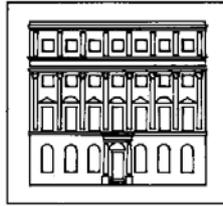


GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE LONDON



SEMINARS — AUTUMN 2012

9 Oct. **JAHNAVI PHALKEY (LONDON)**

From Wind Tunnels to Jet Fighters: German Émigrés and the Making of Aeronautics in India

Even though recent scholarship has brought German advances in aeronautics and aerodynamics during the middle of the twentieth century to our attention, we are nowhere close to an overview of its global spread and impact beyond the West. This paper will explore one aspect of this history by drawing on the stories of German émigré scientists and engineers in India. It will attempt to link three separate waves of German emigration to India (1930s to the 1950s) with the development of facilities for advanced research, education, and eventually manufacturing of aircraft. Jahnavi Phalkey is Lecturer in History of Science and Technology at King's College London. She has studied politics and history of science at the University of Bombay, the School of Oriental and African Studies (London), and Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta). Her research is focused on the history of science at its intersection with the transformation of the Indian subcontinent in the twentieth century, seen especially in its effects on laboratory practice.

30 Oct. **GIDEON REUVENI (SUSSEX)**

From Getting to Spending: Consumer Culture and the Making of Jewish Identity

Anti-Semitic stereotypes of Jews as capitalists have paralysed research into the economic dimension of the Jewish past. The figure of the *Geldjude* haunted the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. But Jews were not only money-makers but also money-spenders. This paper will offer an insight into this crucial and neglected axis of consumption, identity, and Jewish history in Europe. It will show how the advances of modernization and secularization in the modern period increased the importance of consumption in Jewish life, making it a significant factor in the process of re-defining Jewishness. Gideon Reuveni is Reader in History and Director of the Centre for German Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex. He is the author of *Reading Germany: Literature and Consumer Culture in Germany before 1933* (2006) and co-editor of several other books on different aspects of Jewish history. Presently he is working on a book on consumer culture and Jewishness in Europe.

20 Nov. **LUCIAN HÖLSCHER (BOCHUM)**

The First World War as a 'Break' in the European History of the Twentieth Century

The First World War was more than a turning point; it was a break in European history which prompted a reorientation of biographies, political and social systems, and, above all, mental structures in almost all academic disciplines. Starting from biographical sketches from the time of the war, the paper will demonstrate the confusion and reorientation of concepts of time and history during and after the war in Germany. Lucian Hölscher is Professor of Modern History and the Theory of History at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum. His main fields of research are the social, cultural, and religious history of modern times, the history of concepts, the history of notions of the future, and the theory of time and space. He is author of *Die Entdeckung der Zukunft* (1999); *Neue Annalistik: Umriss einer Theorie der Geschichte* (2003); *Geschichte der protestantischen Frömmigkeit* (2005); and *Semantik der Leere: Grenzfragen der Geschichtswissenschaft* (2009).

27 Nov. **RENATE DÜRR (TÜBINGEN)**

Storytelling as a Principle of Knowledge Transfer in the German Jesuit Mission Journal *Der Neue Weltbott*

Der neue Weltbott appeared between 1726 and 1761. Comprising texts, maps, and illustrations, its aim was both the edification of readers and the transfer of knowledge in arts and crafts, nature, and law. Starting from the journal's attempts at a precise localization and representation of knowledge, the talk will seek to analyse storytelling more generally as a principle of (Jesuit) epistemology. Renate Dürr is Professor of Modern History at the Eberhard Karls Universität in Tübingen. Her research interests include the correlation of architectural space with spheres of political action and comparative studies of prophets in the early modern period. Among her recent publications are *Frauenarbeit in Haus, Handel und Gewerbe: Ihr Beitrag zur Hamburger Stadtwirtschaft im 14. Jahrhundert* (2005); and *Politische Kultur in der Frühen Neuzeit: Kirchenräume in Hildesheimer Stadt- und Landgemeinden, 1550–1750* (2006).

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Seminars are held at 5 p.m. in the Seminar Room of the German Historical Institute,
17 Bloomsbury Square, LONDON WC1A 2NJ.

Tea is available from 4.30 p.m. in the Common Room, and wine is served after the seminars.

Guided tours of the Library are available before each seminar at 4 p.m.