut Berghoff (Director) and Richard F. Wetzel (Editor)