

CfP:

“Migration and Integration in Germany, Past and Present”

German Studies Association conference, September 22-25, 2011

Recent controversies in Germany have once again placed the question of human migration and its role in shaping German history at the center of public discourse. As in crises past, the slogan that Germany is “a land of emigration, not immigration” again makes the rounds. That claim contradicted reality long before Chancellor Kohl first pronounced it. But it captures an abiding tension between the realities of human movement in German history and the capacity of Germany’s social, cultural, and political institutions to absorb its effects.

The organizers of this series seek papers from scholars in all fields to address the phenomena of human migration and their impact on local communities in Germany from the fifteenth century to the present—from the arrival of Sinti and Roma to the internal displacements of Ashkenazic Jews and the diasporic immigration of Sephardim; from the wanderings of journeymen to the migrations of Savoyards; from the religious exiles of the age of confessionalization to the migrations prompted by eighteenth-century Peuplierungspolitik; from the voluntary labor immigrations of the late nineteenth century to the conscriptions of the two world wars; from the expulsions of the post-war period to the Gastarbeiter of the second half of the twentieth century and the immigration wave of the present day. Themes may include, but are not limited to

Internal migration and the premodern “society of orders”

Migration and the challenges of religion

Immigrant economies

Literary responses to migration and the migrant condition

Migration and the media

Migration and cultural pluralization

Industrialization, migration and modernization

Reactions to immigration—acculturation, assimilation, sequestration

Immigration and the state: administration, nationality, and citizenship law

Immigration and identity politics

Cultural mobility and cultural transfers—people, goods, ideas Temporary vs. permanent migration

Immigrant cultures, ethnic enclaves, and integration

Migration, collective memory, and collective amnesia

Migration and the “spatial turn”

Migration and gender relations

Migration and generational issues

Please send abstracts of circa 250 words by 15 January 2011 to Jared Poley (jpoley@gsu.edu) or Alexander Schunka (alexander.schunka@uni-erfurt.de) and include your institutional affiliation. Proposals for full panels are welcome.

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