



Interaktionen

"VWI goes to the University of Vienna"

Thursday, 28 April 2016, 12.00-1.00 p.m.
Institut für Zeitgeschichte der Universität Wien
Seminarraum 1
Spitalgasse 2–4, Hof 1
1090 Wien

Carson PHILLIPS

Who What Wear? Emerging Gender Constructs in Post-war Vienna

My point of departure is the crisis of masculinity that engulfed Germanophone Europe at the end of the Second World War. The diversity of ways in which men and women re-conceptualised themselves and re-established their place in the newly emergent society is at the core of this project. By locating, analysing, and putting forward concise models of gender constructs which emerged in Vienna in the aftermath of the Second World War, my project bridges the two historical periods while demonstrating the continued effects of the Holocaust upon societal conceptualizations of gender. I offer multiple analyses and perceptions of gender in Vienna.



This presentation will include the findings from my research conducted thus far at VWI. I will use a variety of materials to support my thesis that gender constructs are fluid and are responsive to many types of stimuli – social, political, economic – and that this reality also remained true for post-war Vienna. A primary lens of inquiry will be archival photographs gleaned from journals, magazines, newspapers and private collections in order to elucidate the new constructs of gender. I expect my research to illuminate how and to what extent outside fashion influences, including those in the Soviet sphere of influence from 1945-1955, shaped Austrian constructs of gender. Similarly, I intend to clarify what internal factors contributed to the organic re-development of gender constructs in Austria. This presentation will outline how external and internal forces shape gender and the questions that arise from this. Constructs of gender, as seen in fashion and society, will be brought into the contemporary sphere with an explorative analysis of the correlation between the wearing of traditional clothing (*Tracht*) and conservative and liberal constructs of gender and politics.

Chair: Johanna GEHMACHER

Carson Phillips is currently Research Fellow at the VWI. He completed his PhD in Humanities utilising archival resources, memoirs and testimony exploring post-Holocaust conceptualisations of masculinity. He is an editorial board member of *PRISM – An Interdisciplinary Journal for Holocaust Educators*, and an expert on Holocaust pedagogy. From 2009–2014, he was a delegate to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance – IHRA.

Johanna Gehmacher teaches Contemporary History and Gender History at the Department of Contemporary History, University of Vienna. Currently, she is head of an FWF-funded research project about the German political activist and journalist Käthe Schirmacher.