

Friday, 10 November 2023

2:00–4:00 pm | **Zoom Seminar**

MADDIE JAMES

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“Protecting the Volk”:

The Female Criminal Police in Nazi Germany

By 1927, four of the Weimar Republic’s states had established new female police units. Across Germany, pioneering policewomen and their supporters understood female police integral to the democratization, modernization, and humanization of policing. They viewed themselves as reformers championing the values of the democratic *Volksstaat* of the Weimar Republic. What happened to this fledgling institution following the National Socialist *Machtergreifung* in 1933? How did this moment of regime change impact the stated purpose and work of the female police, as well as the careers of the policewomen themselves? How did institutions such as the female police adjust to new priorities, aims, and values as laid down by the Nazi state? Drawing on her dissertation research, this talk will explore these questions in order to analyze how this *Frauenberuf* survived in the *Männerdomäne* of the Nazi police apparatus and the ways in which the female police became complicit in the regime’s crimes.

MADDIE JAMES is a graduate student of Modern European History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests include modern German and European history, women and gender history, the history of the Holocaust, and the history of police and law enforcement. Her dissertation project, tentatively titled “Protecting the *Volk*: The Development of Female Police from Weimar and Nazi to Post-War Germany,” will trace the development of female police throughout the three periods of the Weimar Republic, Nazi Germany, and post-war Germany.

Moderation: **TERESA WALCH** | Assistant Professor of Modern European History, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Department of History

Comment: **THOMAS KÜHNE** | Strassler Professor of Holocaust Studies and Director of the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University

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