

International Brecht Society
Call for Papers
German Studies Annual Conference
1-4 October 2020 (Washington, D.C.)

Brecht and Weimar Turmoil

The upheavals of the Weimar Republic created a political dynamic that ultimately led to the destruction of Germany's first democracy, but they also represent a prime example of the heterogeneity of history because they resist being understood from any single retrospective point of view. As a "laboratory of modernity" the Weimar Republic fostered a vast array of political, social, and cultural models that competed and interacted with one another, and that were then commented upon by cultural critics using complex theories like psychoanalysis and Marxism to analyze Weimar society through the lenses of aesthetics, philosophy of history, and critical sociology.

"Brecht and Weimar Turmoil" seeks papers that explore Brecht and his work in the context of the historical, political, social, and theoretical complexities mentioned above.

Topics that might be addressed include (but are not limited to):

1. History and political crisis (e.g. 1918 Revolution; Räterepublik in Munich, Arbeiter- und Soldatenräte in Augsburg)
2. Textual, theatrical, and filmic explorations of Weimar society (e.g. urbanity, intercultural encounters, mass society, mass media)
3. Biographical projects (e.g. Brecht as networker in Berlin, his exchanges with Herbert Jhering, his work as a theatre or film critic, his collaborations with Erich Engel and Karl Valentin, his collaborations with Elisabeth Hauptmann or Margarete Steffin)
4. Theory (e.g. dialectics, Marxism, public sphere, sociology)
5. Works in response to political emergencies (e.g. *Fatzer*, *Die heilige Johanna der Schlachthöfe*, *Kuhle Wampe oder Wem gehört die Welt?* *Mahagonny*)
6. Music (e.g. collaborations with Kurt Weill or Hanns Eisler)

"Brecht and Weimar Turmoil" invites papers from diverse fields such as literary criticism and musicology, film and performance theory, aesthetics and philosophy of history, history and history of mentalities.

For more information and to submit proposals by 1 February 2020, contact the organizer Astrid Oesmann (astrid.oesmann@rice.edu).

To be a panel participant, presenters **must** become members of the German Studies Association before 15 February 2020.