German Historical Institute

German History Intersections
German History Intersections is a new source-based digital project that examines three broad themes – migration, knowledge and education, and German identity – from 1500 to the present. Organized by the German Historical Institute (GHI), Washington, DC, the project aims to move beyond traditional period-driven history, situate Germans and Germany within larger transnational contexts, and use digital media to bring together diverse historical sources in thought-provoking new ways. By taking a long view, the Intersections project will offer an alternative to standard chronological histories while exploring the ways in which Germans have intersected with other peoples, cultures, and nations over both time and place. The result will be a bilingual (English-German), open-access website consisting of three modules, each of which will include a variety of textual, visual, and multimedia sources.

Sponsored by the Transatlantic Program of the European Recovery Program (German Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy), the Intersections project is geared toward North American, German, and global audiences. Since the featured sources will examine complicated themes through the lenses of both past and present, the project will lend itself to general educational and classroom use. At the same time, the topicality of the three chosen themes, all of which stand at the forefront of public debate on both sides of the Atlantic, will ensure the project’s relevance among broader audiences.

Technical and editorial work on the Intersections project is currently under way. The first sources are scheduled to appear online in 2018. Additional thematic modules are envisioned and will be added after the completion of the first stage of the project in 2019. If you have ideas for additional modules, please contact the GHI at intersections@ghi-dc.org.
Primary Sources

Each of the three modules (migration, knowledge and education, and German identity) will include a selection of approximately 100 primary-source documents representing a variety of genres. Each document will appear in its original language (typically German) and in English translation. In addition to transcriptions, document facsimiles will be included wherever possible. Facsimiles support close analysis and preserve textual information that can only be conveyed visually. Furthermore, each module will include approximately 100 high-resolution images as well as audio and video clips, all of which will be carefully attributed and presented as historical sources in their own right. By emphasizing images and multimedia sources, *German History Intersections* will respond to the visual turn in scholarship while appealing to today’s visually attuned student audiences.

The primary sources will be accompanied by explanatory background texts, including document abstracts, image captions, and brief introductions to the audio and video clips. Additionally, each module will feature a long-form scholarly introduction to the given theme. This text will approach the theme from a broad historiographical perspective while providing an overall framework for interpreting the various individual sources.

**Digital Platform**

*German History Intersections* will rely on a custom-built, open-source platform that combines a Scalar 2.0 presentation layer with an eXist database. Among other advantages, Scalar 2.0 allows for the easy enrichment of all source materials with Dublin Core metadata. It also offers optimal support for media files while facilitating the creative juxtaposition of textual, visual, and multimedia sources. All primary source materials will be searchable by author, subject, and keyword. Furthermore, varied and diverse navigational pathways through the site will allow users to browse materials in different ways.
Just as literal and figurative meeting points between peoples, systems, and networks serve as a guiding thematic focus of *German History Intersections*, collaboration plays an integral role in the editorial work process. Each thematic module is being prepared by a four-member working group consisting of junior and senior scholars based in both Germany and North America. Several working group meetings have already taken place at the GHI and in Munich and Berlin.

**Project Participants**

**Migration**
Deniz Göktürk (University of California at Berkeley)
Dirk Hoerder (Arizona State University and University of Bremen)
Annika Orich (University of California at Berkeley)
Sakine Yildiz (University of Osnabrück)

**Knowledge and Education**
Anne Mariss (University of Regensburg)
Christopher Neumaier (Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam)
Michael Printy (Yale University)
Jeffrey Zalar (University of Cincinnati)

**German Identity**
Winson Chu (University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee)
Hannah Margaret Elmer (Columbia University)
Martina Kessel (University of Bielefeld)
Eva Marie Lehner (University of Duisburg)