

Public Panel Discussion

Chitra Joshi, Prabhu Mohapatra, Dorothee Wierling

History, Memory and the Archives of Experiences

This panel will address questions of theory and method in oral history and open up a broader discussion of memory, subjectivities and experience. Oral history as a method has been crucial in writing the histories of those who are often relegated to the margins of official/ dominant discourses. More than simply recovering the voices of the dispossessed and the ignored, oral history broadens our understanding of the layered, ambiguous and often contradictory articulations of both individual and collective memory. On the one hand, oral history could address gaps and silences in documentary/written sources, complementing or disturbing historical narratives; on the other, this also enables us to examine the interactions between personal and public histories, between the structural and the individual. Complicating the notion that oral history helps capture a 'truer' historical experience, this panel will discuss ways of doing oral history, explore its mediated and dialogic forms and highlight its challenges.

Chitra Joshi is currently fellow at the International Research Centre "Work and Human Lifecycle" (re:work), at Humboldt University, Berlin. She teaches history at Indraprastha College, University of Delhi and has been actively engaged in writing and researching the many histories of Indian labour.

Prabhu Mohapatra is an Associate Professor of Modern Indian History at the University of Delhi. He has been a visiting Fellow and Professor at Cambridge University, University of Göttingen and at re:work, Humboldt University. He is a founder member and secretary of the Association of Indian Labour Historians (AILH).

Dorothee Wierling is at present leading a research project titled, 'Hamburg im Visier der DDR' which explores the histories of Hamburg in relation to the GDR's western policies. She was formerly the Deputy Director of Forschungsstelle für Zeitgeschichte in Hamburg (FZH) and Professor of History at Hamburg University. She has published widely on social history, oral and gender history.

The panel discussion will be held in English on:

Tuesday, 23 May 2017, 05:00 pm
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
IGK Work and Human Lifecycle in Global History
Georgenstraße 23, 6th Floor, 10117 Berlin

followed by a small reception

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to: felicitas.hentschke@asa.hu-berlin.de