

Unbinding Germans' Transnational Histories
Public Talk (Zoom) by Prof. H. Glenn Penny (University of Iowa)



(Source: Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amts)

14 September 2021, 18.00-19.30 CET

The many transnational analyses that emerged over the last thirty years repeatedly demonstrated how poorly unitary narratives tied to the nation-state have served Germans and their histories. Yet if pointing out inadequacies has been relatively easy, fashioning alternative narratives has not. Unbinding German history from the cunning teleology of the nation-state is much like decolonizing the western histories of the world. It requires a fundamental rethinking of how our tales of the past have been told and a great deal of reflection on the language we have used to tell them. It also requires us to unbind Germans' transnational histories as well as their national ones.

H. Glenn Penny is Professor of History at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Iowa. His main research interests include the history of anthropology, the relationships between Europeans and non-Europeans from the 18th century to the present, colonialism, empire, German polycentrism, and Germans' interests in the wider world, particularly Latin America. He is the author of *Objects of Culture: Ethnology and Ethnographic Museums in Imperial Germany* (2002), *Kindred by Choice: Germans and American Indians since 1800* (2013), *In Humboldt's Shadow: A Tragic History of German Ethnology* (2021). He is currently completing a book titled *German History Unbound, 1750 to the Present*.

The event is part of the project [“Expellees Outside Germany: The Danube Swabian Postwar Migrations to La Roque-sur-Pernes \(France\) and Entre Rios \(Brazil\)”](#) at the Institute for Social Movements, Ruhr University Bochum. Cristian Cercel (Ruhr University Bochum) and James Koranyi (Durham University) will moderate the discussion following the talk.

Please register by 14 September, 17:00 CET at the following link: <https://ruhr-uni-bochum.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Ulce2orjIpEtbMWBHhHEvy-mYIWuaJvMK3>

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