



German
Historical
Institute
London

GUEST LECTURE

THOMAS MERGEL (Berlin)

Modern Revolutions: The History of a Mimesis

German Historical Institute, Conference Room

Tuesday, 21 May 2019, 5.30 p.m.

The idea of the modern revolution rests on the idea that all individual revolutions are part of one great and all-embracing movement and this is why, in the nineteenth-century, 'the' revolution became singular. Marx's philosophy of history is pivotal in this respect. The lecture conceptualizes the idea of a 'script' of the revolution, and discusses how the history of the modern revolution can be grasped as the history of a tradition and, in practical terms, as the history of a constant mimesis. It also pursues the problem of how, in the course of the twentieth century, this script began to fade, as revolutions resembled the Marxian concept less and less, so that today we again speak of a plurality of revolutions.

Thomas Mergel is Professor of Twentieth-Century European History at Humboldt University Berlin. He works on the cultural history of politics since the eighteenth century, in particular, on the history of political communication. His publications include *Parlamentarische Kommunikation in der Weimarer Republik: Politische Kommunikation, symbolische Politik und Öffentlichkeit im Reichstag* (3rd edn. 2012)

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

This lecture will be held at 5.30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the German Historical Institute, 17 Bloomsbury Square, LONDON WC1A 2NJ.

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

Guided tours of the Library take place one hour before the lecture.