

# Refugee Academics and their Networks



Triennial Conference of the Research Centre for German & Austrian Exile Studies, Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies, University of London (RCGAES)

*in conjunction with the*

Jahrestagung of the Gesellschaft für Exilforschung e.V (GfE)



**Wednesday, 16 September – Friday, 18 September 2026**

**in Person at the University of London Senate House, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU**

*Organisers: Anthony Grenville (RCGAES), Felicitas Starr-Egger (RCGAES), Andrea Hammel (Gesellschaft für Exilforschung e.V./RCGAES)*

## Programme

**Note: Red type denotes sessions/lectures in German**

### Wednesday, 16 September 2026

13:30 Registration

14:00 Welcome/Introduction

14:30 *Chair: Charmian Brinson (RCGAES)*

**Anthony Grenville** (RCGAES): ‘Peaks Rising from a High Plateau’: Refugee Academics and the Culture of the Refugees from Nazism in Britain

**Gisela Holfter** (University of Limerick): German-speaking Émigré Academics in Irish Exile

**Patrick Farges** (Paris City University): Rita Thalmann (Nuremberg, 1926–Paris, 2013) and the Emergence of Feminist Networks in French Academia

16:00 Tea

16:30 *Chair: Felicitas Starr-Egger (RCGAES)*

**Dávid Szőke** (University of Nyíregyháza, Hungary): All the World is a Transit Camp: Jewish Refugee Scholars and Iris Murdoch’s Ethical Inquiry

**Andrea Hammel** (Aberystwyth University/Gesellschaft für Exilforschung/RCGAES) and **Nick Hubble** (Brunel University): Mass Observation and the Émigré Influence on Post-War Social Science Research in Britain

**Irene Messinger** (University of Vienna): Persecuted Social Workers from Vienna: Interrupted Careers and Knowledge Transfer in Exile

### 18:00 Refreshments and Prize-Giving

*Verleihung des Claus-Dieter Krohn Preises für Exilforschung 2026 an Max Beck für seine Dissertation **Philosophieren im Exil. Logischer Empirismus und Kritische Theorie 1933–1945** (in Kollaboration mit der Herbert und Elsbeth Weichmann Stiftung)*

19:30 End of first day

**Thursday, 17 September 2026**

**09:15** Chair: *Doerte Bischoff (University of Hamburg)*

**Regina Weber (Stuttgart): Netzwerke vertriebener Germanisten in den USA**

**Dorothea McEwan** (Warburg Institute, London): 'The final goal of all historiography is understanding what it means to be human'. The Establishment of the Warburg Institute in 1933 and its Contacts with the Academic Assistance Council

**Felicitas Starr-Egger (RCGAES): The Library as Refuge**

**10.45** Coffee

**11.15** Parallel Sessions

#### **Parallel Session 1**

*Chair: Jana Buresova (RCGAES)*

**Sebastian Musch** (University of Heidelberg): The Republic of Reference Letters: Community and Networking among German Refugee Classicists in the U.S.

**Erika Capovilla** (University of Udine): Mapping Unseen Threads: Friderike Zweig and Refugee Intellectual Networks in the United States (1940–1971)

**Hadwig Kraeutler** (Vienna): Bridges, Networks, Facts – Causing Global Waves: University Women Effectively and Affectively Assisting Refugee Academics

**12.45 Lunch (own arrangements)**

**14:15** Parallel Sessions

#### **Parallel Session 3**

*Chair: Jennifer Taylor (RCGAES)*

**Niccola Shearman** (Courtauld Institute, London): 'Gestern war eine rather busy day'. Art Historian Erika Tietze-Conrat in Exile

**Ulrik Runeberg** (Restaurierungszentrum Düsseldorf [RED]): The Professional Career of the Viennese Artist, Art Expert and Painting Conservator Franz Howanietz (1897–1972) during his Self-Imposed Exile in Puerto Rico and New York in the Course of the 1930s and 1950s

**Esther Gardei** (University of Bonn): From Einstein's Classroom to the 'Einstein of the GDR': Networks of Exile in the Career of Wolfgang Yourgrau

**16:30** Tea / Gesellschaft für Exilforschung Annual General Meeting

**18:00 Chamber Music Concert**

Presented by the Austrian Cultural Forum to celebrate twenty years of the **Exilarte Center for Banned Music** including works by banned composers Hans Gál, Joseph Horowitz and Erich Wolfgang Korngold, and addresses by **Ulrike Sych** (Chancellor, University of Music and the Performing Arts, Vienna [mdw]) and others

**19:45** Reception

#### **Parallel Session 2**

*Chair: Burcu Dogramaci (University of Munich)*

**Paula Odenheimer** (University of Heidelberg): '[A]bgerissene Fäden' und neue Verflechtungen: Käte Hamburger im Spannungsfeld schwedischer Exil- und deutscher Reintegrationsnetzwerke

**Malte Spitz** (Berne): 'Die Schweiz und das Floß der Medusa' – Hans Mayers Netzwerk in Genf, Zürich und Paris

**Helene Roth** (Munich): Color Exile. Beiträge zur Geschichte und Theorie der Farbfotografie im US amerikanischen Exil, 1940–1960s

#### **Parallel Session 4**

*Chair: Kerstin Schoor (European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder)*

**Eva Waibel and Birgit Peter** (University of Vienna): Vertriebene Theaterforschende im Exil. Netzwerke, Kontexte und Konsequenzen

**Irene Nawrocka and Daniela Angetter-Pfeiffer** (Austrian Academy of Sciences): Die wissenschaftlichen Netzwerke der Lise Meitner im schwedischen Exil

**Friday, 18 September 2026**

09.30 Parallel Sessions

**Parallel Session 5**

*Chair: Andrea Hammel (GfE/RCGAES)*

**Alberto Orlando** (University of Trento): When International Networks and Fascist Sympathy Failed to Prevent Jewish Persecution: The Transnational Trajectory of Curt Sigmar Gutkind between Germany, Italy, France and the UK

**Sebastiano Gubian** (University of Hamburg): German and Austrian musicologists in Florence (1933-1945)

**Andrea Acle-Kreysing** (University of Heidelberg): Lives in Exile, Knowledge in Action: Refugee Academics in Mexico and Argentina

11:00 Coffee

11:30

*Chair: Bea Lewkowicz (AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive/RCGAES)*

**Sebastian Willert** (Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture, Leipzig): A Network of Solidarity in the Middle East? Charity Organizations and German-Jewish Refugee Academics in Turkey and Palestine

**Finja Zemke** (University of Hamburg) and **Till Greite** (ILCS, University of London): H.G. Adler and his Manifolded Notion of Community

**Barbara Seidl-Reutz** (Vienna): Hidden Itineraries: Austrian Female Scholars in Exile

13:00 Concluding Address by **Anthony Grenville** (RCGAES)

**The Organisers are grateful to the Norbert Miller and Hannah Norbert-Miller Trust (University of London) for sponsoring the conference**

**Bloomsbury Walk – Tracing Exile in London**

This walk, in small groups led by Kat Hubschmann (Miller Archivist, Senate House Library/ RCGAS) is available at the following times:

Wednesday, 16 September at 11:30,

Thursday, 17 September at 16:30,

Friday, 18 September at 14:00.

**Advance registration essential: please email Kat Hubschmann [kat.hubschmann@sas.ac.uk](mailto:kat.hubschmann@sas.ac.uk) stating your preferred date/time.**