The 2014 Fritz Stern Dissertation Prizes were awarded to Chase Richards (Free University of Berlin) and Ned Richardson-Little (University of Exeter). The award ceremony took place at the 23rd Annual Symposium of the Friends of the German Historical Institute on November 14, 2014. The selection committee was composed of: Jesse Spohnholz (chair; Washington State University), Susan Crane (University of Arizona), and Timothy Brown (Northeastern University). Both prize winners have contributed articles presenting their dissertation research to this issue of the Bulletin (see “Features”).

The committee’s prize citation for Chase Richards’s dissertation “Pages of Progress: German Liberalism and the Popular Press after 1848” (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 2013) read: “Chase Richard’s dissertation … offers a cultural, intellectual, and political history of a critical printing genre at the birth of modern mass media. Familienblätter, or family papers, were general-interest magazines produced for reading at home whose low cost and engaging content attracted millions of readers in the 1850s and 1860s, making them far more popular than any other German media form. Richards uses this genre to investigate German political culture between the failed revolutions of 1848 and unification in 1871. These magazines, he argues, helped shift the minds of those readers whose lack of support was often credited with the failures of 1848. Liberal ideas were able to survive because the audience of the Familienblätter was in the private home. These writings helped marshal a new reading public on unprecedented scales. Yet Richards also shows how the emergent public sphere was subject to a variety of constraints: the limits of their own material textuality, contemporary reading styles, and state censorship. Their publishers and authors operated as cultural middlemen between liberal intellectuals and the bourgeoisie. By examining the publishers (Karl Biedermann, Karl Gutzkow, and Ernst Keil) and authors in these ‘middle brow’ writings, Richards shows that German liberals were not passive after 1848, as often portrayed, but instead found a new audience for bourgeois education. The end result was always beyond publishers’ control, however, given the limits of the superficiality of the genre, the markets for popular readership, and the confines of censorship. The period between 1848 and 1871 has often been treated as an epilogue to revolution or a prelude to unification. But Richards treats it as a critical time of change in German public culture on its own terms. He draws on an impressive and intelligently used range of sources from German libraries and archives, including publishers’ correspondence, augmented by their diaries, lectures and published writings, as well as...
qualitative and quantitative analysis of Familienblätter’s texts and images. He also uses censorship records to understand the dynamic between the emergent bourgeois public sphere and Prussian attempts to control it. His conclusions are guided by a sensitive and well-informed source criticism, including sensitivity to the gendered interests of domestic readers and the financial realities of businesses struggling to expand their market share. Richards’s ‘Pages of Progress’ is a pleasure to read, thoughtfully conceptualized, well organized, superbly researched, and written with flair.”

The prize citation for Ned Richardson-Little’s dissertation “Between Dictatorship and Dissent: Ideology, Legitimacy and Human Rights in East Germany, 1945–1990” (Ph.D. dissertation, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2013) read: “Edward Richardson-Little’s dissertation ... is an intellectually challenging and beautifully written study of human rights politics in the German Democratic Republic. Upon learning that leaders and supporters of the ruling Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands (SED) often invoked human rights, one might be tempted to imagine this practice as a cynical use of rhetoric by a dictatorial government to combat a rival Western vision of democracy and capitalism. However, Richardson-Little persuasively demonstrates that the SED and its supporters convinced many religious leaders, intellectuals, and working class supporters that socialism supported an indigenous brand of human rights superior to the individualistic, liberal version offered by the West. Richardson-Little makes excellent use of a wide range of sources from fourteen German archives to argue that, not only was there a thriving debate about human rights in East Germany, but also that citizens used that discourse to express dissent. Quite early, the SED developed its own Marxist conception of human rights to criticize the West, including the dangers of Western imperialism. The East German regime encouraged its citizens to believe that there could be “no human rights without Socialism.” The SED established a Committee for Human Rights, argued for human rights solidarity in the Third World, and used human rights as a basis for international agreements with the West. By the mid-1980s the discourse of human rights fostered by the SED provided peace activists, environmentalists, and advocates of democracy a powerful tool to oppose East German policies as well. The strength of their arguments helps explain the speed of revolutionary impulses by 1989. The SED’s use of human rights discourse, Richardson-Little demonstrates, played a critical role in legitimizing its own downfall. The topic of human rights has received a great deal of scholarly attention from recent historians, largely as part of narratives of the spread of Western values. However,
as Richardson–Little points out, contradictions between a rhetoric of human rights and political policies that violate those rights characterized Western powers as well. Historians should be no less willing to accept that contemporaries in East Germany could value human rights, even if their envisioned path to achieving those rights varied significantly from their Western counterparts. In the face of continued debates about the limits of the West’s commitment to human rights, Richardson–Little’s ‘Between Dictatorship and Dissent’ thus makes a significant and timely contribution, both to the historiography on modern Germany and to the emerging scholarship on human rights.”

GHI Publication Awarded Hans Rosenberg Book Prize

*German Merchants in the Nineteenth–Century Atlantic* by Lars Maischak, a volume in the GHI’s book series with Cambridge University Press, was awarded the Hans Rosenberg Prize for the best book in Central European history in 2014 by the Central European History Society. The prize was presented to Maischak at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in January 2015. *German Merchants in the Nineteenth–Century Atlantic* is based upon a dissertation that was awarded the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize by the Friends of the German Historical Institute in 2006. Maischak earned his doctorate at the Johns Hopkins University and teaches history at the California State University, Fresno.

NEW STAFF PUBLICATIONS

Monographs and Edited Volumes


Articles and Chapters


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STAFF CHANGES

Elisabeth Engel joined the GHI as a Research Fellow in October 2014. She specializes in North American history with research interests in colonial and transnational entanglements in the Atlantic world. She received her Ph.D. in January 2014 from the Graduate School of North American Studies at the John F. Kennedy Institute, Freie Universität Berlin, and worked at the departments of North American history of the Universität zu Köln, Kassel, and Freie Universität Berlin. Her dissertation on African American missionary work in colonial Africa (1900-1939) was awarded the Franz Steiner Prize for outstanding manuscripts in the history of transatlantic relations. In her new project, Elisabeth Engel aims to explore how notions of “risk” were constructed and inscribed into the everyday routines of revolutionary Americans as the British imperial power retreated.

Stefan Hörder, GHI Research Fellow since 2012, left the Institute in January 2015 to become the director of the KZ-Gedenkstätte Mittelbau-Dora.

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GHI FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

GHI Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships

The GHI awards short-term fellowships to German and American doctoral students as well as postdoctoral scholars in the fields of German history, the history of German-American relations, and the history of the roles of Germany and the United States in international relations. The fellowships are also available to German doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars in the field of American history. The fellowships are usually granted for periods of one to six months but, depending on the funds available, can be extended by one or more months. The research projects must draw upon primary sources located in the United States. The GHI also offers a
number of other doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships with more specific profiles. For further information and current application deadlines, please check our web site at www.ghi-dc.org/fellowships.

GHI Internships

The GHI Internship Program gives German and American students of history, political science, and library studies an opportunity to gain experience at a scholarly research institute. Interns assist individual research projects, work for the library, take part in the preparation and hosting of conferences, and help with our publications. They receive a small stipend. The program is very flexible in the sense that the GHI tries to accommodate the interns’ interests, abilities, and goals. A two-month minimum stay is required; a three-month stay is preferred. There is a rolling review of applications. For further information, please check our web site at www.ghi-dc.org/internships.

RECIPIENTS OF GHI FELLOWSHIPS

Postdoctoral

James Boyd, Cardiff University
Connecting Colony and Republic: German-American Migration Across the Revolutionary Divide: The Inaugural Immigration of Germans into Baltimore

Sabine Horlitz, Technische Universität Berlin
Die Labor Housing Conference: Zum Verhältnis von Gewerkschaftsbewegung und modernem, sozial orientierten Wohnungsbau in den USA der 1930er Jahre

David Jünger, Freie Universität Berlin

Stefan Manz, Aston University
German Brewers in Britain and the United States before and during World War I: Comparing Glasgow and Washington, DC

Hanno Scheerer, Universität Trier
Capitalism and Land: The Global Land Reform Movement at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century
Doctoral

Helena Barop, Universität Freiburg
Mohnblumenkriege: Interventionistische Drogenpolitik und die Grenzen staatlicher Macht 1960-1980

Sonja Dolinsek, Universität Erfurt
Von der Devianz zur Sexarbeit: Transnationale Debatten über Prostitution in international Organisationen und NGOs nach 1945

Ann-Katrin Liepold, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
Corn: An Environmental History

Jan Mittenzwei, Universität Greifswald
National Sozialismus in Pommern, 1922-1945

Nathalie Oelert, Universität Kassel

Jean-Michel Turcotte, Université Laval
How to treat Hitler’s soldiers? German prisoners of war in Canada, the United States and Great-Britain during the Second World War.

Katharine White, George Washington University
The “Red Woodstock” Generation: A Study of East Germans between the West and the Global South (1970s-1990s)

Melanie Woitas, Universität Erfurt
“We become what we do!”— Eine Geschichte des Aerobics

John Woitkowitz, University of Calgary
Making Sense of the Arctic: A Cultural History of U.S.-Canadian Defense Cooperation in the Arctic, 1940-1957

GHI RESEARCH SEMINAR, FALL 2014

September 10, Claudia Haake (La Trobe University, Melbourne)
Land, Rights, and Writing: Iroquois Political Representations in the Age of Removal, 1830–1887

November 5, Jens Gründler (Institut für Geschichte der Medizin der Robert Bosch Stiftung)
“Wir sind Gott sei Dank noch alle Gesund!” Resources of Health of German Immigrants to the US, 1830–1930
November 19  Juliane Czierpka (Universität Göttingen)
   *The Commercialization of Professional Football in Historical Perspective*

December 10  Nathan Delaney (Case Western Reserve University)
   *Non-Ferrous Metal Traders and their North American Networks: The Case of the American Metal Company*

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**GHI DOCTORAL SEMINAR, FALL 2014**

September 11  Andrew Zonderman (Emory University)
   *Embracing Empire: Eighteenth-Century German Migrants and the Development of the British Imperial System*

   Gregg French (University of Western Ontario)
   *An “Instinctive Mutual Attraction”: American Perceptions of Spain and the Spanish Empire in the Long Nineteenth Century, 1776-1914*

   Ulrike Breitsprechter (Universität Leipzig)
   *The Socialist Academic Teacher: Effects of Higher Education Policies on the Faculty of the Humboldt University Berlin in the GDR (1946-1990)*

October 9  Sina Keesser (Technische Universität Darmstadt)
   *Raum im Bild: Darstellungstechniken der Planungspraxis*

   Franziskus von Boeselager (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
   *Die Bedeutung der Regelung der deutschen Auslandsschulden für die Finanzierung von Unternehmen in Westdeutschland (1948-60)*

   Christoph Ellßel (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)
   *Das amerikanisch-australische Wissenschaftsnetz 1945-1990.*

November 20  Julia Heunemann (Universität Weimar)
   *Untreffen mariner Zeitlichkeit: Formationen des Wissens über das Meer, ca. 1770-1870*

   Patrick Gaul (Universität Frankfurt)
   *“Der folgenschwerste Principienkampf des neunzehnten Jahrhunderts”: Rezeption und Folgen des amerikanischen Bürgerkriegs in Deutschland, 1861-1871*
To strengthen national security in the climate of fear after the September 11, 2001, the U.S. Congress rushed to pass the U.S. Patriot Act, which George W. Bush signed into law on October 26, 2001. This law gave law enforcement agencies unprecedented powers to gain access to the telephone, e-mail and other records of U.S. citizens and to secretly search homes and offices through “national security letters” rather than regular court warrants. In December 2005, the New York Times revealed that President Bush had also secretly authorized the National Security Agency to monitor the international telephone and electronic communications of Americans without the court-approved warrants required for domestic spying under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Most recently, Edward Snowden’s 2013 revelations about the National Security Agency’s global mass surveillance have sparked controversy and demonstrated that totalitarian regimes are not the only ones that regularly invade citizens’ privacy both at home and abroad.

The German Historical Institute’s Spring Lecture Series 2015, “Intelligence Services and Civil Liberties: Security and Privacy in Historical Perspective,” organized in cooperation with the National History Center, seeks to explore these issues in a comparative and historical perspective. Our speakers will examine how democratic governments in Germany, the United States, and Switzerland have grappled with balancing the need for security and citizens’ rights.

Organized in cooperation with the National History Center

April 2 Parliamentary Oversight of Intelligence: The German Experience
Wolfgang Krieger (University of Marburg)

April 23 The History of the Fourth Amendment
Laura K. Donahue (Georgetown University)

May 14 Freedom against Freedom: Swiss State Security in the Cold War Era and Beyond
Georg Kreis (University of Basel)

June 4 Security, Privacy, and the German-American Relationship
Loch K. Johnson (University of Georgia)
GHI CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

For a regularly updated calendar of events, please check our web site at www.ghi-dc.org.

January 2  The Changing World of Immigrant Entrepreneurship: Three Centuries of German-American Experience
Panel at the 129th annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New York City

March 5 – 7  Germans in the Pacific World from the late 17th to 20th Century
Conference at the University of California in San Diego
Conveners: Hartmut Berghoff (GHI), Frank Biess (University of California San Diego), Ulrike Strasser (University of California San Diego)

March 26 – 28  “Consumer Engineering”: Mid-Century Mass Consumption between Planning Euphoria and the Limits of Growth, 1930s-1970s
Conference at the Universität Göttingen
Conveners: Gary Cross (Pennsylvania State University), Ingo Köhler (Universität Göttingen), and Jan Logemann (GHI)

May 7 – 9  Jewish Consumer Cultures in 19th and 20th Century Europe and America
Conference at the GHI
Conveners: Paul Lerner (University of Southern California / Max Kade Institute for Austrian-German-Swiss Studies), Anne C. Schenderlein (GHI), Uwe Spiekermann (GHI)

May 8  Twelfth Workshop on Early Modern German History
Conference at the GHI London
Conveners: Bridget Heal (University of St. Andrews), David Lederer (National University of Ireland, Maynooth), Angela Schattner (GHI London), and Jenny Spinks (University of Manchester)

May 21  History Lived and History Written: Germany and the United States, 1945/55-2015
Gerald D. Feldman Memorial Lecture at the GHI
Speaker: Charles Maier (Harvard University)
May 21 – 22  A Great Divide? America between Exceptionalism and Transnationalism
Conference at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich
Convener: Michael Kimmage (Catholic University of America), Uwe Lübken (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität), Andrew Preston, (University of Cambridge), Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson (GHI)

May 27 – 30  21st Transatlantic Doctoral Seminar: Twentieth-Century German History
Seminar at the Humboldt-Universität, Berlin
Conveners: Anna von der Goltz (Georgetown University), Richard F. Wetzell (GHI), Michael Wildt (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)

May 28 – 29  The Practices of Structural Policy in Western Market Economies since the 1960s
Conference at the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam
Conveners: Ralf Ahrens (Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam), Astrid M. Eckert (Emory University), Stefan Hörldler (GHI)

May 29 – June 2  Gender, War and Culture: History and Historiography since the Seventeenth Century
Conference at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Convener: Karen Hagemann (UNC Chapel Hill) and Mischa Honeck (GHI)

May 29 – 30  Nature Protection, Environmental Policy and Social Movements in Communist and Capitalist Countries during the Cold War
Conference at the GHI
Conveners: Astrid Mignon Kirchhof (Georgetown University / GHI) and John McNeill (Georgetown University)

June 4-6  The U.S. South in the Black Atlantic: Transnational Histories of the Jim Crow South since 1865
Conference at the GHI
Conveners: Elisabeth Engel (GHI), Nicholas Grant (University of East Anglia), Mischa Honeck (GHI)

June 12-13  Financialization: A New Chapter in the History of Capitalism?
Conference at the GHI
Conveners: Hartmut Berghoff (GHI), Kenneth Lipartito (Florida International University), Moritz Schularick (Universität Bonn), Laura Rischbieter (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)
July 3-4  
**Fourth Junior Scholars Conference in German-Jewish History: “Heritage” in the Study of Jewish and Other (Diaspora) Cultures — The Search for Roots as a Recurring Theme of 19th and 20th Century History**
Conference at the Institute for the History of the German Jews, Hamburg
Conveners: Miriam Rürup (Institute for the History of the German Jews, Hamburg), Anne Schenderlein (GHI), Mirjam Zadoff (Indiana University)

September 9-11  
Conference in Gauting/Munich
Conveners: Sebastian Frenzel (Technische Universität Dresden), Alexandra Ortmann (Berlin), Désirée Schauz (Technische Universität München), Richard F. Wetzell (GHI)

October 15-17  
**Medieval History Seminar 2015**
Seminar at the GHI
Conveners: Stuart Airlie (University of Glasgow), Paul Freedman (Yale University), Jan Jansen (GHI Washington), Bernhard Jussen (Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main), Ruth Mazo Karras (University of Minnesota), Cornelia Linde (GHI London), Frank Rexroth (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen), and Miri Rubin (Queen Mary University of London)

October 21-23  
**Nineteenth-Century Anti-Semitism in International Perspective**
Conference at the GHI Paris
Co-organized by the Max Weber Foundation and its institutes

December 4-5  
**Atlantic Brotherhoods: Fraternalism in Transcontinental Perspective (18th-early 20th century)**
Conference at the GHI
Conveners: Jessica Harland-Jacobs (University of Florida), Jan C. Jansen (GHI)