

“After the Anniversaries”

13th Austrian Conference on Contemporary History 2020

Innsbruck, 16–18 April 2020

In recent years, anniversaries and the “magic of the round number” have strongly influenced research in the field of contemporary history in Austria. The First World War and the end of the Habsburg Monarchy have been at the centre of attention along with events such as the foundation of the First Republic, the end of the Dollfuß-Schuschnigg-Regime, the “Anschluss” and the Novemberpogrom, but also the “guest-worker”-recruitment agreements and the year of upheaval 1968. In addition, several Austrian universities celebrated an anniversary, invariably with a focus on contemporary history: After the multifarious “Year of Commemoration and Remembrance” (“Gedenk- und Erinnerungsjahr”) of the Republic of Austria in 2018, the University of Innsbruck, too, celebrated its 350th anniversary.

The 13th Austrian Conference on Contemporary History, by now the third at the University of Innsbruck, thus focuses on the examination of the various (positive and negative) anniversaries and the discipline’s constitutive, yet continually transforming and redefining position between academia and public media, its public attention as well as the culture of remembrance and politics of memory.

At the same time, basic research and the core area of contemporary history “after the anniversaries” shall be considered: the focus on relevant questions beyond the logic of jubilees and commemoration days. In this regard, especially new fields such as Digital or Public History as well as History Didactics (on the level of school, university, museum and society as a whole), which is becoming more and more important, shall also be integrated. As usual, the Conference also discusses the academic field and self-understanding of Austrian contemporary history in its international and (inter-)disciplinary context. This is not least because it finds itself in a time of transformation, which is shaped by a global increase in right-wing populist and illiberal tendencies, a return to national isolation, growing EU-/Europe-scepticism, but also animosity towards academia and elites.

Along with contemporary historians, representatives from other subfields and neighbouring disciplines and subjects, educationalists as well as public historians, artists or curators are invited. In particular, students from MA or PhD courses are especially welcome to participate.

Proposals for

- panels of 90 minutes (three presentations with 20 minutes each, chair, possibly short comment)
- individual presentation of 20 minutes
- special formats of 90 minutes (panel discussion, artistic contribution, film screening etc.)

have to be submitted via <http://www.uibk.ac.at/zeitgeschichte/zgt20> between 16 June and 15 September 2019 ~~22 September 2019~~.

Proposals are requested to highlight the interdisciplinary and international connectedness of the Austrian research in contemporary history, include junior researchers and aim at gender parity in the constitution of panels. Each person can submit one individual presentation, one chair and one special format.

Speakers without any institutional affiliation can apply for financial support for travel and accommodation costs.

Contact / Conference Office

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