Franz Kafka

‘Before the Law stands a doorkeeper. To this doorkeeper comes a man...’: Kafka, Narrative and the Law
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Wednesday 23 May, 6.30pm
German Historical Institute

References to the law pervade Kafka’s writings, but their meaning remains elusive. It is precisely because it is uncertain whether the law in Kafka’s work is to be understood in juridical, religious, literary, or more generally ontological terms that it has elicited numerous and often contradictory interpretations. The lecture will explore how this indeterminacy and its effects have inspired concepts of justice in modernist thinkers as well as the relationship between law and narrative and its correlation with Jewish approaches to the interaction between Halacha and Aggadah.

This is the third lecture in the series Jews, Politics & Austria, organised by the ACF London together with the Leo Baeck Institute London, and given by Vivian Liska, Senior Professor of German Literature and Director of the Institute of Jewish Studies at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. Her research focuses on modernist literature, German-Jewish literature and culture, and literary theory. Her most recent book is Fremde Gemeinschaft. Deutsch-jüdische Literatur der Moderne (2011).

Upcoming lecture

Wednesday 4 July 2012
Freud Museum London
Mark the Music: Jews, Music and Viennese Modernity
by Sander Gilman
Emory University, USA

Past lectures

Wednesday 15 February 2012
Austrian Cultural Forum London
Zeitgeist and Testimony
Arthur Schnitzler
by Konstanze Fliedl
University of Vienna, Austria

Thursday 29 March 2012
Austrian Ambassador’s Residence
Hans Kelsen 20th Century Lawyer: Comeback not desired
By Professor Raphael Gross
Leo Baeck Institute London

Entry is free, but seating is limited
Please book by 16 May
Booking via the Leo Baeck Institute London
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Venue:
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