



German
Historical
Institute
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SEMINARS — AUTUMN 2019

- 15 October **F. BENJAMIN SCHENK (Basle); comment by ANDY WILLIMOTT (London)**
'Hubs of Global Migration': Organizing Transcontinental Flows of People in the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries
Scholars have long treated the history of the trans-Atlantic migration to the Americas and the trans-Ural movement of peasant colonists within the Russian Empire at the end of the nineteenth century separately. In fact, the two processes were interconnected and had a number of striking similarities. One common feature was modern reception and transit camps for immigrants and migrants, which emerged almost simultaneously at various locations along global migration routes. These 'hubs of global migration' became important laboratories of migration management in the modern age.
F. Benjamin Schenk is Professor of Russian and East European History at the University of Basle and currently a Visiting Fellow at the Department of International History, LSE. His most recent monograph is *Russlands Fahrt in die Moderne: Mobilität und sozialer Raum im Eisenbahnzeitalter* (Stuttgart, 2014; Russian translation, 2016).
Commentator Andy Willimott is Lecturer in Modern Russian History at the QMUL School of History.
- 29 October **SARAH STOCKWELL (London)**
'Losing an empire, winning friends'? Sandhurst, Military Assistance, and British Decolonization
In the 1950s and 1960s British institutions delivered a variety of forms of technical and military assistance to emergent Commonwealth states. As a result, the 'end' of empire saw large numbers of Britons still working in the public services of newly independent countries and a great influx of students from former colonies to train and study in Britain, including at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, where British authorities struggled to cope with the high demand for places. This lecture explores what the history of Commonwealth and foreign cadets at post-war Sandhurst tells us about Britain's management and experience of decolonization.
Sarah Stockwell is Professor of Imperial and Commonwealth History at King's College London. Her research focuses on British decolonization. Her most recent book, *The British End of the British Empire* (2018), explores the domestic impact of decolonization principally through analysis of the history of British institutions that had acquired roles within Britain's imperial system.
- 5 November **JOCHEN JOHRENDT (Wuppertal)**
Prester John and his Letter between Intellectual Joke and Contemporary Criticism
In his *History of the Two Cities* (written about 1157), Otto of Freising reports on a 'Prester John', allegedly a descendant of the three Wise Men, who rules in India, and defeats the armies of Muslim rulers. A few years later, the priest king John supposedly addressed a letter to the Byzantine emperor, describing his own kingdom as ideal: a realm of abundance, health, wondrous people, truth, and faith. But why did contemporaries invent this letter, which some Crusaders, in particular, believed to be genuine?
Jochen Johrendt is Professor of Medieval History at the University of Wuppertal. He works on the history of the papacy and on Italy, in particular, Rome. His most recent publication is *Der Investiturstreit* (2018) and he is currently working on a monograph on the medieval papacy.
- 19 November **MARK KNIGHTS (Warwick)**
Corruption and the Invention of Public Office in Britain and its Empire, 1600–1850
The talk will explore several case studies that allow us to chart shifts in attitudes to office-holding, from the idea that an office was a piece of personal property or duty owed to a monarch towards office as a public, disinterested, and accountable responsibility. The examples of Samuel Pepys, Lord Chancellor Macclesfield, Charles Bembridge, and Sir Edward Colebrooke will be used to explore debates over the blurred boundary between gifts and bribes, the sale of office, breach of trust, what constituted a public official, and over how far a universal set of standards should apply across Britain's empire.
Mark Knights is Professor of History at the University of Warwick and his principal research interest is early modern British political culture. His most recent work is *The Devil in Disguise* (2011, paperback 2015), which one kind Amazon reviewer describes as an 'interesting and unusual history book that is so gripping that at times it reads like a murder mystery novel'.

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 one hour before each seminar.