

# **Germany and the East - Trans-Atlantic Summer Institute in German Studies (TASI)**

20.07.2006-04.08.2006

Center for Metropolitan Studies an der Technischen Universität Berlin

## **Overview**

The Trans-Atlantic Summer Institutes provide a unique forum for graduate-level students in Germany and North America to collaborate in the exploration of advanced topics relating to Germany and its role in Europe. Each summer, twelve German and twelve North American graduate-level students work intensively for three weeks and explore in depth questions that will enrich their dissertations in German Studies. The Summer Institutes also aim to make a major contribution to the training of the next generation of experts on Germany and Europe. They introduce German students to the American university and the larger academic culture of the United States; North American students will acquire a similar familiarity with the German setting. They therefore foster the international discussions and collaborations that are fundamental to the scholarly enterprise. As a student in the Summer Institute, you will learn how to combine the best aspects of training in both countries—the close attention to archival sources and their interpretation in Germany with the broad trans-disciplinary readings that characterize North American scholarship.

## **Topic**

"Germany and the East" is the topic of the Trans-Atlantic Summer Institute 2006. Germany has had a long, close, and complex relationship with its neighbors to the East—those close by like Poland and Russia as well as those further afield in the Balkans and Turkey. Eastern Europe was a prime site of German imperial ventures, which reached their nadir with Nazi domination and the Holocaust. German culture once reigned supreme in Tallin, L'viv, Budapest, and many other centers, while Eastern Europe has also been a source of large-scale immigration into Germany. The Soviet Union and Russia inspired many Germans, but Germany was also the focal point of East-West conflict during the Cold War. Since 1990 unified Germany has supported the expansion to the East of the European Union. Further to the southeast, diplomats, businessmen, and archaeologists saw great opportunities for Germany in the Ottoman Empire but feared Ottoman expansion and worried about the stability of the Balkans. Today, Berlin is Turkey's second largest city—even though citizenship rights of Turkish residents and the possibility of Turkey's admission into the EU are flashpoints of political conflict.

In TASI 2006, we will explore Germany's relations with the East in all their forms, including diplomacy, war, genocide, economics, migration, and culture. We will assess the explanatory power of these themes for understanding the great breaks and continuities of German history in the 20th century.

## **Program**

- 20.07**      *Introduction*  
Thomas Lindenberger, Gregor Thum, Eric D. Weitz
- Three Paradigms to Approach Germany and the East: “Orientalism”,  
“Transnationalism”, “Colonialism”*  
Thomas Lindenberger, Gregor Thum, Eric D. Weitz
- 21.07**      *Germany and its “Near” East: Polish-German Interactions*  
Gregor Thum
- 24.07**      *Turks, Greeks, Armenians, and Jews: German Perceptions of the Ottoman  
Empire*  
Eric D. Weitz
- 25.07**      *Germany’s “Russia Complex”: Germany and the East 1900-45*  
Jan C. Behrends
- 26.07**      *German Orientalism in the Ottoman Empire*  
Eric D. Weitz
- 27.08**      *German Imperial Visions and Historical Research from World War I to  
World War II: Revisiting the Fischer- and the Aly-Debate*  
Klaus Große Kracht
- 28.07**      *Go West? Eastern Migration to Germany in the 20th Century*  
Patrice G. Poutrus
- 31.08**      *From Revanchism to ‘Change by Approachment’: Germany’s Cold War and  
the Decline of East European Communism*  
Thomas Lindenberger
- 01.08**      *German Mythologies of “Schlesien”*  
Hans-Joachim Hahn und Antje Johanning
- 02.08**      *From Ostpolitik to EU Enlargement: Risks and Opportunities in Germany’s  
International Relations*  
Klaus Bachmann
- 03.08**      *Conclusion*  
Thomas Lindenberger, Gregor Thum, Eric Weitz