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 invisibility of violence related to the positioning of specific human beings within power structures, and how does the 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.

Conference sites:
Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum
Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 1
10117 Berlin
Kino Arsenal
Potsdamer Straße 2
D-10785 Berlin

Sponsored by: Fritz Thyssen Stiftung

Organized by:
Prof. Dr. Jürgen Martschukat
North American History, Universität Erfurt
Nordhäuser Str. 63, 99089 Erfurt, Germany
+49-361-737-4411
juergen.martschukat@uni-erfurt.de

Silvan Niedermeier, MA
North American History, Universität Erfurt
Nordhäuser Str. 63, 99089 Erfurt, Germany
+49-361-737-1115
silvan.niedermeier@uni-erfurt.de

Prof. Dr. Michael Wildt
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften
Lehrstuhl Deutsche Geschichte im 20. Jahrhundert mit Schwerpunkt im Nationalsozialismus
Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin, Germany
+49-30-2093-70565
michael.wildt@geschichte.hu-berlin.de

Please contact for registration and information:
vio-lence-and-visibility@web.de
**Violence and Visibility: Historical, Cultural, and Political Perspectives from the 19th Century to the Present**

### 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
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**

**10.30 a.m. - 12 p.m.**
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**

**3.40 - 5 p.m.**
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 - 11 a.m. Coffee Break**

**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**