

S20 **URBAN REFORM IN GERMANY, THE UNITED STATES, AND GERMAN EAST AFRICA:
COMPARISONS AND CONNECTIONS, 1890-1914**

Organisers: Andrew Lees (Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey)
 Dr. Marcus Gräser (German Historical Institute-Washington)

Period: Modern

Date: Thursday, 30 August, 2012

Time: 11:00-12:30

Room: 111

Description

We would like to organize a session for the next conference of the EAUH in which ideas about mastering the challenges posed by the rapid growth of the big cities (Großstädte) in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and efforts to implement such ideas would be considered both comparatively and transnationally. Both Germany and the United States experienced quite pronounced urban development, both as a result of industrialization and as a result of migration, which in turn caused a wide range of social dislocations and difficulties. Albeit somewhat belatedly, dysfunctions gave rise in both countries to programs that pointed toward enabling cities to function more effectively as places in which the welfare of the many, not just the wealth of the few, would be protected and promoted. Such programs can be studied side-by-side, but, as Daniel Rodgers has shown in his masterful *Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age* (1998), they can also be examined with respect to the ways in which they interacted across national boundaries. Sharing a long-standing interest in the history of social reform – particularly in cities – in both of the countries under consideration here, each of us has written both comparative and transnational history. Dr. Lees’s major contribution in the comparative area is his book *Cities Perceived: Urban Society in European and American Thought, 1820-1940* (1985). He has written articles on German views of British cities, and currently, he is doing research on German views of social reform in America, 1890-1917, on which he will report at a session on German and American social reform around 1900 that he has organized for the 2011 conference of the German Studies Association. Dr. Gräser operates at both levels in his recent book, *Wohlfahrtsgesellschaft und Wohlfahrtsstaat: Bürgerliche Sozialreform und Welfare State Building in den USA und Deutschland, 1880-1940* (2008). We thus feel that we are in a good position both to organize and to contribute to the session we have in mind. We would hope to elicit proposals for other papers that will be either comparative or transnational. We are also prepared, however – in the absence of such proposals – to consider proposals for papers that deal with urban reform in just one country, which could lead to comparative discussions at the conference.

Scientific Programme

COMMENT

Marcus Gräser (Johannes Kepler Universität Linz, Linz, Austria)

1355 THE PEDAGOGY OF THE CITY: THE EMERGENCE OF THE URBAN 'KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY' IN EUROPE AND THE US, C 1900-1914

Hakan Forsell (Centre for urban and regional research, Stockholm, Sweden)

902 FEMINISM, EDUCATION, AND THE URBAN CHILD: THE INTERNATIONAL KINDERGARTEN UNION 1892-1914

Ann Allen (University of Louisville, History, Louisville, USA)