

**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 Exotopy: Bakhtin 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 Fritzsche (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”*

Jacqueline 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 Malkki (Stanford)  
*“Impossible Situations: Affect, Ethics and the Imagination 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](mailto:singer@mpib-berlin.mpg.de) by June 28, 2011.  
The conference will be held in English.

