

History with People.

History of Everyday Life and Its Historical Research in Germany and East Central Europe

“The nightmare of a social history that leaves out people” – with this formulation (in 1987) Peter Borscheid condensed the criticism coming from the proponents of *a history of everyday life* that they directed both at historical social science as well as its methodological claim: social history should instead investigate historical actions by individuals and small collectives “from below” and describe these in the context of the social, political or cultural structures that shaped them. In the intervening period, *the history of everyday life* has in fact established itself as a historical discipline, even if the criticism of its methods has not yet fallen totally silent.

The question that is the focus of the Lelewel Discussions asks about the development of *the history of everyday life* as a discipline in recent years – both in the various national contexts as well as in international comparison. The areas that need to be sketched out are the receptions, adaptations, and transformations which the concepts of “everyday history” have experienced in the eastern part of Europe through the interplay of state socialist/Marxist-Leninist and national historiographic traditions.

Photo: Ludwig Boedecker, *Sunday Afternoon on the Banks of the River Viliya*, Bilderschau der Wilnaer Zeitung, 1916.
Source: The Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, Rare Books Department

Joachim-
Lelewel-
Talks

The **Joachim-Lelewel-Talks** of the German Historical Institute Warsaw are a forum, in which the contentious issues surrounding the Polish history are discussed in their European context. Each time they bring together representatives of the Polish, East and West European or international history respectively to a panel discussion, where the audience actively participates.

The intention of these discussions is not only a confrontation of the, not infrequently opposed, assumptions and views, but also an immersion of the various research milieus in an intensive exchange of ideas. This procedure enables continued development of the discussed issue as well as facilitates opening for the diverse methodical aspects.

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History with People.

20 February 2019


Deutsches
Historisches Institut
Warschau


Niemiecki
Instytut Historyczny
w Warszawie

Branch Office of the GHI Warsaw in Vilnius

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History of Everyday Life and Its Historical Research in Germany and East Central Europe

The panelists:

Dr. Tomas Vaiseta, Vilnius University

Prof. Dr. hist. Vita Zelče, University of Latvia

Prof. Dr. Tatjana Tönsmeier, University of Wuppertal

Dr. hab. Błażej Brzostek, University of Warsaw

Prof. Dr. Ruth Leiserowitz, Humboldt University
in Berlin, German Historical Institute in Warsaw

Wednesday, 20 February 2019

5:30 pm

Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

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LT-01504 Vilnius

Dr. Tomas Vaiseta is associate professor at Vilnius University, Faculty of History, where he focuses on social and cultural history of Soviet period, Soviet psychiatry and sexuality. He published two historical studies—*Society of Boredom: Everyday and Ideology in the Late Soviet Period* (1964–1984) (Vilnius 2014) and *Summerhouse: The Social History of Vilnius' Psychiatry Hospital (1944–1990)* (Vilnius 2018).

Prof. Dr. hist. Vita Zelče is professor in the Department of Communication Studies and Senior Researcher at the Advanced Social and Political Research Institute in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Latvia. Her research interests include the history of media, cultural memory, social history, the history of women, and the politics of history-writing. Most recent edited book in Latvian in the field of media studies is *The Diversity of the Media Environment in Latvia* (Riga 2018).

Prof. Dr. Tatjana Tönsmeier is professor of Modern and Contemporary History at the University of Wuppertal. Her research focuses on European social and cultural history in the 19th and 20th centuries. She has authored two books: *Das Dritte Reich und die Slowakei 1939–1945. Politischer Alltag zwischen Kooperation und Eigensinn* [The Third Reich and Slovakia 1939–1945. Day-to-day Political Life between Cooperation and Eigensinn] (Paderborn 2003) and *Adelige Moderne. Großgrund-*

besitz und ländliche Gesellschaft in England und Böhmen 1848–1918 [Nobles and Modernity. Estates and Landed Society in England and Bohemia 1848–1918] (Köln 2012).

Dr. hab. Błażej Brzostek is associate professor at University of Warsaw, Institute of History, where he researches social history of the twentieth-century Europe and urban history. His most recent publication is *Paryże Innej Europy. Warszawa i Bukareszt, XIX i XX wiek* [Paris(es) of the Other Europe: Warsaw and Bucharest in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries] (Warsaw 2015).

Prof. Dr. Ruth Leiserowitz is Professor of East European History at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Deputy Director at the German Historical Institute in Warsaw. Her research is focused on European history of the nineteenth and the twentieth century. The last monograph is *Heldenhafte Zeiten. Die polnischen Erinnerungen an die Revolutions- und Napoleonischen Kriege 1815–1945* [Heroic Times. The Polish Memories of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars 1815–1945] (Paderborn 2017). She coworked in the project *Klaipėda Region 1945–1960: The Formation of a New Society and its Reflections in Family Stories* conducted by Sigita Kraniuskienė (PhD Sociology), financed from the Lithuanian Science Council (LIP-091/2016).