Fall Term 2010/2011
Research Seminar

Fear in European History

Organised by Heinz-Gerhard Haupt and Martin van Gelderen

Usually on Monday 15.00-17.00, Sala Belvedere

Introduction

It is almost a platitude to state that fear is one of the dominant facts of life—in politics, in religion, in our private and public emotions. Yet in terms of the study of history fear is a much neglected subject, all too often a mere subtext in historical analysis.

The aim of this research seminar is to move towards a more sustained and systematic analysis of the role and significance of fear in European history. Our focus is on politics and religion— on Terreur and terror, on political theory and practice and on religion.

Programme and Readings

11.10 Introduction: The problem of fear in the perspective of a history of ideas and of social and political history

18.10 Conceptual questions
Readings:

25.10 Fear and Emotions

8.11 Fear and Freedom: Thomas Hobbes
Readings:
- Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, chapters 14 and 21

15.11 Fear and Religion: Paul and Luther (with Thomas Kaufmann)
Texts: Paul, Luther plus commentary-- tbc
22.11 Fear, Revolution and Terreur
Readings:

29.11 Fear and International Relations: Carl Schmitt
Texts:
Commentary:
- Jan Werner Mueller, A Dangerous Mind: Carl Schmitt in Post-War European Thought, pp. 87-103

13.12 Modern Terrorism and Fear
- Stanley Cohen, Moral Panics, London 1972
- D.L. Altheide, Terrorism and the Politics of Fear, Oxford 2006, pp. 113-131