

6. Workshop Internationale Geschichte

Europe's balance and the age of neutrals, 1815 - 1914

Donnerstag, 21. Mai 2015, 14:30-17:30

Seminarräume ÖAW, Wohllebengasse 12-14, 1040 Wien, Erdgeschoss

Neutrality is rarely conceived as a heroic act. More commonly, the idea of neutrals invokes images of skulking and weakness or of back-handed deals. Yet in the period between the end of the Napoleonic Wars (1815) and the outbreak of the First World War (1914), neutrality was the most common foreign policy option adopted by European states when a conflict occurred elsewhere. In this talk, Maartje Abbenhuis returns attention to the centrality of neutrality in explaining the dynamics of international politics in the 'long' nineteenth century and argues that we can account for the success of Europe's balance of power in part due to the successful utilisation of neutrality by great and small powers alike.

Lecture: **Maartje Abbenhuis**, University of Auckland

Maartje Abbenhuis is Associate Professor in Modern European History at the University of Auckland. She published widely on the history of neutrality, internationalism and the Netherlands in the First World War. She is the author of *The art of staying neutrals. The Netherlands in the First World War* (Amsterdam, 2006) and *An age of neutrals. Great power politics 1815 – 1914* (Cambridge, 2014). At present she is working on the global history of the two Hague Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907, research for which she was awarded a prestigious Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Grant. She has also worked on the history of borderlands and the popular representation of war and Nazism.

Commentators:

Peter Becker, Universität Wien, IÖG/Institut für Geschichte

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Moderation:

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Mit der Bitte um Weiterleitung an interessierte Kolleginnen und Kollegen
und freundlichen Grüßen

Barbara Haider-Wilson, INZ/ÖAW, und Thomas Angerer, IfG/Universität Wien