This issue of the *Bulletin* reflects two main themes: the history of knowledge, which is one of the Institute’s current areas of research concentration, and the centenary of the end of the First World War in 1918. The issue opens with an article by distinguished historian of science Lorraine Daston (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin) on the history of “Calculation and the Division of Labor” from 1750 to 1950, which is based on the presentation she delivered as GHI’s 31st Annual Lecture last November. Daston begins with the observation that while there is now a rich historical literature on the history of reading and writing, we still know very little about the history of calculation. Daston’s penetrating analysis of how the introduction of calculating machines changed the organization of labor in the “Big Calculation” projects of astronomy, railways or government statistics reveals that the capacity of machines to calculate did not lead contemporaries to the conclusion that machines were intelligent (as the current fascination with Artificial Intelligence might suggest) but that most calculation was mechanical and mindless. The effect of making calculation mechanical was “to disqualify it as an intelligent activity,” which helps to explain why the history of calculation has attracted much less scholarly attention than that of reading and writing.

Our second article is the keynote lecture delivered by Jörn Leonhard (University of Freiburg) at this year’s Annual Conference of the GHI’s parent foundation, the Max Weber Foundation, which was organized by the GHI Washington on the topic “Settlement and Unsettlement: The Ends of World War I and their Legacies.” In his lecture, “The Overburdened Peace: Competing Visions of World Order in 1918/19,” Leonhard, the author of the acclaimed *Pandora’s Box: A History of the First World War*, offers a comprehensive analysis of the postwar peace settlement. Alive to the contradictory mixture of ruptures and continuities that characterized the postwar situation, he argues that the war’s long years of violence and sacrifice provoked enormous expectations that overtaxed the peace from the outset. Not only did the practical implementation of the concept of national self-determination prove contentious as it came up against the realities of multiethnic populations and competing identities, but the triumph of the nation state became increasingly dissociated from democracy.
Jennifer Jenkins’s (University of Toronto) article on the “German moment” in 1918 shifts the focus from the postwar peace settlement back to the first eight months of the year 1918. Originating in a conference panel organized by the GHI’s “German History Intersections” Project at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Jenkins’s article recovers the “radically different picture of Germany’s future” that characterized the months following the conclusion of the Brest-Litovsk treaty in March 1918. While German wartime plans for Mitteleuropa are well-known, Jenkins examines German plans for the creation of a German economic sphere much further East, across the territories of the former Russian Empire, in what the planners called the “New Orient.” Focusing on the Caucasus and Iran, she investigates the complex interaction of German diplomats, the German military, and Georgian and Persian local elites in order to argue that the “Wilsonian moment” of 1919 was preceded by a “German imperial moment” in 1918, which, despite Germany’s defeat, created connections that were revitalized in the 1920s and 1930s.

The next article presents the research of the 2017 Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize winner, Bradley Nichols (Virginia Tech). The Friends of the German Historical Institute award the prize annually for the best dissertation in German history completed at a North American university. In his article, Nichols examines Nazi Germany’s “Re-Germanization Procedure” (Wiedereindeutschungsverfahren), a program that was designed to assimilate “racially kindred” foreigners by sending them to live with German families within the Reich, which eventually drew in about 100,000 people. By focusing on the responses of re-Germanization candidates as well as ordinary Germans to this program, Nichols enriches the history of Nazi racial policy with an important perspective from below. The Nazi regime’s perception that the program had popular backing, he argues, allowed the re-Germanization procedure to become a “pilot project for the assimilation of millions,” designed to help consolidate the Nazi “New Order” in Europe.

This issue’s last feature article, in which GHI Deputy Director Axel Jansen shares one of his research projects, returns to the history of knowledge. In this piece, Jansen examines the American debate on human embryonic stem cells between 1998 and 2004 as a key episode in the history of the public legitimacy of science in the United States. Paying close attention to how the development of scientific knowledge affected the public and political debates over human embryonic
stem cells, Jansen reveals the dual role that scientists played: on the one hand, serving in the role of experts who explain their research to journalists and to the public, while, on the other hand, acting in the role of advocates fighting to secure funding for their research; two roles that could, as he shows, on occasion be at cross-purposes.

The conference reports in this issue reflect the Institute’s current focus on the history of knowledge and the history of migration. Recent conferences addressing the history of knowledge have been devoted to the history of the creation and dissemination of knowledge among African Americans and Jews and the twentieth-century history of expertise and imperial power. The GHI’s most recent digital history conference examined the topic “Creating Historical Knowledge Socially: New Approaches, Opportunities and Epistemological Implications of Undertaking Research with Citizen Scholars.” Recent conferences on the history of migration have included the 2017 Bucerius Young Scholars Forum, which was devoted to “Histories of Migration: Transatlantic and Global Perspectives,” as well as two conferences on the intersection of the histories of migration and knowledge: “Knowledge in Flight: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Scholar Rescue in North America,” and the GHI’s 2017 GSA panel series on “Kinship, Knowledge, and Migration.”

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