



German  
Historical  
Institute  
London

## SEMINARS — SUMMER 2016

### Narrating the Nineteenth Century: New Approaches

3 May **RICHARD J. EVANS (Cambridge)**

#### **Writing the History of Nineteenth-Century Europe**

In the era of global history, is it still possible to write European history? How should it be periodized? Does it make sense to try to cover the huge variety of subjects that have formed the focus of historical research in recent decades? This talk attempts to answer these and other questions raised in the writing of volume 7 of the new Penguin History of Europe, *The Pursuit of Power: Europe 1815–1914*, to be published this September. Sir Richard is President of Wolfson College, University of Cambridge, and Provost of Gresham College in the City of London. He is the author of numerous books on modern German and European history, and is currently preparing a biography of the historian Eric Hobsbawm.

17 May **WILLIBALD STEINMETZ (Bielefeld)**

#### **Writing a History of Nineteenth-Century Europe: Challenges, Conundrums, Complexities**

This lecture deals with ways of narrating the history of Europe in the nineteenth century. How should we define Europe? What were its specific features in the nineteenth century? One suggestion is that nineteenth-century Europeans were obsessed with comparisons and competitions. Another idea is that they were caught in endless paradoxical demands for equality and recognition of difference. Willibald Steinmetz is the current Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford, and is Professor of Modern and Contemporary Political History at Bielefeld University. Among his publications in English are the edited volumes *Writing Political History Today* (2013), and *Political Languages in the Age of Extremes* (2011).

31 May **JOHANNES PAULMANN (Mainz)**

#### **How Close is the Nineteenth Century? Contemporary Reflections on a History of Europe**

The nineteenth century has just passed from being a memory of the living into the cultural memory of Europe. To some, it seems to have become a very distant past. This talk shows how historians have interpreted the period facing their own contemporary issues. It discusses the changing frames which bring the nineteenth century close to us, or, indeed, have turned it into a foreign country. Johannes Paulmann is Director of the Leibniz Institute of European History in Mainz. His publications include *Pomp und Politik: Monarchenbegegnungen in Europa zwischen Ancien Régime und Erstem Weltkrieg* (2000); *The Mechanics of Internationalism: Culture, Society, and Politics from the 1840s to the First World War* (2001); and *Dilemmas of Humanitarian Aid in the Twentieth Century* (2016).

21 June **DAVID CANNADINE (Princeton)**

#### **Rewriting the British Nineteenth Century**

The nineteenth century was incontrovertibly the 'British century', in which the UK seemed to dominate the globe, and when, for good or ill, 'British history' took place in many other parts of the world as well. At a time when global history has become so prominent, this seems an appropriate opportunity to revisit the years 1800 to 1906. Sir David is Dodge Professor of History at Princeton University. He is the author of numerous books on the history of modern Britain and its empire, capitalism, philanthropy in nineteenth and twentieth century America, and the history of historiography. He was recently appointed editor of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

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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.