Arbeitskreis Deutsche England-Forschung
German Association for the Study of British History and Politics

in cooperation with the

German Historical Institute London

34. Jahrestagung / 34th Annual Meeting 2014

From Middle Class Society to an Age of Inequality?

Social Change and Changing Concepts of Inequality in Germany and Great Britain after 1945

May 8 – 9, 2015

Großbritannien-Zentrum / Centre for British Studies

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Mohrenstraße 60

10117 Berlin

Friday, May 8

14.15 – 14.30 **Welcome**

14.30 – 15.45 **Workshops**

Außenpolitik *(Gustav Schmidt)*

Geschichte *(Christiane Eisenberg / Andreas Fahrmeir)*

Vergleichende Politik *(Sebastian Berg / Klaus Stolz)*

15.45 – 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 – 18.00 **Workshops (continued)**

18.00 – 19.00 Dinner

19.00 **Keynote Lecture**

Martin Chick (University of Edinburgh): Wider still and wider? Inequality, Wealth and Income in Britain since 1945

Saturday, May 9

8.45 – 9.00 **Conference Introduction**

Bernhard Dietz (Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz) and Felix Römer (GHI London): Welcome and Introduction

9.00 – 10.30 **Panel I: Politics**

Chair: *Klaus Stolz (Technische Universität Chemnitz)*

Felix Römer (GHI London): Concepts of Social Justice in Great Britain after 1945

Cornelius Torp (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg): Pension Systems and Inequality in Old Age. Germany and Great Britain since 1945

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 **Panel II: Economics**

Chair: *Christopher Neumaier (Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam)*

Wencke Meteling (*Philipps-Universität Marburg*): „International Competitiveness“. Policy Implications of an Economic Concept in Great Britain and Germany

Bernhard Dietz (Johannes Gutenberg Universität-Mainz): New Economic Elites? Managers in Germany and Great Britain between the 1960s and 1980s.

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.30 **Panel III: Redistribution**

Chair: *Felix Römer (GHI London)*

Marc Buggeln (*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*): Taxation Policy in Britain and Germany in the 1980s: The Change to Neoliberalism and Rising Inequality?

Jenny Pleinen (Universität Augsburg): Taxation as a Means of Redistribution in British Politics since 1945

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30 **Panel IV: Opportunity**

Chair: *Bernhard Dietz (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)*

Wilfried Rudloff (*Universität Kassel*): Class Structures, Socialization and Heredity: Scientific and Political Debates on Educational Inequality in England and Germany between the 1950s and the 1970s

Anna Kranzdorf (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz): A Reinforcer of Social Inequality? Classics in Secondary Education in Germany and Britain after 1945

18.00 – 18.30 Coffee Break

18.30 – 20.00 **ADEF General Meeting**

20.00 **Conference Dinner**

Abstract

In 2014, virtually no book has drawn so much attention or dominated the political-historical debate than Thomas Piketty's world-wide bestseller, „Capital in the Twenty-First Century". In this book, the French economist describes the tendency of returns on capital to exceed the rate of economic growth as the main driver of inequality. Wealth always grows faster than income: according to Piketty's formula, we live in an age of rising inequality and the middle-class society that flourished for a generation after World War II was only a temporary aberration of an otherwise clear and distinctive trend of rising social inequality. Regardless of the methodological problems of Piketty's analysis, one major effect of his book is that it has given new stimulus to an ongoing and increasingly global debate on social inequality. Inequality figures prominently in public debates and is addressed by international organisations, governments, political parties and think tanks. Given its multidimensional nature, inequality affects almost every aspect of society; and its intersecting categories, drivers and impacts encompass a broad spectrum, ranging from income and wealth, gender, education, health and ethnicity to regional and international inequality.

Historians have recently paid much more attention to this multidimensional character of social change; and gender and ethnic inequality have come into focus in historical research. Less attention has been paid to the changing concepts and categories of social inequality and their interrelations with social and economic developments. Why was what type of social inequality seen as a problem? What identities, narratives and norms did societies produce to describe, accept, justify or fight social inequality? Answers to these questions are particularly interesting in a comparative view. Therefore, this conference brings together German and British historians studying the evolution of social inequality after 1945 from multiple perspectives. Participants will discuss a broad range of case studies from Great Britain and Germany. The conference will explore:

- how attention to various dimensions of inequality changed over time
- how certain groups of society were able to draw attention to their social inequality
- how the changing concepts of inequality were connected to political, social and economic events and developments.

Conference Venue

Centre for British Studies / Großbritannien-Zentrum

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Mohrenstraße 60

10117 Berlin

Hotels

Hotel	**Address**	**Prices from (pp)**	**Distance to venue**
Conference Hotel for Invited Speakers: Winters Hotel Berlin Mitte - Am Gendarmenmarkt	Charlottenstraße 66 http://www.winters.de/de/hotels/city/berlin/berlin_mitte_gendarmenmarkt	123,- €	450 m
Humboldt-Gästehaus	Ziegelstraße 13A www.ta.hu-berlin.de/gaestehaus	50,- € (no breakfast) *Refer to Großbritannien-Zentrum for booking*	1700 m
Hotel Gendarm nouveau	Charlottenstraße 61 www.hotel-gendarm-berlin.de	120,- €	300 m
Hotel Gat Point Charlie	Mauerstraße 81-81 www.hotelgatpointcharlie.com/	125,- €	400 m
Mercure Hotel Checkpoint Charlie	Schützenstraße 11 www.mercure.com/de/hotel-3120-mercure-hotel-residenz-berlin-checkpoint-charlie/index.shtml	108,- €	750 m

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