

Call for Panel Papers: German Studies Association Conference
September 30-October 3, 2021, Indianapolis, IN

TOPIC: REREADING STEVEN BELLER, RETHINKING AUSTRIAN STUDIES

DESCRIPTION

Since his *Vienna and the Jews* (1989), Steven Beller has become an axiom of Austrian Studies. His book-length assessments of individuals and institutions alone – *Herzl* (1991), *Francis Joseph* (1996), *A History of Austria* (2007), and most recently, *The Habsburg Monarchy 1815 - 1918* (2018) – highlight that Beller stands not only as one of the field's most versatile and accomplished writers, but with respect to emerging directions in scholarship, one of its most savvy prophets. Like these books, his essays, directed towards Austrian topics have been forcefully delivered, not infrequently in the spirit of provocation and polemic.

Today, these provocations, which have rattled both scholars (Gombrich, Hamann) and scholarly approaches (the Schorskean fin-de-siècle), present a fascinating body of work with which to reexamine the remarkable transformations in the study of Austria that have taken place over the last three decades. Professionally situated outside academia, yet perhaps more widely translated and anthologized in Austria than any other North American based historian, "Steven Beller" is a manifestation of scholarship, cultural diplomacy, and Austrian Studies.

This panel invites papers that consider the impact of Steven Beller in any of its manifestations. Papers might address his setting-the-record straight regarding Jewish contributions to Vienna 1900, the reception and impact of this scholarship, and/or his own subsequent commentary on its reception and impact. Beller's activities and scholarship expedited the disciplinary turn away from Carl Schorske's framing of "fin-de-siècle Vienna," while later essays provided an incisive meta-commentary on this turn.

Papers might address that history; they might examine the models of cultural interaction and production in his writings; or they might stage a confrontation between the work of Beller and a reading of another scholar whose work has stimulated new thinking about Vienna and/or the Habsburg Empire – Allan Janik, Pieter Judson, Jacques Le Rider, David Luft, Marsha Rozenblit, and Nancy Wingfield, among others. Panel paper topics are open.

SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

Please send a 350-500-word abstract and a brief biographical statement to Michael Burri (mburri@brynmawr.edu) by January 31, 2021. Participants will be notified by February 3, 2021. Final GSA conference deadline for proposal submissions is Monday, February 15, 11:59 p.m.

Please note that to submit, you must be a current GSA member. Each individual may participate in no more than two sessions, with a seminar or Emerging Scholars Workshop counting as one

session. For additional GSA submission guidelines: www.thegsa.org/conference/submission-guidelines