NCGS NORTH CAROLINA GERMAN STUDIES seminar & workshop series

Friday, 13 October 2023

2:00 – 4:00 pm | Zoom Seminar

STEFAN-LUDWIG HOFFMANN

Associate Professor for Late Modern European History, University of California, Berkeley, Department of History



Dreams, Terror, and Complicity: **Reinhart Koselleck Meets Charlotte Beradt**

Recently, there has been an uptick of interest across disciplines in the theoretical writings of the late Reinhart Koselleck. Whenever scholars deal with issues of temporality, with present pasts or past futures, the German conceptual historian's work is invoked. Yet, in new histories of Fascist and Nazi times one of his most incisive essays, "Terror and Dream," is oddly omitted. In his talk, he will explore Koselleck's encounter with Third Reich of Dreams by Charlotte Beradt, a book that the German-Jewish émigré journalist wrote in the early 1960s. Especially Beradt's suggestion that dreams are one of the most telling historical sources for understanding individual experiences of time in the 1930s fascinated Koselleck. In light of the resurgence of authoritarianism in our own time, the talk will ask whether Beradt's and Koselleck's analytical concern with the workings of dreams, terror, and complicity in everyday life gains new significance and urgency.

STEFAN-LUDWIG HOFFMANN is Associate Professor for Late Modern European History at the University of California, Berkeley. He is historian of German, European, and International History from the late eighteenth century to the present and has an ongoing interest in social, legal, and political thought as well as in the theory of history. His most recent book is *Der Riss in der Zeit: Kosellecks ungeschriebene Historik* (Suhrkamp, 2023, English translation under contract with Princeton UP). He currently works on a history of Human Rights.

Moderation: ANDREA A. SINN | Associate Professor of History, Elon University, Department of

History and Geography

Comment: KONRAD H. JARAUSCH | Lurcy Professor of European Civilization, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of History

More information on the NCGS website: https://ncgsws.web.unc.edu/

CONTACT: Karen Hagemann | UNC Chapel Hill, Dept. of History, email: hagemann@unc.edu

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 | Center for European Studies | Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Languages & Literatures | Dept. of History

