

Lecture Series

July 11
6:00 pm Rita Prigmore, **A Life Against Racism and Antiziganism (anti-Gypsyism) in Germany: Conversation with Sinti Witness Rita Prigmore**

GEIWI, Innrain 52, HS 4

Rita Prigmore and her twin sister Rolanda were born into a Sinti family on March 3, 1943, in Würzburg, Germany. A year earlier the Nazi regime had passed a "racial law" forcing "Gypsies" to undergo compulsory sterilization. When their mother arrived for her sterilization appointment, she was found to be carrying twins and the procedure was canceled on the condition that she would give up the babies to the Nazi doctors who specifically wanted "Gypsy" twins for their horrific twin-based medical experiments spearheaded by Josef Mengele. Rita's sister Rolanda did not survive the medical experiments. Rita was only reunited with her mother in 1944 through the Red Cross. In later years, Rita discovered a large scar behind her right eye; lifelong poor health including migraine headaches and fainting spells leaves no doubt that she was subject to experiments by the SS doctors.

Rita has committed herself to collecting evidence proving that she and her family had been victims of the Nazi regime. Currently living in Würzburg, she is actively engaged against racism and antiziganism. With the Christian community of Sant'Egidio she travels across Germany and the world visiting schools and universities and sharing her story. "What is important to me is to reach out to young people and show what really happened. I see it as my duty not to remain silent but to tell my story so that a new generation of young people grows up to have respect for every human being." In 2013 Rita Prigmore received the Würzburger Peace Prize.

July 25
6:00 pm Andreas Müller, Verena Finkenstedt, Robert Dupont (panel discussion)
European Migration Crisis

GEIWI, Innrain 52, HS 4

Andreas Müller is Associate Professor at the Department of European Law and Public International Law of the University of Innsbruck. He studied law and philosophy in Innsbruck and Strasbourg, France. In 2009, he graduated from Yale Law School with a Master of Laws degree. Afterwards, he clerked at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands. His main areas for research are international human rights law, the law of international armed conflict, international criminal law as well as international refugee and migration law.

Verena Finkenstedt works for the Austrian NGO *Verein menschen.leben* and coordinates free German classes for refugees in Tirol. She studied History and Media focusing on migration history in Europe (esp. Pakistani migration to Barcelona) at the Universities of Innsbruck, Vienna, and Barcelona. She is currently finishing her Ph.D. in Contemporary and Cultural History at the University of Vienna. In this presentation, Mag. Finkenstedt will focus on the difficulties of teaching and learning for refugees: linguistic and didactic challenges as well as bureaucratic demands. She will address the rise of a political and bureaucratic culture of using the German language as a means to put and keep asylum seekers and recognized refugees "in place" by linking German language skills to the renewal of visa and the access to social benefits - a practice she refers to as "language regime."

Robert Dupont is Associate Professor of History at the University of New Orleans, Chair of the History Department, and Academic Director of the UNO-Innsbruck International Summer School 2016. He teaches Urban History, 20th Century American History, and Post-WWII European History. His research interests include the History of New Orleans, Public Works, and the Relationship between Film and Teaching American History.