RUPTURES AND LINKAGES: BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY IN THE SOUTH

An international conference organised by the German Historical Institute London (GHIL) and the Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin (ZMO)

London, 16-18 February 2012

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 16 February 2012

1.00  Arrival

1.30  Welcome by Andreas Gestrich, Director of the GHIL
Introduction by Heike Liebau, Achim von Oppen and Silke Strickrodt, conference convenors

2.00  Panel 1: Biographical Ruptures in Translocal Contexts
Chair: Achim von Oppen (Bayreuth)

A.R. Venkathachalapathy (Singapore), From Erode to Volga: Periyar EVR’s European Tour, 1932

Dyala Hamzah (Berlin), Biography and ‘Gray Zones’: The ‘German Career’ of the Pan-Arabist Darwish al-Miqdadi (1897-1961) in Nazi Germany, 1936-1939

3.20  Tea and Coffee (in the Common Room)

3.50  Panel 1: Biographical Ruptures in Translocal Contexts (cont.)
Chair: Achim von Oppen (Bayreuth)

Chanfi Ahmed (Berlin), Salafism and Anti-Colonialism by Taqiyyu ad-Din al-Hilali, a Moroccan ‘alim and a Great Traveller (Twentieth Century)

Folasade Hunsu (Ile-Ife), Of Life and Metaphors: Reading a Nigerian Wife’s Experience of Translocation in Hilda Ogbe’s Autobiography The Crumbs off the Wife’s Table (2001)

5.10  Short Break
5.20 Panel 2: Family Biographies across Time and Space  
Chair: Deborah Gaitskell (London)  
Stefanie Michels (Frankfurt), Biographies in a Family History of Cosmopolitan Mobility between Africa, America and Europe  
Waltraud Ernst (Oxford) and Heike Liebau (Berlin), (Post-)Colonial Re-Dislocations: The Family Trajectories of Four Generations in Colonial India and Post-Colonial Pakistan, Late Nineteenth/Early Twentieth-Century Germany and Modern Britain  

Friday, 17 February 2012  
9.00 Panel 2: Family Biographies across Time and Space (cont.)  
Chair: Deborah Gaitskell (London)  
Peter Delius (Johannesburg) and Kirsten Rüther (Hannover), The King, the Missionary and the Missionary’s Daughter: Related but Fractured Biographies from South Africa  

10.30 Tea and Coffee (in the Common Room)  

11.00 Panel 3: Biographies as Knowledge  
Chair: Javed Majeed (London)  
Nilanjan Sarkar (London), Translocalising Death: Biography and Post-Life Identity in Medieval South India  
Kai Kresse (Berlin), Biographies and Trajectories of Social History: Cases from the Swahili Coast  
Sophie Roche (Berlin), Becoming Experts: Biographies of Social Scientists against the Background of Political and Social Transformations in Central Asia  

1.00 Lunch (in the Common Room)  

2.00 Panel 4: Collective Biographies and Networks  
Chair: Silke Strickrodt (London)  
Brigitte Reinwald (Hannover), A Long Way from Africa: Claude McKay on African-American Encounters and ‘Black Sociality’ in Post-First World War Marseille  
Joachim Oesterheld (Berlin), The Years in Interwar Berlin: Implications for the Biographies of Indian Students  

4.00 Tea and Coffee (in the Common Room)
4.30 Film ‘Die Prinzessin von Sansibar’ (Tink Diaz, 2007) with comment by Sauda Barwani (Hamburg) and discussion
   Chair: Heike Liebau (Berlin)

7.00 Dinner (in the Library)

Saturday, 18 February 2012

9.00 Panel 5: Biographies and the Boundaries of History: New Challenges
   Chair: Joachim Oesterheld (Berlin)
   Kristin Mann (Atlanta), Writing the Trans-Atlantic Biographies of Slaves and Freed People: West Africa and Brazil
   Richard Wittmann (Istanbul), In Search of the Ottoman Individual: A Multiethnic Empire and Its Fragmented Historiographies
   Benjamin Zachariah (Berlin/Sheffield), The Biographical Temptation: The Individual as Metonymy for ‘Community’, ‘Nation’ and ‘Species’

11.00 Tea and Coffee (in the Common Room)

11.30 Concluding Discussion
   Chair: Andreas Gestrich (London)
   Discussants: Dyala Hamza (Berlin), Achim von Oppen (Bayreuth), Kirsten Rüther (Hannover)

1.30 End of Conference