COMPETING MODERNITIES

The German Historical Institute and the Humboldt University Berlin joined forces in 2005 for the project “Competing Modernities: Germany and the United States, 1890 to the Present.” Made possible by a grant from the Robert Bosch Stiftung (Stuttgart), the project was organized by Christof Mauch, then director of the GHI, and Kiran Klaus Patel. Additional support was provided by the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies. The project’s goal was to systematically compare the historical development of the United States and Germany from a number of vantage points over an extended period of time. To that end, the project directors assembled a group of leading German and American scholars and paired them off in “tandems.” Each tandem was asked to produce a synthetic essay comparing developments in a particular sphere in the two countries during the twentieth century. They presented preliminary versions of their essays in Washington as the GHI’s spring and fall lecture series in 2006. The essays were subsequently published in both German and English: Wettlauf um die Moderne. Die USA und Deutschland 1890 bis heute (Munich: Pantheon Verlag, 2008); The United States and Germany During the Twentieth Century: Competition and Convergence (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

Public Events
Competing Modernities: Germany and the United States, 1890 to the Present German Historical Institute Spring and Fall Lecture Series 2006 Fourteen lectures held at the GHI between February and December 2006

Wettlauf um die Moderne: Die USA und Deutschland 1890 bis heute Book presentation at the Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin June 20, 2008

Die USA und Deutschland im Wettlauf um die Moderne Book presentation at the Forschungsstelle für Zeitgeschichte Hamburg October 30, 2008

Immer eine Nasenlänge voraus? Amerika und Deutschland im Wettlauf um die Moderne Book presentation at the Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, Kaiserslautern January 20, 2009