It is sometimes assumed that the German Historical Institute focuses mostly on German history. As demonstrated by this issue of the Bulletin, however, the Institute also fosters research in American as well as transnational, comparative and global history.

Three of this Bulletin’s feature articles deal with American history. In the Annual Lecture that she delivered at the GHI last fall, the distinguished American historian Paula Fass, a pioneer in developing the field of children’s history, examines the history of childhood and generational relations in the United States over the past two hundred years. She argues that the era of the early American Republic established a paradigm of American child-rearing that continued to be invoked even after general social conditions had been transformed. In his comment on Fass’s lecture the German historian Till Kößler, an expert on the history of childhood and education in modern Europe, reveals the entanglements of European and American visions of child-rearing as well as the ambivalences and contradictions within these visions.

The article “At Once Judge, Jury, and Executioner: Rioting and Policing in Philadelphia, 1838-1964,” by Alexander Elkins, GHI Doctoral Fellow in African American History, combines the history of African Americans, the police, and vigilantism to investigate the historical relationship between violent riotous justice and the practice of collective policing in nineteenth and twentieth century America. “The Rise of the Toxic Politics of Migration,” by Elisa Minoff, GHI Fellow in Social and Economic History, examines how a series of controversies in the late 1950s and early 1960s marked a decisive shift in the politics of internal migration within the United States. By tracing how race was injected into the debate and migration was charged with causing urban problems, she seeks to explain how the American politics of migration gradually became “toxic.”

The two articles by the recipients of GHI prizes address topics of transnational history. Ricky Law, winner of the 2013 Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize, argues for the importance of examining the cultural prehistory of the German-Japanese Axis Pact of 1940. His article investigates the role of the interwar German and Japanese mass media in preparing the ground for the axis by studying the portrayal of Japan in German newspapers, motion pictures,
nonfiction, and voluntary associations as well as the depiction of Germany in Japanese dailies, lectures and pamphlets, nonfiction, and language textbooks. Mary Nolan, winner of the 2013 Helmut Schmidt Prize in German-American Economic History, delivered a prize lecture, published here, in which she seeks to place current efforts to increase economic cooperation between Europe and the United States in historical context by examining and comparing the usefulness of three concepts — Americanization, Europeanization, and globalization — for understanding the development of the German economy since 1945.

This *Bulletin*’s conference reports once again reflect the diversity of the Institute’s workshops and conferences. In this issue, they range from medieval history to the home front in World War II, post-1945 Western European migration, and the 1963 “March on Washington.” The calendar of events in our “News” section will inform you of upcoming GHI events and conferences. We hope to have aroused your interest and look forward to welcoming you at a GHI event in the near future.

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