



German
Historical
Institute
London

in cooperation with the

FACULTY OF HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

DIRK SCHUMANN (Göttingen)

will speak on

Multiple Boundaries, Contested and Shifting: Spatiality, Subjectivity, and
the History of the Weimar Republic

at the German Historical Institute, Seminar Room
on Wednesday, 26 February 2014, at 5.30 p.m.

The Weimar Republic has often been described as marked by two contrasting features: a burst of cultural creativity on the one hand and the fragility and ultimate destruction of the new democratic order on the other. While recent research has highlighted the co-existence of 'multiple modernities' and emphasized the chances for stabilizing democracy, this more nuanced picture still provides only partial answers to the question of how culture and politics were related in Weimar Germany. The lecture will approach this problem from a new angle by investigating 'boundaries'—between territories, between masculinity and femininity, in popular culture and politics, of political milieux vis-à-vis the temptations of mass culture, and between civilian life and military preparedness. The talk will explore how a focus on a variety of boundaries, attempts to control and redefine them, and interrelations between them can help us conceptualize the history of Weimar Germany.

Dirk Schumann is Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Göttingen. His research focuses on German history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and its transatlantic aspects. His publications in English include *Political Violence in the Weimar Republic: Fight for the Streets and Fear of Civil War* (2009) and the edited volumes *Raising Citizens in the 'Century of the Child': The United States and German Central Europe in Comparative Perspective* (2010) and *Engineering Society: The Role of the Human and Social Sciences in Modern Societies, 1880–1980* (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 Seminar 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 are available one hour before the lecture.