

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 and of German-Polish relations within a European and international context across historical epochs. In addition, the Institute promotes a dialogue among historians at the national and international level. In particular, we aim to impart information about German historical research and present its findings in Poland, while providing the same service with respect to Polish historical research in Germany. We are also committed to supporting the next generation of scholars in the field of historical research on Poland and East-Central Europe.

The Institute has at present a total staff of 33, of whom 18 are academics, with ten having PhD's and four having the additional qualification of habilitation. We regularly offer research opportunities to visiting scholars, scholarship holders and interns.

An academic advisory board advises the Institute on all academic matters.

Directors

- Prof. Dr. Miloš Řezník (Director)
- Prof. Dr. Ruth Leiserowitz (Deputy Director)

Contact

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Max Weber
Stiftung

Deutsche
Geisteswissenschaftliche
Institute im Ausland

Deutsches
Historisches Institut
Warschau

Niemiecki
Instytut Historyczny
w Warszawie

Fundamental Research

The German Historical Institute in 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 and Politics in Pre-Modern Poland
- National Identity and Transnational Entanglements
- 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, allowing the specific resources and locational advantages of the Institute to be brought to bear in a particularly effective way.

Research Transfers

The German Historical Institute supports an international dialogue among historians by encouraging communication, cooperation and research transfers. Our 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 more broadly. 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

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 Poland. The scholarships are intended primarily for younger, up-and-coming scholars and are awarded for periods of between one month 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. We also take 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 in Warsaw is a reference library that currently holds around 83,000 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, our main emphasis is therefore on specialist 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 Hours

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