

Co-Conveners: Duke University, Department of German Studies, and the UNC-Chapel Hill, Department of History and Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures

**Friday, 23 October 2020**

4:00–5:30 pm | Online

**HELMUT PUFF**

Elizabeth L. Eisenstein Collegiate Professor of History and Germanic Languages, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



## **Towards a History of Times: Surveying the Recent Historiography on Time, Timing, and Temporality**

While exploring the epistemological difficulties in studying time, the philosopher Henri Bergson cautioned his readers in 1888 that, “We necessarily express ourselves by means of words and we usually think in terms of space.” This observation notwithstanding, recent years have seen an unprecedented spate of studies on temporalities in history, anthropology, sociology, and related disciplines. Evidently, time as a category has never been absent from historical studies. Still, what distinguishes recent studies from previous scholarship? How does time in its different registers and rhythms structure societies? How do temporal modes structure politics, cultures, societies, and social interactions? This talk will seek to survey the historiography on times, temporalities, and temporizations with a particular eye to the history of waiting as a socially mandated and politically meaningful temporal mode in social interactions.

**HELMUT PUFF** is the Elizabeth L. Eisenstein Collegiate Professor of History and Germanic Languages, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His most recent books are the monograph *Miniature Monuments: Modeling German History* (2014), and the edited volume *After the History of Sexuality: German Genealogies with and Beyond Foucault* (2012). Currently, he is working on a new project on waiting as a mode of experienced temporality between the Middle Ages and the twentieth century.

**Moderator: TERENCE V. MCINTOSH | UNC-Chapel Hill, Department of History**

For more information on the NCGS Program and the Zoom access go to the NCGS website: <https://ncgsws.web.unc.edu/>

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**CONVENERS:** Duke University: Dept. of German Studies | Dept. of History | The University of North Carolina  
at Chapel Hill: Carolina Seminars | Carolina Center for Jewish Studies | Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Languages & Literatures | Dept. of History