Forschungsgruppe „Geschichte + Gedächtnis“ (University of Konstanz) in cooperation with Ute Frevert (Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin) and Steven Aschheim (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

July 1-2, 2011
International Conference
Max Planck Institute for Human Development | Lentzeallee 94 | 14195 Berlin

Empathy and the Blocking of Empathy

PROGRAMME

Friday, July 1, 2011
9:00 – 9:15  Aleida Assmann (Konstanz), Opening Remarks

PANEL 1: Neuroscience
9:15 – 10:45  Tania Singer (Leipzig)
"Empathy from the Perspective of Social Neuroscience"

Nils Birbaumer (Tübingen)
"Lack of Empathy: Changing the Brain Substrate"

PANEL 2: Cultural Concepts
11:15 – 13:30  Fritz Breithaupt (Bloomington)
"The Dark Sides of Empathy"

Sophie Oliver (Berlin/Konstanz)
"Empathy and Erotopy: Bakhitin and the Return to Self as Ethical Act"

Moshe Halbertal (Jerusalem/New York)
"Mercy, Compassion and the Moral Significance of Empathy"

PANEL 3: Empathy and the Holocaust
14:30 – 17:00  Peter Fritzschke (Urbana)
"Talk of Auschwitz: The Struggle to Manage Empathy in the Third Reich"

Aleida Assmann (Konstanz)
"Looking away in Nazi Germany"

Amos Goldberg (Jerusalem)
"Listening to the Victim’s Voice: History, Ethics and Melodrama"

Saturday, July 2, 2011

PANEL 4: Cases of Empathy Past and Present
9:00 – 10:30  Ute Frevert (Berlin)
"Witnessing Public Cruelty and Shame Sanctions"

Jay Winter (New Haven)
"Empathy and the Disabled during and after the Great War"

11:00 – 12:30  Anja Schwarz (Potsdam)
"Denying Coevalness: Reenacting Australia’s Imperial History in 1938"

Jaqueline Lo (Canberra)
"Why should we care?: Some Thoughts on Cosmopolitan Hauntings"

PANEL 5: Empathy and the Disciplines
13:30 – 15:00  Steven Aschheim (Jerusalem)
"The (Ambiguous) Political Economy of Empathy"

Liisa Mallki (Stanford)
"Impossible Situations: Affect, Ethics and the Imaginati-
on of Humanitarian and Ethnographic Fieldwork"

PANEL 6: Concluding Remarks
15:30 – 16:30  Jan Assmann (Konstanz)
Martin Bauer (Hamburg)

The public is welcome. Please register by e-mail to singer@mpib-berlin.mpg.de by June 28, 2011. The conference will be held in English.