

Call for papers:

International Workshop “Evacuations in the German-French border region during the Second World War”

Saarland University and Saarbrücken City archives, 10–11 June 2011

The outbreak of World War II simultaneously marked the beginning of an event unique to European history: the complete evacuation of the so-called “Red Zones” both sides of the German-French border – totalling more than one million people – towards the interior of both countries respectively.

This incident, which has so far mostly been neglected by academic research, is now being investigated by a research project at the Saarland University. The start-up phase for this project began in September 2010 under the direction of Prof. Rainer Hudemann (Saarland University, Paris IV-Sorbonne) and Junprof. Fabian Lemmes (Ruhr-Universität Bochum). A description of the project can be found here: http://www.nng.uni-saarland.de/en/research/research_focus/evacuations.htm.

A workshop will be held by the Saarland University and the Saarbrücken City archives on 10–11 June 2011, during which the manifold political, economic, and social implications of the evacuations will be scrutinised in conjunction with the evacuation’s impact on local and regional cultures of remembrance. Another aim is to place the events in the German-French border region during the Second World War into a broader perspective, to compare them with similar events and to discuss methodological issues on research of the evacuation.

In addition to proposals concerning the evacuations, their planning and consequences (including the evacuees’ stay in the reception areas, which was frequently marked by conflicts with the local population), we welcome proposals on the following topics and general subject areas:

- Military planning of World War II, most notably development and construction of the “Ligne Maginot” and “Westwall” (Maginot Line and Siegfried Line)
- Further examples of evacuations and comparable forms of forced migration in the context of World Wars
- Short and long term social implications and consequences of the evacuations
- Germany and the effectively annexed regions Alsace and Lorraine, 1940–1944
- Memory of the beginning and the end of World War II, especially experience with eye-witnesses of this period
- History of the Grand-region Saar-Lor-Lux
- Transnational history, comparative history and “Histoire Croisée” as framework for research on the Second World War

Papers may be submitted in German, English or French. Future publication is an option (circumstances permitting).

Please send your proposal (max. 2 pages) by 28 February 2011 to n.williams@mx.uni-saarland.de and include contact and details and institutional affiliation. To facilitate planning, please also let us know which languages you speak.

For **contact and further information**, please do not hesitate to contact Nicholas Williams (n.williams@mx.uni-saarland.de) or Johannes Großmann (j.grossmann@mx.uni-saarland.de) or visit our homepage <http://www.nng.uni-saarland.de/en/>.