

Transatlantischer Mittwoch 2013

Mittwoch, 27. November 2013, 18 Uhr c.t.

Travel Agents on Trial: Emigration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the "Free World"

Vortrag von Prof. **Tara Zahra**, University of Chicago
(Berthold Leibinger-Stipendiatin der American Academy)

in englischer Sprache

Moderation: **Hans Jürgen Balmes**, *Neue Rundschau*

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Eintritt frei!

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Tara Zahra, a professor of history at the University of Chicago, is interested in comparative approaches to modern European history, with a particular focus on migration and displacement, nationalism, gender and the family, international humanitarianism, and human rights.

After the Second World War, the "captivity" of East Europeans behind the Iron Curtain came to be seen as a quintessential symbol of Communist oppression. The Iron Curtain was not, however, built overnight in 1948 or 1961. Its foundation was arguably laid before the First World War, when Austrian Imperial officials began a century-long campaign to curtail emigration in the name of demographic power and humanitarian values. This talk examines how and why emigration came to be such a polarizing issue in East Central Europe in the late nineteenth century, arguing that emigration was linked to changing ideas about freedom, slavery, and mobility in twentieth century Europe and America.

Ein Projekt des Kulturamts Stadt Frankfurt am Main und des US-Generalkonsulats Frankfurt in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Institut für England- und Amerikastudien der Goethe-Universität Frankfurt