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## German Historical Institute London

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### SEMINARS — SPRING 2016

12 January

**MADELEINE HERREN (Basel)**

**Claiming a Connected World: The Arctic from Mussolini to the United Nations (1928–46)**

In May 1928 the crash of an Italian airship over the North Pole prompted international rescue operations and a media hype around the globe. The lecture will argue that this accident signalled an epistemic shift in the understanding of globality. From the 1920s the Arctic was transformed from an 'empty space' into a new imaginary of connectedness, visible today in the emblem of the UN. Madeleine Herren is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for European Global Studies at the University of Basel. She has published widely on European and global history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, internationalism, and the history of international organizations. Her books include *Internationale Organisationen seit 1865: Eine Globalgeschichte der internationalen Ordnung* (2009) and *Transcultural History: Theories, Methods, Sources* (co-authored, 2012).

26 January

**AMANDA VICKERY (London)**

**Reputation Management in Late Eighteenth-Century Europe: Angelica Kauffman, the Women and the Men**

This lecture deals with the economic success and reputation management of the Swiss–Austrian artist Angelica Kauffman (1741–1807), focusing on her London career from 1766 to 1781. She was one of only two female artists admitted to the fledgling Royal Academy. The lecture is a study in the art of female public relations. Kauffman achieved unique recognition and spectacular commercial success, all the while sustaining a reputation for ingenuous innocence. How did she pull it off? Amanda Vickery is Professor of Early Modern History at Queen Mary, University of London. She is the prize-winning author of *The Gentleman's Daughter* (1998) and *Behind Closed Doors: At Home in Georgian England* (2009). In 2014 she researched and wrote 'The Story of Women and Art' for BBC2.

1 March

**PAUL READMAN (London)**

**Historical Pageants and the Medieval Past in Twentieth-Century Britain**

Many thousands of large-scale historical pageants were performed in Britain across the twentieth century. In these spectacular re-enactments of history, myth, and folklore, the medieval past loomed large, even in modern centres of industry such as Manchester and Birmingham. This lecture considers what this 'pageant fever' tells us about the place of the past and the relationship between local and national identities in modern British social and cultural life. Paul Readman is Professor of Modern British History at King's College London. His publications include *Land and Nation in England* (2008); as co-editor, *The Land Question in Britain, 1832–14* (2010); *Borderlands in World History, 1700–1914* (2014); and *Walking Histories, 1800–1914* (2016). His present research focuses on historical pageants and the place of the past in modern Britain, and on meanings of landscape in England between c.1750 and c.1950.

15 March

**ANDREAS BIHRER / JULIA ILGNER (Kiel / Freiburg)**

**Narrating the King: Historiographical and Literary Representations of Alfred the Great in German–English Discourse on Power in the Nineteenth Century**

In nineteenth-century Germany public opinion about the Anglo-Saxon king Alfred the Great was shaped both by leading historians and well-known poets of the time. This interdisciplinary lecture will analyse how historians such as Gervinus or Winkelmann established influential narratives, while Wilhelminian poets like Fontane and Dahn worked towards Alfred's 'refunctionalization' and heroic 'reinterpretation'. Andreas Bihrer is Professor of Medieval History at Kiel University. He specializes in diocese history, historiography and hagiography, and Anglo-Saxon history from a European perspective. He is the author of *Begegnungen zwischen dem ostfränkisch-deutschen Reich und England* (2012); *Reformverlierer 1000–1800*, ed. with Dietmar Schiersner (forthcoming 2016); and *Die Angelsachsen in Europa* (forthcoming 2017). Julia Ilgner is a Ph.D. student at Freiburg University specializing in the genre of the German historical novel. She is co-editor of *Arthur Schnitzlers Filmskripts* and *Transformations of History* (both 2015).

**Please check for any last minute changes on 020 7309 2050 (tel.) or visit: <http://www.ghil.ac.uk>**

Seminars are held at 5.30 p.m. in the Seminar Room of the German Historical Institute, 17 Bloomsbury Square, LONDON WC1A 2NJ.

Tea is available from 5.00 p.m. in the Common Room, and wine is served after the seminars.

Guided tours of the Library are available before each seminar at 4.30 p.m.