

The Institute

The Warsaw-based *German Historical Institute*, founded in 1993, is an independent research institution. Since 2002, it has been a part of the *Max Weber Foundation – International Humanities*. Its mission is to investigate the history of Poland within a European and international context throughout different historical epochs. In addition, the institute promotes a dialogue among historians on a national and international level. In particular, it aims to impart information about German historical research and presents its findings in Poland, while providing the same service with respect to Polish historical research in Germany. The institute is also committed to supporting the next generation of scholars in the field of historical research on Poland and East-Central Europe.

Since 2017, the *GHI* owns a branch office in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, which promotes research on the history of Lithuania in the Central and Eastern European context and on Lithuania's historical ties with Germany, Poland and other countries in the region. A second branch office, which supports scientific research on Czech, German and Polish history in the European context, was opened in Prague in spring 2018, in close cooperation with a branch of the *Collegium Carolinum Munich* at the *Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic*.

Momentarily, the institute has a total staff of 32, of whom 17 are academics, with 13 having PhDs and four having the additional qualification of habilitation. There are regular offers for research opportunities to visiting scholars, scholarship holders and interns. The director of the institute is Prof. Dr. Miloš Řezník, deputy director is Prof. Dr. Ruth Leiserowitz. An academic advisory board assists the institute on all academic matters.

Contact

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Vilnius branch office

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Prague branch office

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German Historical Institute Warsaw

Fundamental Research

The *German Historical Institute Warsaw* engages in innovative, fundamental research of Polish history – in all its chronological depth and thematic breadth – within the framework of its relationship to the rest of Europe. In terms of concrete practice, this research takes the form of specific research projects. The work at the institute is currently organized into five fields of research:

- Regionality and Region Formation
- Religion, Politics and Economy in Pre-Modern Poland
- Imperial Reconfigurations. The Dynamics of Statehood and Society throughout the “long 19th Century”
- Violence and Foreign Dominion in the ‘Age of Extremes’
- Functionality of History in Late Modernity

The individual projects being pursued by our academic staff as well as (when possible) those of current scholarship holders, interns and visiting scholars are integrated into these research fields. These five areas provide a common thematic framework which promotes productive research on key issues that also have international resonance. Additionally, this is where the specific resources and locational advantages of the institute come into effect.

Research Transfers and scholarships

The *German Historical Institute* supports an international dialogue among historians by encouraging communication, cooperation and research transfers. The institute's focus is on the relations between historians in Germany and Poland. Yet, our intermediary role also takes in historical research on neighbouring East-Central European countries; going beyond the discipline of history in Germany, we also address the Western scientific community. In this way, the institute provides a forum for international historical dialogue, employing to this end the proven means of organizing academic events, preparing publications and awarding scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded to support those research projects in the field of Polish, German-Polish and Polish-East-Central European history which would require a stay in the host countries of the institute. The scholarships are intended primarily for younger scholars and are awarded for periods of between one and several months depending on the research project. The decision to award a scholarship is made based on the perceived quality of the proposed research. The institute also takes into account the extent to which the research interest of the project touches thematically on the institute's current research foci.

Library

The library of the *German Historical Institute Warsaw* is a reference library that currently holds around 90,000 volumes and subscribes to more than 300 periodicals. The library's task is to provide textual materials of relevance to the research being carried out at the institute. It also functions as a useful supplement to Warsaw's major historical libraries. Within the framework of its collection policy, which covers the history of Germany, Poland and German-Polish relations, the institute's main emphasis is therefore on specialised literature in Western languages and on topics central to the institute's key fields of research.

Outside visitors are welcome to use the reference library free of charge. Its holdings are fully searchable online through the OPAC system, the EZB (an electronic journal library), and the DBIS (a data bank and information system). In addition to printed materials, users also have access to electronic resources.

Library Opening Hours

Monday: 10.00–17.00
Tuesday: 10.00–17.00
Wednesday: 10.00–18.00
Thursday: 10.00–17.00
Friday: 10.00–14.00



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