



**Jour fixe Kulturwissenschaften
Donnerstag, 28. April 2011 / 16.30 Uhr / ÖAW-Hauptgebäude Museumszimmer**

Pieter M. Judson (Swarthmore College)

Everyday Empire: Writing a New History of Habsburg Central Europe, 1780-1948

Pieter Judson's current project seeks to develop an alternate narrative of Habsburg Central European History in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, one in which concepts of nationhood are marginal to social life, where Eastern Europe no longer constitutes a pathological Orient for an imagined Western Europe, and where cultural and institutional commonalities create vibrant civic societies. Of course much scholarship about Habsburg Central Europe on both sides of the Atlantic in the past twenty years has already accomplished these goals. Yet a powerful paradox remains. While the scholarship on individual aspects of the region has long ago moved away from national(ist) narratives, the broader general accounts of the region still organize themselves around national histories. The goal of this project is to devise alternative general narratives for the region that can accommodate the creative work of historians in the field from the past 20 years. The title "Everyday Empire" refers to two fundamental levels of narrative that must somehow become linked in any useful narrative: the shared institutions and practices of Empire and the distinctive or shared experiences of daily life.