

Weimar Rendez-vous with History 2023 Edition

Tempo, Tempo ! Time and How it is Perceived Throughout History

Higher, faster, further seems to have been the motto for nearly every technological, social, political and cultural developments since the beginning of modernity. Today is no exception and this is everywhere to be felt. Be it in communications, where we can be reached at any hour, or when one item of breaking news item pushes another off the screen every day. Be it in the world of work or in transporting goods, where every second counts and today's Internet order should preferably have been delivered yesterday. Or, in politics, where the quickest off-the-mark statement sets the tone for the debate. The feeling of fatigue, however, which often accompanies such a compression of time is hardly new. Time and again, people have felt overwhelmed by the pace of history, whilst others have allowed themselves to be driven or even propelled by it.

This prevailing perception that the pace and tempo of society is steadily increasing is, however, relatively new and closely linked to modernity. Before that, ideas about time were more strongly oriented toward Arcadian rhythms or focussed on religious elements. These temporal notions therefore also epitomised the stability of a social order, and not so much its dynamic development.

This year's festival aspires to take a closer look at these and other temporal phenomena and the perception of time. We are devoting ourselves to that material from which history is made of, so to speak. For, what is history but narrated time? It will also become clear that time is relative not only in physics but also in history. As clearly and distinctly as we can divide time into years, months, and days: History is much more than a sequence of such temporal divisions. At times, events seem to rush by, sometimes even historical time stretches like chewing gum. And above all, each and every "contemporary" of a particular region and an era entertain highly diverse ideas concerning time and how and to where it flows for them.

Dr. Andreas Braune, Program Director 2023

Notenbank, Weimar 3 November 2023, 18:00

Ceremonial Opening: "Tempo - On Time, Space, and the Future"

with keynote speaker **Rudolf Scharping, former federal chairman of the SPD and Federal Minister**

"Tempo, Tempo" - could that be a motto, or even a description for the times we are living through? Is everything speeding along? An whiterto? Do we take our time? We should. But do we have time, time in this world of accelerating pace, of multiple crises, of collapsing certainties?

What kind of future will time bring? Will our future be open and receptive, perhaps even hopeful - or fixed, inevitable? And are there still spaces in this world that can be discovered?

Rudolf Scharping's speech will revolve around questions about time and space, about the long-term and the here and now, about challenges, attitudes, possible answers. This event will also feature cabaret artist Bernard Liebermann (Weimar Cabaret) with his very own take on the subject of tempo.

Notenbank, 4 November 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Panel Discussion

How Much Longer? Boredom and Waiting as Phenomena of Modernity (1850-1950)

In today's hectic pace of our everyday lives, we increasingly rely on deceleration as a consciously induced process of slowing down: we deliberately take a break during work or timeout while on holidays. Moreover, it is quickly forgotten how often we are exposed against our own will to (seemingly) unproductive idleness or tedious boredom - just think of those living in refugee camps or permanently unemployed. Such modern variants of a temporal standstill have been in the making since the 19th century: not only in waiting rooms at train stations, in emigration halls in large port cities built around 1900, in the unemployment lines during the Great Depression, or in queues in front of grocery stores during the post-war period, but also in the sphere of bourgeois domesticity. Depending on their gender, social circumstance or ethnic origin, people were impacted by these phenomena in highly different ways. Questions therefore arise as to how men and women, minorities, the poor and the wealthy perceived and lived through these conditions of enforced waiting and forced leisure, and how they coped with them. What social and political effects did such phenomena bring about? Can we also discover such tendencies in our current and everyday life? Here to discuss this topic with you:

- Professor Martina Kessel, who lectures in modern history and gender history at Bielefeld University.
- Dr Robin Kellermann, who works at the Nexus Institute Berlin and holds a doctorate in the Cultural History of Waiting for Public Transport.

Moderation:

Professor Armin Owzar, Sorbonne Nouvelle University - Paris 3

Stadtmuseum Weimar, 4 November 2023, 11:00 am

Panel Discussion

Not Fast Enough: the Radical Women's Movement in Europe circa 1900

19th century Europe has been considered an epoch of rapid technical, economic and social progress. And yet, it was also characterised by deeply conservative notions of honour and morality and traditional role models, which even extended into the political sphere. This particularly impacted women, who had little stake in public life – whether in business, society or politics. From the mid-19th century onward this lack of involvement was to increasingly become the issue of the day for those committed women who advocated greater gender equality.

The more engaged they became in various associations and alliances, and the more they realized that their demands were barely or not at all taken on board, some of them turned radical in their approach. This happened to those active in socialist and the bourgeois women's movement alike. The demand for equal suffrage and full civic equality was their core objective.

Throughout Europe, such voices clamoured for change. Many women actors were in active contact across borders. Starting from Weimar, where some roots of the (radical) women's movement can be found, our panel will focus on the comparison and transfers, especially between England, Germany, Poland and Austria. So, how did women speed up the pace of change when it came to resolving the question of shared equal rights? Here, to discuss this topic with you:

- Dr Iwona Dadej is a research associate at the Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies at the University of Halle.
- Prof. Dr. Johanna Gehmacher Spokesperson for the Department of Women's and Gender History at the Faculty of History and Cultural Studies at the University of Vienna.

- Dr Jens Riederer is Director of the Weimar City Archives.

Moderation:

Dr Kerstin Wolff is director of the research department at the Archive of the German Women's Movement in Kassel

This event held to be held in cooperation with Kassel's Archive of the German Women's Movement.

Notenbank Weimar, 4 November 2023, 12:00 noon

Panel Discussion

How fast-paced were the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period? A discussion on eras, clocks and gathering speed before the Modern Age

Airplanes and highways, real-time news around the globe, one appointment after the next: our present day lives strike us as being the fastest-paced ever. And all this started with the arrival of the railways just some 200 years ago and has been moving faster ever since. In bygone times, people used to live in peace and tranquillity.

While sociologists share this widespread view and assume that social life's increasing momentum is a phenomenon of modernity, historians can demonstrate that even in earlier epochs there were already phases in which people had the feeling that time was passing too quickly. Our panel would like to discuss ideas about time in its every aspect, rhythms and perceptions of time during in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period and pose the following question :“which analysis is actually being brought into play whenever people remark that time is passing faster or slower.” A review of earlier historical epochs equally reveals what we often forget all too quickly, namely, that “time” in the form of calendars, clocks, chronicles, daily routines, business hours, prayer times, etc. are nothing but human constructs that only fit into our social structures by dint of their regular use and thus strike us as “natural”. To discuss this topic with you:

- Prof. Dr. Hans-Werner Goetz lectured in medieval history at the University of Hamburg and has always been interested in the mindsets of people in the Middle Ages.
- Joseph Kretschmar, M.A., who, in his Bremen and Erfurt dissertation project, has been researching diverse approaches to dealing with “time” in “Bremen's local time zone, during the period 1400 to 1600”.

Introduction and Moderation:

Prof. Dr. Susanne Rau is Professor of History and Cultures of Modern Times at the University of Erfurt and also researches how focusing on time generates historical spaces.

This event will be hosted in collaboration with the RaumZeit-Forschung of the University of Erfurt.

Stadtmuseum Weimar, 4 November 2023, 1:00 pm

Panel Discussion

Women in France, Poland and the German Democratic Republic between Tradition and (socialist) Modernity

Throughout the 20th century, women also won the right to self-determination on how they could use their own time, as well as to participate in social and political times.

“Time”, too, was to become a key resource for them, something which patently had not been available to every woman in previous epochs.

We will probe the experiences of “female times” in a democratic country such as France as well as under the dictatorships of the GDR and the People’s Republic of Poland.

We will discuss “time “and the multifarious female roles: as an individual, a mother, a partner, a professional, and a political entity.

We can already confirm that women in all three countries did not remain “inside” the four walls of the home: they were catapulted, whether voluntarily and involuntarily, into various societal spheres. Together with witnesses from those times in the audience, it is imperative that we find out: What did this entail for their “own time” and for women’s social time? Which female experiences dating from that period across the three countries are comparable - and which are not? And what do these coinages mean today? To discuss this topic with you:

- Dr. Janette Friedrich was born in Potsdam, studied philosophy in Rostov-on-Don, lectures and researches at the University of Geneva and at the Sigmund Freud Private University of Vienna.
- PD Dr. Paulina Gulińska-Jurgiel conducts research on democratic transformation in Poland at the Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies at the University of Halle; she is currently a substitute professor at the Chair of Eastern European History there.
- Prof. Dr. Silke Satjukow is Professor of Modern History at the University of Halle and has long been focussed on everyday history across 20th century dictatorships.

Moderation:

Professor Rainer Gries, Head of the Department of Psychological and Historical Anthropology at the Sigmund Freud Private University of Vienna.

Notenbank Weimar, 04 November 2023, 2:00 pm

Podium Discussion

The World’s Fastest-Paced Country? Tempo in US Political Culture and Society

If any nation has gained momentum in the 20th century, it is the USA, where benchmarks have been set: from fast-paced silent film slapstick to jazz. From the race to the moon to car assembly lines and highways. From the jumbo jet to the computer and Twitter/ X. Similarly, in the politic realm and across society and their controversies, from the New Deal to the Civil Rights Movement and now to the Trump era. The Constitution of the United States was designed with “delay” in mind and has only been amended a total of twenty-seven times over 235 years. And yet, domestic US politics are currently as polarized and as hectic-paced as rarely before and have become a “model” for right-wing populists worldwide. We would like to discuss with you these unique aspects and inherent contradictions of the American tempo: in everyday life, throughout society and politics.

- Professor Michael Dreyer lectures in political science at the FSU Jena and values the US Supreme Court for its slow pace.
- Dr Matthias Enders has a PhD in American science policy and would dearly like to travel at warp speed one day.
- Professor Jörg Nagler was Professor of North American History at the FSU Jena.
He’s particularly keen on up-tempo jazz.

Stadtmuseum Weimar, 04 November 2023, 3:00 pm

Lecture

Working until they Dropped: Fordism's role in Forced-Labour and Piecework during the Nazi Dictatorship

At the dawn of the 20th century, the so-called Taylorism and Fordism revolutionized industrial production across the USA. Their hallmarks were the precisely timed and division of labour production for (consumer) goods. Volkswagen's Beetle rolling off the car-assembly line in German auto-factories lent the impression that such a production system just emerged in Germany in the post-war years. Yet, already back in the 1920s there were multiple industrial applications which the Nazi apparatus forcibly implemented from circa 1935. In their system of forced labour and in the concentration camps, this "rationalization" process was to find its insidious culmination, for example, in "starvation according to the performance principle" for the *Ostarbeiter*, i.e., those slave workers gathered from Central and Eastern Europe, and "annihilation through work" for concentration camp prisoners.

This lecture will shed light on the question of what distinguishes such ideas as "War-driven Fordism" from the original Fordism, which was oriented toward consumption by civilians. Can the production methods deployed in "slave labour" and in "modern" Ford be reconciled? What was the relationship between Nazi racism and wage systems benefitting individual performance? This discussion will cast light upon one aspect of time in the Nazi regime which hitherto has garnered scant attention. Talk given by:

- Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Hachtmann directed the project "The Fordist Century" at Potsdam's Centre for Contemporary History Research and was a member of the independent Commission of Historians for the Study of the History of the Reich Ministry of Labour under National Socialism.

Moderator for the discussion:

Philipp Neumann-Thein, Deputy-Director of the Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora Memorial Foundation

Notenbank Weimar, 04 November 2023, 16:00

Podium Discussion

Who Vanquished Time? On the History of Our Interaction with Time

Almost every single process in today's life is contingent upon precise timing, exact schedules, working hours and logistics which are all geared toward a rapid pace and "just in time" delivery. Having to wait is regarded as an imposition. "Wasted time" is deemed a drawback, and yet everyone wants "more time". Two historians, Caroline Rothauge and Sina Steglich, have recently cast light upon this paradoxical tension pervading our everyday lives. In conversation with them, it becomes clear that the "appropriate" handling of time has been a constant struggle.

A look back at the 19th and 20th centuries reveals a variety of ideas about how to interact with time. Whether sun- or railway-timetable time, world or zone time, institutionalized or flexible working hours, punctuality or idleness, acceleration or leisure, "time" has made itself felt in every aspect of life – albeit in partly contradictory ways – and was to become the source of ongoing disputes. This historical review of these diverse approaches to the time factor helps to circumvent some self-evident aspects of our everyday interactions and dealing with this seemingly objective, relentless and digitally clocked category. To discuss this topic with you:

- PD Dr Caroline Rothauge, whose book *Zeiten in Deutschland 1879-1919. Konzepte, Kodizes, Konflikte* was published in 2023 She lectures in Modern and Contemporary History in Eichstätt and Hamburg.
- Dr Sina Steglich, who in her book *Zeitort Archiv. Etablierung und Vermittlung geschichtlicher Zeitlichkeit im 19. Jahrhundert* (2020) examines time as a historical category. She lectures in Modern and Contemporary History in Munich.

Moderation: Professor Dirk van Laak, Professor of History of the 19th to 21st Century in Leipzig.

Communal Cinema *Mon Ami*, 4 November 2023, 5:00 pm

Film Screening

Eins, zwei, drei

Film introduction:

- Dr Jens Riederer, who heads the Stadtarchiv Weimar and is passionate about cinematic art.

Stadtmuseum Weimar, 4 November 2023, 5 pm

Podium Discussion

An Update on Fundamental and Human Rights?

Ever since the end of the Second World War, fundamental and human rights have been codified internationally in a series of new declarations and conventions. Their legal, political and social implementation has been the responsibility of the individual states, though how they are implemented varies greatly. Furthermore, the rapid social and political changes taking place over the last two decades have raised the question of whether fundamental rights still meet the corresponding challenges. Do these fundamental rights even encapsulate the most pressing questions of our age, such as the climate crisis, the extinction of certain species, forced out-migration, displacement and migration all over the globe? Do they still sufficiently correspond to new social realities such as the latest definitions of gender and family? What fundamental rights do we enjoy in the age of digitization and in view of the onset of artificial intelligence's triumphal advances? These questions are not only discussed in a vibrant social context, but are also reflected in various initiatives and positions in fundamental rights policy – not only in Germany, but also in other European nations such as France. So, it is high time for a social, scientific and political dialogue on the question: What updates are in place for fundamental and human rights?

Notenbank Weimar, 4 November 2023, 6:00 pm

Podium Discussion

Abundance of Time and Sovereignty over One's Time in the 21st Century

One can't touch, smell or taste its attributes, and yet time is probably one of the most crucial resources nowadays. In an individualistic society, the question of who or what determines our use of time is a key question regarding individual autonomy or external control. How much of my day and lifetime is at my own disposal? The answer to this pressing question is increasingly becoming a yardstick for individual freedom and prosperity.

It was precisely the covid-pandemic that made this quandary patently clear by prescribing a time-out for almost everybody. And yet, others claimed they were exhausted. More time within the family circle than some might have liked and flexible working hours in the home office were introduced. Much of what had previously been suggested in terms of social time management has now become the focus of social

debates: the four-day week and working time accounts, part-time and flexitime, sabbaticals and breaks are being discussed more than ever before. Does this signal a prosperous society on a trip toward self-discovery? Or, does more free time from the needs of work and family also entail more commitment to civil society and politics? Does democracy need even more free time for its citizens? Here, to discuss this topic with you:

Dr. Laura Hanemann is a sociologist at the University of Frankfurt and researches, inter alia, time management in the working world, especially among those “solo self-employed”.

• Professor Norman Sieroka is Professor of Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Bremen and advocates a tactful approach toward time.

Moderation:

Dr Andreas Braune never again wanted to take his work laptop with him while on holidays.

Communal cinema Mon Ami, 4 November 2023, 8:00 pm:

Film Screening

Lola rennt/ Run Lola Run

Film introduction:

• Dr Jens Riederer, Director of Weimar's Stadtarchiv and who is passionate about cinematic art.

Rathaus-Saal Weimar, 5 November 2023, 11:00 am

Lecture

**The “Thousand-Year Reich” and “Overtaking without Catching Up”:
Time in 20th Century German Dictatorships**

Ever since ancient times philosophers have pondered over how the temporal horizons of past, present and future interlink. Historians can at least clarify how they were related to each other throughout the 20th century. This played out in highly different ways – the Weimar Republic’s democratic institutions, for example, were based upon a different time order than those of the Third Reich, while both substantially differed from the future pathos of the German Democratic Republic. This lecture will trace how in the wake of the Weimar Republic the “temporal relations” between past and future in both 20th century German dictatorships were at the service of politics. It becomes clear that “time” itself became a core resource for legitimizing the competing world orders of National Socialism and Communism.

Lecture:

• Professor Dr. Martin Sabrow. Between 2004 and 2021, he was director of Potsdam’s Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Research and Professor of Contemporary History at Berlin’s Humboldt University. Ever since he entered “retirement”, time has outpaced him even more so than before.

Moderation:

Prof. Dr. Silke Satjukow Professor of Modern History at the University of Halle who, for some time, has been focussed on the history of 20th century dictatorships.

Notenbank Weimar, 05 November 2023, 12:00 noon

Podium Discussion

News Barrage - From the Daily Press to Twitter/X

The history of media is one of constantly increasing pace, and even newspapers allude to time in their titles. With the daily press' announcements for upcoming weddings, ever before the advent of radio and television, newspapers kept their readers informed with two, sometimes even three issues per day. Titles such as the *Berliner Neueste Nachrichten* [Berlin's Up-to-the-Minute News], (published 1881-1919) even formulated the promise of maximum newsworthiness in large letters on its title page.

The Internet age is taking this development to a new level. For some time the popular saying that "Nothing is older than yesterday's newspaper" rang true: Meanwhile news is now posted, tweeted and publicly commented on in real time. Many people feel that they are literally drowning in a flood of information. And yet, the barrier between media-makers and consumers is disappearing as ever more news is generated on social networks. How will this development continue? What does it ultimately mean for society? Our panel will examine these questions from a scientific and journalistic perspective and discuss them with you:

- Helmut Broeg is *Stern's* science editor.
- Gerlinde Sommer is editor-in-chief of the *Thuringian Landeszeitung*.
- Professor Rudolf Stöber is Professor of Communication Science at the University of Bamberg.

Moderation:

Dr Christian Pantle is editor-in-chief of the history magazine *G/GESCHICHTE*, based in Augsburg.

Rathaus-Saal Weimar, 5 November 2023, 1:00 pm

Talk

The Pace of Transformation: Fear, Joy, Learning, Haste and Waiting during the Regime Change of 1989/90 (*Erzahlcafé/ Storytelling Café*)

German reunification and its associated upheavals are often perceived as a time of consolidation. Overnight, people were confronted with a new social model, a new economic and legal system, a new education system and new political organisations and procedures. It was for many, notably in terms of their professional careers, a phase for rapid transformation, anxiety, fewer opportunities and all-too-often the prospect of waiting for new prospects when suddenly impacted by unemployment. This simultaneity of events over such a short time span required people to focus anew on how some things are lost or forgotten afterwards. Our storytelling forum, *Erzahlcafé*, duly invites you to share your memories and to trace forgotten challenges, time constraints, time fears and grasped opportunities. How did we experience this period of rapid transformation and what hopes and adversities were associated with it? Come by and share your experiences, impressions and memories with us. Small objects, memorabilia or a photo and the stories related to them can also be brought along.

Moderation:

- Dr Agnès Arp coordinates the Oral History Research Centre at the University of Erfurt.
- Kristin Wenzel is a visual artist and curator. Her work focuses on the aftermath of the social transformation in the wake of 1989 and lives in

Bucharest.

Rathaus-Saal Weimar, 5th November 2023, 3:00 pm

Podium Discussion

The Pace of Transformation: Fear, Joy, Learning, Haste and Waiting during the Regime Change of 1989/90

Following the *Erzahlcafé*, which will take place at 1 pm, we would like to invite you to a panel discussion with scientists whose research has been focussing on the regime change of 1989/90. We will plunge deeper and compare historical events in the new federal states – i.e., those states affiliated with the ex-German Democratic Republic – with the conditions prevailing in other nation of the former “Eastern Bloc”. What similarities were to be found when all at once – and indeed very suddenly – everyone had to align themselves with the pressing requirements of a market economy? Were there any differences? Could they have shaped that transformation on their own without support from the federal states in former West Germany? Who was caught off-guard and who was able to seize at the opportunity? And what did this rapid transformation entail for the political culture and the budding democracies in the former socialist countries? To discuss this topic with you:

- Dr Agnès Arp has conducted research on transformation experiences in former federal states affiliated with the German Democratic Republic and throughout Europe in a number of projects.
- Prof. Dr. Valeska Bopp-Filimonov (requested) is Junior Professor of Romance Studies at the University of Jena and researches, inter alia, political transformation and memory culture in Romania.
- Professor Kornelia Kończal is Professor of Didactics of History and researches the culture of history and memory in Poland.

Moderation:

Dr Justus Ulbricht is a historian and specialist in German studies and monitors the democratic transformation to this day, even in his retirement.

Communal cinema Mon Ami, 5 November 2023, 3:00 pm :

Film Screening

Der Zufall – möglicherweise/ Blind Chance

Film introduction:

- Bernd Karwen, who has been working at the Polish Institute in Leipzig since 1999 and has devoted himself to literature, politics and history.

Notenbank Weimar, 05 November 2023, 16:00

Podium Discussion

Multifaceted Times – Conceptions of Time in Non-European Cultures: India and China

Ever since the Early Modern Period, a thoroughly linear and increasingly secular understanding of time has developed across Europe in which “progress” has played a pivotal role. The standardization and scientific measurement of time has also played an important role. In our encounters with other cultures, we can still immediately appreciate that there are other conception of time: deeply traditional or religious, cyclical and also more nature-oriented concepts of time, for they were also prevalent in pre-modern Europe.

At this podium discussion, we would like to look beyond the European horizon and shed more light on this topic for the Asian region. We will look at the great, historic empires of India and China. With established experts on both cultures, we first want to plunge deeper into their early history, into a time where they scarcely had any contact with Europe and into periods during which their own understanding of time was evolving. What kinds of exchange and antagonisms arose when contacts with Europe became ever closer and, over the course of colonialism, increasingly one-sided? And finally: Can the current cultural, social and political differences between Europe and these two Asian superpowers still be put down to differing conceptions of time? To discuss this topic with you:

- Prof. Dr. Patrick Eisenlohr is a Professor of Anthropology for the Society and Culture of Modern India at the University of Göttingen and researches primarily on religion and media as well as cultural exchange relations in the Indian Ocean region.
- Prof. Dr. Axel Schneider is Professor of Modern Sinology in Göttingen, where he investigates the cultural and social consequences of China's contact with European modernity.

Moderation:

Dr Andreas Braune knows and appreciates India and China only in culinary terms.

Stadtmuseum Weimar, 5th November 2023, 4:00 pm

Podium Discussion

Tomorrow It Will Be Worthless: Hyperinflation in 1923

Hardly any event in modern German economic history has been so deeply etched into the German collective memory as the hyperinflation that erupted in 1923. In countless families, it is still a matter of family lore of how Great-Grandmother or Great-Grandfather would rush to the shops once their wages had been paid in order to buy the most basic food items for millions or billions of Reichsmarks, before their money would become worthless the next day. Never before and never again has inflation in Germany seen such a pace.

But what were the causes of this hyperinflation? What were the consequences? Who were the winners, and the losers? Was inflation really one of the final nails in the coffin for the budding democracy, because it plunged so many citizens into abject poverty? How was it then possible to quash inflation so suddenly? In addition to these historical questions, the panel will also discuss its long-term effects until the present day. Have Germans nurtured an irrational relationship to inflation and deflation since those hyperinflationary times? What other examples of hyperinflation are there to be found? How threatening has inflation been in Europe since 2022? Can we better cope with such challenges today than a century ago? To discuss this topic with you:

- Prof. Dr. Oliver Holtemüller is Deputy President of the Leibniz Institute for Economic Research in Halle and conducts research on various aspects of monetary and economic policy.
- Professor Heike Knortz is an Economic Historian at the Karlsruhe University of Education.

Moderation:

Tobias Barth is an editor at *MDR Kultur*.

In collaboration with the Weimar Republic e.V., which currently is hosting the special exhibition "Trauma 1923: Germany's Hyperinflation 100 Years Ago" in the Haus der Weimarer Republik.

Rathaus-Saal Weimar, 5 November 2023, 5:00 pm

Podium Discussion

Round-Tables, Councils and Other Forms of Democratic Self-Organization during Revolutionary Times

At times the world seems to fly off the hinges, with everything changing at breath-taking speed, leaving nothing as it was. Especially in these heady times politics must be able to act swiftly and effectively and thus provide society at least the impression (the illusion?) of some form of control over such ubiquitous change. And, what if politics can't manage to provide this sense of reassurance? If it seems paralyzed, unable or unwilling to face social changes? Then the social revolution will pair itself with the political one.

Throughout history, numerous innovative and creative responses have emerged to grapple with such situations. How does one make a newly-established parliament operative? Which public bodies can ensure public safety when a head of state or leading politician suddenly abdicates or resigns? How does one organize a system transformation *within* and *with* a state that has become almost ineffective? And does this possibly even have something to do with "citizens' councils"?

Human and social imagination is seemingly limitless, especially in times of need. Our panel will discuss how political innovations emerge in such times, from what sources they draw upon, what changes they make in their engagement with "reality"; how successful they appear in terms of historical insight, and where there could be need for new forms of politics today.

- Dr Hanna Delf von Wolzogen is the editor of Gustav Landauer's recently published *Briefe 1899-1919*.
- Veronika Helfert is a Research Affiliate at the Department of Gender Studies/Department of History at the Central European University in Vienna.
- Maria Schultz is a board member of the Lindenstraße Memorial Foundation, who recently worked on an exhibition about Potsdam women during the Peaceful Revolution.

Moderation:

Dr Markus Lang, Society for Research on the History of Democracy, Weimar.

This event will be hosted in cooperation with the Gesellschaft zur Erforschung der Demokratie-Geschichte e.V.

Communal cinema Mon Ami, November 05, 2023, 6:00 pm,

Film Screening

Modern Times

Silent film pianist Richard Siedhoff lives in Weimar and won the German Silent Film Award in 2020.

Notenbank Weimar, 05 November 2023, 18:00

Tea Ceremony

Tempo - Tempo - Teapo

Time and how it is perceived equally plays an indispensable role in tea cultures. Let

us take the highly aromatic teas from the *Wulong* family as an example: in preparing this tea mere seconds make all the difference between heavenly rapture and unbearable bitterness. The art of *Gongfu* tea was developed especially for these teas, loosely translated in these parts as “tea ceremony”. Among its multiple attributes, this ceremony introduces a sense of peace into our otherwise hectic lives, a sense slowness and deceleration, yet without neglecting the needs of the tea. And yet, over the course of the year, a certain day or age can also be incorporated into preparations for a “tea ceremony”. The experience of *Gongfu* tea is a feast for the senses; it is special and yet part of our daily lives. In addition to time and tempo, it offers us opportunities for reflection, or simply space for slowing down and enjoyment. In any case, it invites us to experience something new.

- *Gongfu* host Wieland Schulz (Leipzig), sinologist, physician and tea enthusiast has for more than a decade hosted a variety of tea ceremonies, informed experiences for the mind and the senses, meditations and mindfulness practice with tea.

Please register at: konfuzius@ki-erfurt.de

In collaboration with the Confucius Institute Erfurt.

Tage der Geschichte/ History Days

In tandem with many of Weimar’s historical institutions, we are once again organizing the *Tage der Geschichte*. All participating partners and agencies will open their doors to the public and reveal multi-faceted layers of history that (not only) hide behind their facades. We invite you to join us in rediscovering familiar places together and to take a journey down memory lane!

Topf und Söhne Memorial, 2 November 2023, 7:00 pm
Book Presentation and Talk

Youth in Flames – A Teenager’s Resistance and Her Fight for Survival in the Warsaw Ghetto

On account of the prevailing conditions, we have unfortunately have to postpone until a future date the presentation and public reading of Aliza Vitis-Shomron’s book. We look forward to hosting the author in the future.

Author Aliza Vitis-Shomron will be the book’s presentation guest of honour, accompanied by her children Iris, Asa and Hanan. Franka Günther will read excerpts from Vitis-Shomron’s book. The musical accompaniment will be provided by the author’s grandson Omri Vitis and the Berlin cellist Tobias Unterberg. Under the Nazi regime, Aliza Vitis-Shomron, born in Warsaw in 1928, lost almost her entire family. She found hope in the Jewish youth movement *Hashomer Hatzair*. Too young to take part in the armed struggle, she was just old enough to testify in writing about what she had experienced. She furtively wrote on scraps of paper how her family and friends struggled to survive in the Warsaw Ghetto. *Youth in Flames* tells of the Holocaust from the perspective of a girl active in underground and the experiences of a young woman who escaped Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, was liberated from the “stranded train” close to Farsleben. After the war ended she dared to embark on a new beginning in Israel. Telling her life-story is and remains her legacy.

With Aliza Vitis-Shomron (Israel), Dr Stephan Stach (Leipzig), Omri Vitis (Israel)

Moderation:

Petra Sawadogo (Erfurt)

Registration requested at: fsj.topfundsoehne@erfurt.de

This event will be hosted in German and Hebrew and will be interpreted by Dr Josef Peter Jeschke (Halle).

In collaboration with the Topf und Söhne Memorial.

Nietzsche-Archiv Weimar, 4 November 2023, 11:00 am

Guided Tour

Nietzsche in the Age of Precipitation

Time is money, at least ever since capitalism has been driving bourgeois people around the globe in search of ever newer products and markets. Both products and markets seem unnecessarily scarce and call for haste. Unlike nearly all other thinkers, Friedrich Nietzsche has made the “sickness of dignified haste” the subject of his culturally critical diagnoses. Should one believe Nietzsche, many are afraid of coming to their senses. After years of dedicated, almost hectic philosophical writing, Weimar’s Villa Silberblick was to become for the philosopher a place of enforced calm even in the aftermath his nervous breakdown. A guided tour through the historical Nietzsche Archive offers us the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with Nietzsche’s fast-paced yearning for innovation as well as his critique of acceleration.

A guided tour through the Nietzsche Archive with Professor Dr. Helmut Heit.

In collaboration with the Klassik Stiftung Weimar.

Goethe-Schiller Monument Weimar, 4 November 2023, 12:00 noon

City Tour

In Search of Nazi Forced Labour in Weimar

Forced labour under the Nazi regime was a mass and largely publicly visible crime – and Weimar was no exception. Thanks to this city tour, stories of forced labour in Weimar’s city centre will be revealed, availing of multiple concrete examples and biographies. Who were these forced laborers in Weimar? Where were they deployed? Who benefited from their forced labour?

City Tour of the Museum of Forced Labour under National Socialism with Dr Daniel Logemann.

In collaboration with the Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora Memorials Foundation.

Bürgerhaus Ulla, 4 November 2023, 3:00 pm

Public Event

A Short Journey with the UN Time Capsule

The villages of Ulla, Nohra and Obergrunstedt and their surroundings west of Weimar offer not only a business park named after the localities, but together with the Landscape Park also propose all sorts of smaller and larger places and artefacts dating from the history of several centuries up until recent times. We would like to invite you on a short journey, which crosses these localities and centuries like in a time capsule.

15:00: Visual history of these three villages and their surroundings in the Bürgerhaus Ulla, lecture by Professor Albrecht von Massow

16:00: Visit of the church and the church forecourt in Ulla with Andreas Methfessel as

well as the exhibition devoted to the former Nohra airfield.

17:30: Culminating with music with Franziska Schuhmann (University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar) and a small snack in the Bürgerhaus Ulla.

In collaboration with the Nohra Landscape Park Foundation.

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, 4 November 2023, 3:00 pm

Erzählcafé / Storytelling Café

Bauhaus Ost: University History –Women in the German Democratic Republic

Following the renaming of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar in 1996, the university continued in the vein of Bauhaus from 1919 to 1925. The former University of Architecture and Civil Engineering (HAB) was thus increasingly forgotten as a direct predecessor institution. The *Erzählcafé* for the general public will approach this historical phase of the university before and around 1990 in a direct and firsthand manner.

Two alumni will talk to each other at the *Erzählcafé* about their past experiences. The events will provide an idea of how history is experienced on the subjective level and how personal experience intertwines with larger historical events. The *Erzählcafé* has set out to transmit history orally and to introduce the subject to a wider audience.

Venue : Atelier-Café in the courtyard of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

This event will be hosted by the International Heritage Centre of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar with Archiv der Moderne.

Stadtmuseum Weimar, 5 November 2023, 12:00 pm

Lecture

Bauhaus and National Socialism – Insights into a Complex Relationship

On the occasion of the anniversary of its foundation, celebrated in 2019, Bauhaus and its international significance as an early 20th century avant-garde school was extensively acknowledged. This recognition has shown just how important the Bauhaus' experiments and artistic results have been for modernity. One crucial topic was neglected, however: how Bauhaus artists and practitioners were involved with National Socialism after 1933. Many of them, notably the former teachers, were detrimentally impacted by the denunciations of "Degenerate Art" in 1937. And yet, numerous former Bauhaus students also took part in Nazi propaganda shows throughout the Third Reich. They exhibited their works at craft presentations, designed film posters, furniture, household items and even busts of Hitler.

Dr Anke Blümm's presentation will afford us deeper insights into this complex relationship. Her presentation is related to an exhibition project to be held in Weimar from May to September 2024.

In collaboration with the Klassik Stiftung Weimar.

Haus der Weimarer Republik , 5 November 2023, 2:30 pm

Guided Tour

When Inflation Stampeded Through Germany

During the autumn of 1923, people had really to get a move on, especially when it came to spending money. A century ago, hyperinflation was to traumatize Germans and to this very day still shapes their relationship toward money. On the occasion of the centennial anniversary of that dramatic event, the Haus der Weimarer Republik is hosting an extensive special exhibition on this historical topic with a series of

exhibits, stories and facts about inflation, both then and now. With the exhibition, the extension to the building for the central memorial to the first German democracy was also inaugurated.

As part of a public tour, Stephan Zänker, managing director of the Trägerverein Weimarer Republik e.V., will explain the *Haus'* objectives and usher visitors into the literally crazy time of 1923.

In collaboration with the Weimar Republic e.V.

The Rendez-vous hosted in...

Tivoli Gotha, 2 November 2023, 16:00

Podium Discussion

The Last Gotha Stagecoach and the European Transport Revolutions, 1860-1930

By the time the last Gotha stagecoach was taken out of service in 1931 and replaced by motorized cars, this development had already signalled the end of the use of animal traction for transport, industry and agriculture in Germany. While it is true that horse-drawn carriages remained part of the typical cityscape even of large cities until the post-war years in the aftermath of the Second World War, the second part of the great European transport revolution was already in full swing. Automobiles and trucks were steadily replacing whatever remained of the first revolution in animal traction. Especially for long-distance travel and faraway destinations, the railway had long since begun its triumphal march.

The upshot of these transport revolutions was an enormous increase in travel and transport speeds – and a “diminution” of space. Locations, which for centuries had been several days away, could now be reached within a few hours or in a day. How did these revolutions change people’s perceptions of time and space? How did they change spatial and economic structures? Starting from the Gotha stagecoach and its close links to the region, we would like to discuss this topic more broadly for that historical epoch. Because the sense of acceleration which people experienced at that juncture is much closer to us than you might often think. Concurrently, the third revolution took flight: zeppelins and airplanes conquered the skies and increased the life’s tempo yet again. To discuss this fascinating topic with you:

- Dr Thomas Eisentraut directs the Collection/Exhibitions Department at the Dresden Traffic Museum. He is passionate about shipping, and in his private life he also loves traveling by motorcycle.
- Dr Alexander Krünes is the city historian for the city of Gotha.
- Professor Kurt Möser is a professor at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and researches the cultural history of various means of transport. He prefers to sail rather than to fly.

Moderation:

Dr Andreas Braune is the scientific director of the Weimar Rendez-vous with History and a fervent railway and cycling enthusiast.

In collaboration with the city of Gotha and the Förderverein Gothaer Tivoli e.V.

Tivoli Gotha, 2 November 2023, 6 pm

Podium Discussion

“The New Age Moves with Us” – Critique of Time and Revolutionary Sense of Time in the Early Labour Movement

In 1914, the well-known workers' song *When We're Marching Side by Side* heralded the promise of the "new time". But what would such a time actually entail? As unclear as this often remained, one thing was for sure: only the organized working class would and could bring it about. This notion was deeply rooted in the self-image of the early labour movement ever since Karl Marx furnished them with their ideological foundations. The proletariat, as a "locomotive of history", was thereby called upon to advance social progress, and to do so by revolutionary means.

The early labour movement's social critique is therefore rich in time-related metaphors. Furthermore, the factor "time" played a pivotal role in their analysis of capitalism. The struggle for the reduction of time spent working, for example the demand for the 8-hour day, thus formed part of the struggle for this "new time". Even today, in discussions about "abundance of time", and a 4-day week, these conflicts rumble on, albeit in a somewhat milder form.

Where better to discuss this revolutionary sense of time back then (and now?) than in Gotha's Tivoli, one of the key sites for the organized labour movement? Why was it precisely here at this location that the shift in the sense of time in capitalism and the founding of the party for social democracy coincided? To discuss this topic with you:

- Prof. Dr. Werner Greiling is Chairman of the Historical Commission for Thuringia and has researched, inter alia, the history of the calendar system.
- Knut Kreuch is Lord Mayor of Gotha and has laid great emphasis on the importance of workers' history as part of the city's history.
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Kroll is Professor of Western European History at the FSU Jena and researches the social and intellectual history of the labour movement.

Moderation:

Judy Slivi works at *Arbeit und Leben Thüringen*, and is an outstanding connoisseur of Gotha's history.

In collaboration with the city of Gotha and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Theater Arnstadt, 2 November 2023, 7:30 pm

Theatrical Production

Im Rausch der Neuen Zeit/ The Buzz of the New Age

A talk show presenter facing his greatest opportunity. A newspaper reporter who staggers through life as though it were a nightmare. What are these "new times"? Where do internal and external conditions lead us when no one can assess them any longer? Is it even worth looking back over the past – if we are constantly on the move at top speed, always looking toward what lies ahead?

Im Rausch der Neuen Zeit tells of two people at the turning- and pivotal-point of their epoch. Lukas Krautkrämer and Franz Wiesel, a talk show presenter and a journalist in the midst of the Weimar Republic: one lives in the media overheated 21st century, the other in the socially and politically stressful conditions of 1920s Germany. One works in a television studio, the other at his typewriter: they both, in their own way, become protagonists of turbulent world events.

What unites them is the upheaval. A fever, a whirlpool from which there's no escape –because the "new time" is nowhere on the horizon. It's been so a long time ago already. So let's celebrate it with a look backwards and ahead, with songs and pamphlets and hate speech. With ease, with melancholy, with feeling, and of course with a great deal of buzz - and sometimes with even a bigger hangover: There you have it, your "new time"!

In collaboration with the Weimar Republic e.V. and musealis GmbH. The production was funded by the Federal Ministry of Justice.