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**German  
Historical  
Institute  
London**

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in co-operation with the

FACULTY OF HISTORY  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## **CORNELIUS TORP (Bremen)**

### **Speculation and Gambling in Germany and Britain around 1900**

German Historical Institute London, Seminar Room  
on Wednesday, 11 March 2020, at 5.30 p.m.

The worldwide economic crisis since 2007 is not the first time that financial speculation has been accused of resembling a casino game. The dividing line between speculation and gambling has always been fragile and contested. The debate about the legitimization of certain types of speculation and their resemblance to games of chance enjoyed a heyday around 1900, in both Germany and Britain. Around this time, the anti-gambling movement reached its apogee in both countries and resulted in the legal prohibition of various forms of gambling. At the same time, new financial instruments opened up space for speculative transactions on a hitherto unseen scale. From a comparative perspective, the lecture tries to bring these two strands together and traces how politicians and journalists, economists and speculators strove to draw a line between honourable economic activity and illicit wagering.

Cornelius Torp is Professor of Modern History at the University of Bremen. He recently served as the DAAD Hannah Arendt Visiting Chair of German and European Studies at the University of Toronto and was a Research Fellow at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS) and a Marie Curie Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence. He has published widely on modern German and European history, the history of globalization, the history of the welfare state, and the history of gambling.

**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.