



**German
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MODERN GERMAN HISTORY SEMINAR
INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

ANNUAL LECTURE OF THE GERMAN HISTORY SOCIETY

MAREN MÖHRING (Leipzig)

Travelling around the World: Mass Entertainment in the
'Haus Vaterland' in Berlin

German Historical Institute, Conference Room

Thursday, 6 June 2019, 5.30 p.m.

In 1928 a consortium headed by the internationally renowned wine merchant Kempinski opened a huge entertainment complex at the Potsdamer Platz in Berlin. It consisted not only of a cinema and ballroom, but also of several themed restaurants—among them a Spanish bodega, a Japanese tea room, a Wild West bar, and a Viennese wine tavern. 'Haus Vaterland', despite its patriotic name, promised to assemble 'the world under one roof' and in this sense borrowed from the World's Fair imaginaries. Investigating how 'the world' was arranged and performed in one of the most prominent places of public entertainment in Weimar Germany can help us better to understand how knowledge and imaginations about 'the world' were produced, circulated, and experienced, and how they shaped modern mass entertainment.

Maren Möhring is Professor of Comparative Cultural and Social History at Leipzig University. She is the author of *Fremdes Essen: Die Geschichte der ausländischen Gastronomie in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* (2012) and is currently working on a publication about 'Haus Vaterland' and the trans-national history of mass entertainment.

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.