

Abstracts

Evelyn Annuß

Propaganda und Gedenken

Nazi propaganda and its use of gendered images changes substantially between 1933 and 1945, i. e. poses the question of how ›fascist aesthetics‹ could actually be defined. The theatricalization of Volk and Führer during National Socialism shifts from soldier-like mass reenactments of the Nazi takeover and the respective use of speaking choirs to mute mass ornaments performed by school girls and finally to the feminine allegorization of the Volksgemeinschaft in film. Since the later formats of Nazi propaganda are often dismissed, their slight aesthetic correspondence to personalizations of memory politics are sometimes overlooked today. However, at the same time there are performative interventions into public discourse by activists that underline the necessity of remembering the nameless and counter official memory politics. Linking the recent discussion on refugees to German history, these activists are calling for a revision of current border politics in Europe and our notion of human rights that could be read as a new form of feminist politics.

Keywords: Flucht, Gedenkpolitik, Masseninszenierung, NS-Theater, Propaganda, Volksgemeinschaft

Christina von Braun

Zur Bedeutung der Sexualbilder im rassistischen Antisemitismus

One of the striking characteristics of anti-Semitism in the 19th century is that it was both ›biological‹ and deeply religious in terms of its vocabulary and images. This

showed especially clearly in the sexual stereotypes projected upon the ›body of the Jew‹. Many of them were quite paradoxical: Thus, ›the Jew‹ was on one side ›feminized‹ and described as a sexual perpetrator on the other. The paper focuses on the Christian origins of some of these ideas and shows how they were transformed as they underwent a process of secularisation and became part of ›modern thinking‹: i.e. the Christian idea of the purity of the blood of Christ and the martyrs was transformed into the racist idea of the purity of Aryan blood. By sexualizing ›the Jew‹ religious otherness was turned into a physiological or ›natural‹ otherness, with the effect that Jewish otherness appeared as ineffaceable and rooted in physiological ›reality‹. In spite of the fact that the anti-Semitic vocabulary made wide use of religious terms, for contemporaries the religious origins of the constructs were hardly discernible. This is exactly what the force of these images relied upon: they were deeply embedded in the collective unconscious. Paradoxically, the modern ›belief‹ in the natural sciences, based on rationality itself, had prepared the way for this acceptance of a ›materialisation‹ of transcendent ideas.

Keywords: Anti-Semitism, Sexualization of ›the Jew‹, Religious origins of the idea of Aryan ›blood‹, ›purity‹ and ›sacrifice‹, Assimilation

Claudia Bruns

Die Grenzen des »Volkskörpers«: Interrelationen zwischen »Rasse«, Raum und Geschlecht in NS-Geopolitik und Kunst

The geopolitical discourse of the 1930s did not only negotiate the territorial demarcations of a future »Grosseuropa« which was to be identified with Germany. Racial and gender related difference constructions also played a part. Historically, these functioned as the legitimization and naturalization of territorial claims. Ultimately, symbolic demarcations not only substantially add to the rigor of territorial borders, they are integral to their continuance and their working.

The second part of this article analyzes the visual representations of the Greek myth of Europe (among others by Werner Peiner) from the same perspective. After all, the close allegorical relation constructed between the body of the community and the (female) human body forms one of the central intersections between geographico-territorial demarcation processes and other symbolic difference constructions. Particularly, the comparison between two fields of discourse that appear to be disparate at first sight allows one to draw conclusions concerning the prevalence and virulence of intersectional patterns that legitimized the NS demarcation processes.

Thus, this contribution shows that not only territorial demarcations but also gender related and racial differences formed part of the development of the (external) borders of the National Socialist »GROSSEUROPA« in geopolitical texts as well as artistic visualizations of Europe – precisely because they followed similar intersectional logic.

Keywords: Geschlecht, Rassismus, Geografie, Geopolitik, Intersektionalität, Europa, Europamythos

Patrick Farges

Die »Jeckes« im Mandatsgebiet Palästina und in Israel: Versuch einer Männlichkeitsgeschichte

Growing up as a Jewish man in Germany and Austria between the wars was coupled with contradictory affects and emotions. On the one hand, young men were to become strong »German« bodies able to defend themselves. This was a way to resist the old anti-Semitic stigma of the Jews« weakness and feminization. On the other hand, they were to adopt distinctive »Jewish« ways of being a man. With the radicalization of anti-Semitism after 1933 in Germany (respectively 1938 in Austria), emigration to Mandate Palestine became a life-saving option. Hence conforming to »Zionist« ideals before and after the emigration became central. This article, based on oral history interviews and other life narratives produced by »yekkes«, i. e. German-speaking Jews in Palestine / Israel, aims at writing a history of masculinity »from below.« How did the yekkes« post-migration representations of masculinity evolve? How did they react to the masculinist and hegemonic values that emerged in the Israeli nation-building process?

Keywords: Yekkes – Jewish History – Masculinity – Israel – Oral History

Sabine Grenz

Tagebuch und Autobiografie: Weiblichkeitskonstruktionen und Erinnerungskulturen: Das Kriegs-/Brieftagebuch und die Autobiografie einer nazi-affinen Frau

Research of ego documents from the Second World War written by non-persecuted Germans have so far prioritised letters and diaries written by men, especially soldiers at the front. However, as ample research on gender and National Socialism proves, also civilian women were involved in the war (e.g. sowing clothes) and potentially supported it. In this article I will focus on the diary and later written autobiographies of an active women member of the NSDAP that is written in form of letters to her husband who was missed as a soldier. In her diary she creates an identity (and memory) in line with the party's gender construction. However, in her later biographies written in other social contexts, she leaves out her affirmative attitudes and creates an identity in line with the universal figure of the war widow. Thus, her diary allows insights in memory shifts.

Keywords: gender, memory, diaries, National Socialism

Vandana Joshi

Soldier's Morale and War Wife's Morality: Gendered Images of Righteousness and Citizenship in Nazi Germany

While the theme of German women's involvement with prisoners of war during the Second World War is not new to historians, how the families of incarcerated female convicts responded to this specific gendered crime in Nazi Germany, has not been a subject of critical and historical inquiry so far. The article for the first time makes a case for soldier husbands as com-

passionate partners who came to the rescue of their wives languishing in police custody, prisons or penitentiary due to their intimate relations with prisoners of war. The criminal proceedings of local, regional and special courts against these newly created »female criminals« contain clemency appeals filed by their kith and kin as well as soldier husbands. While most of the appeals filed by defendants' relatives fell on deaf ears, the appeals of soldier-husbands presented a challenge to the regime. Through a discourse analysis of these clemency appeals and the real circumstances of the involved couple – as far as they can be reconstructed through the case files – the paper reaches in inner realms of a soldier's conjugal life and unveils his notions of home and fatherland, morality and propriety, duty and patriotism vis-à-vis the Nazi state's disciplinary stance towards his partner and the female criminal in general. These judicial proceedings offer us a unique archive to write the history of love, war and sexuality from a perspective, which has so far remained invisible in contemporary ego documents such as diaries and autobiographies.

Keywords: war, sexuality, forbidden love, prisoners of war

Sabine Kalf

»Alarm! Alarm! Teppiche geklopft.« Literarische Schreibverfahren in Brigitte Eickes Backfisch im Bombenkrieg. Notizen in Steno (2013)

This paper examines an exemplary female diaristic approach to the bombing of Berlin between 1942 and 1945. The diary of Brigitte Eicke applies different literary strategies by which the narrator detaches herself from the threatening historical events. While the air warfare aimed at

eliciting fear and panic from the civilian population, female diarists during the Second World War like Eicke developed literary strategies and technologies of the self to face the fundamental threat to life. Eicke's precise and continuous account of air raids participates in a factual diaristic tradition preceding the modern intimate diary, such as official war diaries, sea and weather journals. Air raids are described similar to natural events, such as weather

phenomena, which thus were naturalized. Furthermore, Eicke adopts an aestheticised view on the air raids, appreciating their aesthetic quality. This strategy of emotional detachment and the technique of omission may be traced back to the literary practices of the New Objectivity (*Neue Sachlichkeit*).

Keywords: Verhaltenslehren, Diaristik, Zweiter Weltkrieg