

The Monday Lectures Series of the Branch Office Vilnius of the German Historical Institute Warsaw is primarily aimed at a specialist academic audience and offers a communication platform for Lithuanian and German scholars. The lectures are also open to the general public. By presenting new research projects and methodological approaches from German-speaking scholarships, the series offers a stimulating discussion forum for researchers from different disciplines. Among the speakers are predominantly German-speaking historians as well as scholars from related disciplines.

Our monthly lecture series takes place on Mondays at 5 p.m. at the Lithuanian Institute of History and the Faculty of History of the Vilnius University. All lectures are presented in English or German language. The series is organized in cooperation with the University of Vilnius and Lithuanian Institute of History.

Photo: Vilnius, 1930
(source: Hieronim Łopaciński Public Library in Lublin)

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Außenstelle Vilnius

Monday Lectures

2023 / 2

30 NIH w Warszawie
DHI Warsaw

September 18th, 2023 | 5 p.m.
Lithuanian Institute of History, Room 320

Prof. Dr. Joachim Tauber (Lüneburg)

80 Jahre danach: Gedanken zur Geschichte des Ghettos in Vilnius

Moderation: Dr. Stanislovas Stasiulis

Vor 80 Jahren wurde das Ghetto in Vilnius durch die deutschen Besatzer und ihre Helfershelfer liquidiert. Im Vortrag steht daher die Geschichte des Ghettos in Vilnius im Mittelpunkt. Dabei soll es nicht nur um die Ereignisse zu Beginn und Ende des Ghettos gehen, sondern auch um das Leben der Menschen in einer Zwangsgemeinschaft und die damit verbundenen Erfahrungen. Es werden auch weniger bekannte, das Ghettoleben aber prägende Dinge wie der Arbeitseinsatz der Menschen außerhalb des Ghettos und in den Ghettowerkstätten thematisiert. Auch die tägliche Ghettoerlichkeit wird beleuchtet. Schließlich geht es um Resistenz und Widerstand gegen die Unterdrücker. Der Vortrag fußt auf Archivforschungen des Verfassers und auf Erinnerungen der Überlebenden.

Prof. Dr. Joachim Tauber studierte Germanistik, Klassische Philologie und Geschichte. 1989 promovierte er in osteuropäischer Geschichte und Zeitgeschichte an der Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. 2013 folgte seine Habilitation an der Universität Hamburg mit einer Arbeit zum jüdischen Arbeitseinsatz in Litauen 1941–1944. Anschließend arbeitete er als Privatdozent, seit 2017 ist er Professor für Neuere Geschichte. Er war wissenschaftlicher Assistent am Lehrstuhl für osteuropäische Geschichte und Zeitgeschichte der Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter am Institut Nordostdeutsches Kulturwerk sowie Leiter des Nordostdeutschen Archivs. Seit 2010 ist er Direktor des Nordost-Instituts (IKGN).

Der Vortrag wird auf Deutsch mit Übersetzung ins Litauische gehalten, die Diskussion findet auf Litauisch statt.

The lecture will be held in German with translation into Lithuanian, the discussion will be held in Lithuanian.

September 25th, 2023 | 5 p.m.
University of Vilnius, Faculty of History, Room 211

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Schmidt (Fribourg)

What is a Nation? Debates at the Councils of the Fifteenth Century

Moderation: Dr. Darius Baronas

To this day, attempts to define nation on the basis of objective, universally valid characteristics have failed. The reference to common origins is a mere fiction. Nation, however, is not objectively given, but a mental construct and thus closely linked to national consciousness. But the answer to the question, what a nation is, doesn't depend only on the self-consciousness of the inhabitants, elites and institutions of a respective nation, but also on those outside the own nation. Since different and antagonistic interpretations and conceptions underlie the term nation, it is necessary to ascertain the ways in which the respective contemporaries themselves envisaged and proposed their argumentation. This will be done by discussing one example – the one of the ecumenical councils of the 15th century.

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Schmidt studied History, French Language Literature and Pedagogy at the Universities of Trier, Nantes and Santander from 1974 to 1981. He received his doctorate from the University of Trier in 1985. From 1984 to 1989, he worked as an assistant professor at the Free University of Berlin, before he became an assistant and associate professor at the University of Giessen. In the early 1990s, he was a visiting scholar at the German Historical Institute in Rome and at the Berkeley Law School of the State University of California. Between 1998 and 2022, he worked as a full professor at the University of Fribourg, where he was head of the department of history in 2002–2003 and 2014–2018. Since 2022, he is professor emeritus.

The lecture will be held in English language without translation into Lithuanian.

October 2nd, 2023 | 5 p.m.
University of Vilnius, Faculty of History, Room 211

Prof. Dr. Zoltán Boldizsár Simon (Bielefeld)

Historical Knowledge and Planetary Crises

Moderation: Doc. Dr. Aurimas Švedas

The notion of the Anthropocene and the recognition of a planetary-scale human agency rapidly diffused in the human and social sciences. Historical responses to the Anthropocene and the planetary predicament tend to boil down to two distinct approaches with opposing tendencies. Responses in the first group attempt to bring existing modes of historical knowledge to today's planetary crises by historicizing the Anthropocene. They represent the status quo of disciplinary self-understanding. Responses in the second group question whether the first approach is sufficient (without denying its merits), and attempt to explore the ways in which the current planetary predicament challenges historical thinking. Belonging to the second group, the lecture will make the case for the necessity of new forms of historical knowledge that could adequately approach the planetary crises of the day.

Prof. Dr. Zoltán Boldizsár Simon is historian / historical theorist at Bielefeld University. He has been assistant professor at Leiden University and visiting fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. Dr. Z. B. Simon works at the intersections of historical theory, history of ideas, science and technology studies, and Anthropocene research. He published the books *History in Time of Unprecedented Change: A Theory for the 21st Century* (Bloomsbury, 2019), *The Epochal Event: Transformations in the Entangled Human, Technological, and Natural Worlds* (Palgrave, 2020), *Historical Understanding: Past, Present, and Future* (Bloomsbury, 2022, co-edited with Lars Deile), and the Cambridge Elements entitled *The Fabric of Historical Time* (Cambridge, 2023, co-authored with Marek Tamm).

The lecture will be held in English language without translation into Lithuanian.