



Call for Presentations: Research Seminar in Contemporary History of the German Historical Institute
Writing a Transnational History: Historiographic and Methodological Challenges
Deadline for submissions: 15 June 2021

Since 2016, the research seminar in contemporary history at the German Historical Institute Paris (GHIP) has sought to foster exchanges between contemporary historians across linguistic and cultural barriers. To continue these reflections on transnational history, in the autumn 2021 we are opening the seminar to researchers who would like to discuss and reflect on their transnational research projects. Early career researchers and/or current and former grantees and visiting researchers of the GHIP are particularly welcome to join us.

The objective is to think together about problems and challenges which are specific to research projects not only with transnational objects, but that may be rooted in multiple disciplines and/or academic cultures. How are research objects constructed in transnational contexts? How can we write a history that extends beyond the constraints of the national, and that is not limited to histories of binational relations? How can we create parameters of analysis other than those of the nation-state? How do we approach periodization, or even the notion of “context”? As scholars of the transnational, how do we position ourselves within disciplinary fields – a question that is all the more challenging for those navigating between disciplines which themselves may stand differently in different national contexts? How do we manage a diversity of expectations and methodological norms? How do we juggle, or translate, concepts across languages? How do we respond to the implicit or explicit expectations of particular research communities while acting as conceptual translators and intermediaries? Looking closely at historiographic traditions, we will explore the questions of why and how different ways of writing social, political or cultural history can or should be integrated. Echoing our own research projects, we are particularly looking forward to proposals in the areas of Jewish history, gender history, history of minorities, democracy history, knowledge and technical history. Researchers from other areas of the social sciences and humanities whose projects feature a historical dimension are also welcome to apply.

In autumn 2021 we plan to hold 4-5 sessions, generally on Tuesday afternoons. The languages of the seminar are German, French, and/or English, depending on the session. The seminar will either be in a face-to-face/hybrid format, with travel expenses reimbursed, or be held completely online, in accordance with the ongoing conditions of the pandemic and participants’ availability. Speakers can either provide a paper in advance to be presented in a short talk, or propose only a talk of no more than 15–20 minutes. As each session features paired presentations, applicants may wish (but are under no obligation) to suggest a colleague to discuss similar or related issues.

Proposals for papers/talks (of no more than 250 words) can be submitted using the following form by 15 June 2021: <https://survey3.gwdg.de/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=966889&lang=en>
The programme for the autumn semester will be published in July 2021.

Seminar organizing committee: [Department of Contemporary History](#), German Historical Institute: Axel Dröber, Agnieszka Wierzcholska, Celia Burgdorff, Gérald Kembellec, Jürgen Finger, Mareike König, Margot Lyautey, and Zoé Kergomard.

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