

Wacky Germans

Thursday 14th May 2015, 10am – 3pm, room H3.44

tea+coffee on arrival and lunch included

What makes German culture, literature and history fascinating and worth studying? No doubt, there is beautiful German poetry to read; no doubt, Germany's tumultuous and bloody history poses many puzzles to solve. However, there might be another, perhaps neglected approach that becomes more apparent when looking at Germany from outside: for better or worse, Germany has produced quite a number of wacky – *schrullig*, *verdreht*, my dictionary says – characters: a famous poet joining a nudist community in Switzerland; a chancellor who seems to have been most famous for his fondness of *Pfälzer Saumagen*. Germans also seem to have a taste for wacky pop stars – where else in the world was David Hasselhoff's music popular? – and wacky figures on TV: year after year, they laugh about *Familie Heinz Becker* at Christmas. Studying anything German, it is hard to avoid such wacky characters.

To learn more about the research which colleagues from the German and History departments at Warwick are doing about 'wacky Germans', and why such figures indeed matter for an understanding of German literature, culture and history, come to this showcasing workshop *Wacky Germans!*



Wacky Germans

Speakers:

Anna Hajkova (History): “We Should Do a Bureaucracy Workshop”: Rolf Grabower in Theresienstadt

Mary Cosgrove (German Studies): Leopold von Sacher-Masoch and the Origins of Masochism.

Joachim Häberlen (History): Rainer, Jürgen, Joachim: Sterilization and the Struggle against Phallic Imperialism

James Hodgkinson (German Studies): Max von Oppenheim (1860-1948): Autodidactic Orientalist or German Oddball?

Beat Kümin (History): A Certain Tall, Fat ... Poor Man, Who Ran through the Streets of Münster

Christoph Mick (History): Karl Emil Franzos: Germaness in 19th Century Central Europe

Helmut Schmitz (German Studies): “Whoever writes poetry is insane”: Peter Ruehmkorf, Schizography and the Dialectic of Inventive Rhyme

Claudia Stein (History): Potatoes, Coffee Pots, and Thermo Underwear: Reforming the Late Eighteenth-Century Bavarian State



A European History Research Centre event

**Contact Joachim Häberlen or Sheilagh Holmes if you have any queries,
and email Sheilagh.Holmes@warwick.ac.uk if you would like to attend.**