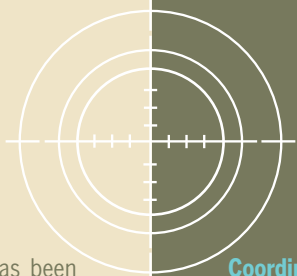


VIOLENCE AND VISIBILITY:



Since the Enlightenment, modern self-perception has been grounded in an aversion to physical violence. Yet violence in its various forms has continued to be an inherent characteristic of modern societies. This conference will shed light on this seeming paradox by asking about the techniques and cultural strategies that have been employed to make the persistence of physical violence compatible with a "civilized" self-image. Discussion will be guided by the thesis that the visibilities of violence have been radically transformed in modern societies and thus that cultural uneasiness in the face of physical violence is influenced less by its scope and degree than by its form and visibility. Following this argument, our guiding questions will be: How is violence displayed, scandalized, and documented in modern societies, and what is the role of the media in this field? Which new invisibilities of violence have come into existence, for example through the implementation of modern practices of punishment? How is the in/visibility of violence related to the positioning of specific human beings within power structures, and how does the in/visibility of violence influence opportunities to criticize and delegitimize one's own subjection to physical violence? In five sessions and in an evening presentation at Kino Arsenal, an interdisciplinary group of scholars from Europe and the United States will discuss the relationship of violence and visibility and its significance for modern history and culture.

Coordinated by:

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Conference sites:

Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum

Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 1
10117 Berlin

Kino Arsenal

Potsdamer Straße 2
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Sponsored by the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung

Fritz Thyssen Stiftung
FÜR KUNST UND KULTUR



VIOLENCE AND VISIBILITY:

Historical, Cultural, and
Political Perspectives
from the 19th Century
to the Present

PROGRAM

24-26 June 2010 · Berlin

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2010

2 - 3 p.m. Reception

Introductory Note
Jürgen Martschukat, Silvan Niedermeier, Michael Wildt

3 - 5 p.m. Section I: Performances

Chair: Michael Wildt, HU Berlin

Dora Apel, Wayne State University
“Wish I Were There”: The Possibilities and Impossibilities of Historical Reenactment

Belinda Davis, Rutgers University
Visualization of the Violent in 1960s/70s West Germany
Comment: Annette Jael Lehmann, Free University of Berlin

5 - 5.30 p.m. Coffee

5.30 - 7.00 p.m. Keynote

Moderation: Jürgen Martschukat, Erfurt University

Colin Dayan, Vanderbilt University
Torture by Any Other Name: Prelude to Guantánamo

7.30 p.m. Dinner

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2010

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Section II: Popular Culture

Chair: Silvan Niedermeier, Erfurt University

Thomas Weitin, Konstanz University
The Visibility of Torture in Collections of Judicial Case Studies in the 19th Century

Bruce Dorsey, Swarthmore College
Scandalous Murders in the History of the United States

10.10 - 10.30 a.m. Coffee Break

Amy Wood, Illinois State University
Cinema, Modernity, and the ‘Scandal’ of Racial Violence in the U.S.

Comment: Jürgen Martschukat, Erfurt University

12 - 2 p.m. Lunch

2 - 5 p.m. Section III: Warfare

Chair: Michaela Hampf, Free University of Berlin

Friedrich Balke, Bauhaus-University Weimar
„In fact, it makes me laugh!“ The Violence of War and Wit in Kleist’s Partisan Drama

Sebastian Jobs, Rostock University
Shiny Happy Warfare? New York Victory Parades and the (In) Visibility of Violence

3.10 - 3.40 p.m. Coffee Break

Amie Siegel, Artist and Filmmaker
Establishing Shots

Comment: Alf Lüdtke, Erfurt University

7.45 - 11 p.m. Forum „Picturing Violence“

Kino Arsenal, Berlin
Film Screening
Standard Operating Procedure (Errol Morris USA 2008)

Panel Discussion

Moderation: Michael Wildt, History, HU Berlin

Dora Apel, Art History, Wayne State University

Robert Chappell, Director of Photography, Standard Operating Procedure

Colin Dayan, Humanities, Law, and History, Vanderbilt University

Romuald Karmakar, Filmmaker, Berlin

SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2010

9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Section IV: Race

Chair: Norbert Finzsch, Cologne University

Martha Hodes, New York University
Violence, Visibility, and Invisibility in the New York City Race Riot of 1900

Silvan Niedermeier, Erfurt University
Race, Visibility, and the Documentation of Torture in the American South

10.40 a.m. - 11 a.m. Coffee Break

Michael Wildt, HU Berlin
Pictures of Anti Semitic Violence in Nazi Germany

Comment: W. Fitzhugh Brundage, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

12.30 - 2.30 p.m. Lunch

2.30 - 4.30 p.m. Section V: Photography

Chair: Holt Meyer, Erfurt University

Anton Holzer, Vienna
Killing as Spectacle: Voyeurism and Violence in First World War Photography

Petra Bopp, Jena University
Images of Violence in Wehrmacht Soldiers’ Private Photo Albums

Comment: Jens Jäger, Cologne University

4.30 - 5 p.m. Wrap up