



German  
Historical  
Institute  
London

## SEMINARS — AUTUMN 2017

3 October **DAGMAR ELLERBROCK (Dresden)**

### **Trigger-Happy Germans? How to Explain the Transformation of German Gun Culture in the Twentieth Century**

German gun culture in the nineteenth century was marked by widespread ownership and use of private firearms. By the end of the twentieth century German gun culture had become regulated and moralized. How can we account for this transformation? Are emotions important for understanding why the trigger-happy German has all but disappeared? And can other societies learn lessons from this in their efforts to regulate private handguns? Dagmar Ellerbrock is Professor of Modern History at the University of Dresden. In her research she has specialized on the American occupation of Germany after 1945 and German gun culture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She is the author of *Healing Democracy. Demokratie als Heilmittel: Gesundheit, Krankheit und Politik in der amerikanischen Besatzungszone 1945–1949* (2004), and *Deutsche Schießwut: Zur Transformation der deutschen Waffenkultur im 19. und frühen 20. Jahrhundert* (forthcoming 2018).

17 October **ALEXANDRA WALSHAM (Cambridge)**

### **Recycling the Sacred: Material Culture and Cultural Memory after the English Reformation**

This paper examines medieval liturgical artefacts that survived the English Reformation by being converted to alternative religious and secular purposes. It explores the underlying theological assumptions that legitimized such acts of 'recycling'—they offer new insights into how Protestantism reconfigured traditions of commemoration and patterns of remembrance. The paper also considers their role in resisting religious change, in preserving tangible traces of the Catholic past, and in perpetuating and complicating social and cultural memory. Alexandra Walsham is Professor of Modern History at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Trinity College. She has published widely on the religious and cultural history of early modern Britain. Her recent books include *The Reformation of the Landscape: Religion, Identity and Memory in Early Modern Britain and Ireland* (2011) and *Catholic Reformation in Protestant Britain* (2014).

14 November **JAN ECKEL (Tübingen)**

### **New Perspectives on the History of International Politics in the Twentieth Century**

This lecture suggests a new chronology of international politics in the twentieth century. It will argue that the century was marked by a series of transformative moments, not just the second 'thirty years war' followed by the Cold War. In order to understand the crucial driving forces behind international relations, historians need to focus on the interplay between superpower antagonism, anti-imperial aspirations, post-colonial attempts to create a new world order, the deep splits within the Communist world, and the multiple forms of global governance. Jan Eckel is Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at the University of Tübingen. He is the author of the prize-winning book *Die Ambivalenz des Guten: Menschenrechte in der internationalen Politik seit den 1940er Jahren* (2014, forthcoming in English with OUP). He has also specialized in the history of German historiography and scholarship and is currently working on a book on international politics in the twentieth century.

5 December **FRANCES ANDREWS (St Andrews)**

### **Medieval Europe through Monastic Eyes**

As global history takes centre stage, the interconnectedness of high medieval Europe might seem to be a given. Yet the widely held belief that medieval men and women lived their lives with little awareness of the world beyond their village and its fields persists. Nor do modern historians easily associate European interconnectedness with professional religious, the monks, nuns, and friars. This talk opens up an alternative view, exploring the many chapter meetings to which they travelled, how those meetings worked, and what they made of them, picturing medieval Europe through monastic eyes. Frances Andrews is Professor of Medieval History at the University of St Andrews. Her books include *The Early Humiliati* (1999), *The Other Friars* (2006), and several edited volumes, most recently, *Doubting Christianity: The Church and Doubt*, co-edited with Charlotte Methuen and Andrew Spicer (2016).

**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. No registration is necessary.

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.