

“VWI invites the Institute of Culture Studies and Theatre History”

Wednesday, 16 May 2018, 3.00 pm
VWI Research Lounge
1010 Vienna, Rabensteig 3, 3rd Floor

Fredrik LINDSTRÖM

Organising Austria’s Past: Bruno Kreisky, Herbert Steiner, Simon Wiesenthal and the Institutionalisation of History and Memory in the Second Republic

Drawing on a biographical perspective on the influence of a few important individuals for the shaping of Austrian Post-War history and memory culture, the focus of the presentation will be on institutionalized forms of dealing with the Austrian past, foremost in the period 1960-1988.

Historical commissions and institutes, documentation centres and permanent historical exhibitions were founded or initialized by individuals whose mind set and worldview were formed in the inter-war era and during the Nazi period. These institutions contributed strongly to stabilizing and perpetuating a special Austrian history and memory culture. However, that history and memory culture was not without internal tensions and contradictions. The occasional clash between different understandings of the Austrian past may tentatively be approached as the clashing of “tectonic plates” undergirding Austrian history and memory culture.



Commented by Heidemarie UHL

Fredrik Lindström studied History at Lund University (Sweden) and spent a post-doc year at the Institut für Zeitgeschichte at Vienna University. He is at the present Senior Lecturer of European Studies at Malmö University. Among his publications are *Empire and Identity: Biographies of the Austrian State Problem in the Late Habsburg Empire*, West Lafayette, 2008; *Imperial Heimat: Biographies of the ‘Austrian State Elite’ in the Late Habsburg Empire*, in Tim Buchen & Malte Rolf (eds.), *Eliten in Vielvölkerreich/Elites and Empire, Imperial Biographies in Russia and Austria-Hungary (1850-1918)*, Berlin/Boston, 2015.

Heidemarie Uhl is a senior researcher at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna and lecturer at the University of Vienna and the University of Graz. She is among others a member of the Austrian Delegation to the IHRA and vice chairperson of the scientific board of the *Haus der Geschichte Österreich*. She is currently directing the project Reconceptualization of the Austrian Hero’s Monument.

Please register at anmeldung@vwi.ac.at by latest Tuesday, 12.00 am and bring your ID.