



ZMO-Kolloquium Summer Term 2014

Thursday, March 13, 2014, 6 pm

The Nazi-Soviet Pact in the Light of Transnational History

Lecture by Jennifer Jenkins

Change of venue:
Zentrum für Literatur- und
Kulturforschung
Schützenstraße 18

10117 Berlin

The Nazi-Soviet Pact, a central topic in the scholarship on the Second World War, is generally studied in its political and European dimensions. It was the instrument for the coming together of two unlikely ideological allies in the destruction and acquisition of Poland. By contrast the economic aspects of the Pact are understudied, although they were fundamental to how it functioned. They also worked through transnational networks that stretched far beyond Europe.

This paper takes a new look at the Nazi-Soviet Pact by embedding it in German and Soviet economic policies toward the Near East, specifically with Iran, from the early Weimar period forward. Looking at the longer history of German-Soviet-Persian economic cooperation in the interwar period, Iran's importance as a zone of cooperation between Germany and the USSR, and its place in the making of the Pact, will be explored.

Jennifer L. Jenkins is Associate Professor of German and European History at the University of Toronto, where she holds a Canada Research Chair in Modern German History. She is the author of *Provincial Modernity: Local Culture and Liberal Politics in Fin-de-Siècle Hamburg* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2003) as has held fellowships from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Harvard University's Center for European Studies and from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

She is a Senior Associate Member at St. Antony's College, Oxford for the academic year 2013-14, where she is finishing a book on German-Iranian relations from the Crimean War to Operation Barbarossa (entitled *Weltpolitik on the Persian Frontier: Germany and Iran in the Age of Empire*). Further projects include *Germany Among the Global Empires 1840 to the Present*, which she is writing for the Wiley-Blackwell series "A New History of Modern Europe."

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