

Curriculum Vitae

Dr Felix Römer

* 1978, Hamburg
married, two children

Affiliation

Humboldt University Berlin
Faculty of Humanities
Department of History
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D-10099 Berlin
Germany

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Academic Employment

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| Feb 2019 – Jan 2020 | Max Weber Fellow at History Department of Humboldt University, Berlin (Social and Economic History) |
| May 2012 – Jan 2019 | Research Fellow in Modern History at the German Historical Institute London |
| April 2008 - April 2012 | Research Fellow / Assistant Professor at the History Department of the University of Mainz |

Academic Degrees

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| PhD (Dr. phil.) | University of Kiel, Dec 2007: 0.7 (summa cum laude) |
| MA (Magister Artium) | University of Kiel, July 2003: 1.0 (mit Auszeichnung) |

Academic Training

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| Dec 2003 – Dec 2007 | PhD Programme / doctoral research in Freiburg i.Brsg. |
| April 1998 – July 2003 | Undergraduate and Postgraduate Courses in Modern and Medieval History, Ancient History, Modern German Literature at the University of Kiel / University of Lyon |

Scholarships and Prizes

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| 2012 | Postdoctoral Research Scholarship, Gerda Henkel Foundation |
| 2008-2011 | Postdoctoral Research Scholarship, Fritz Thyssen Foundation |
| 2008/2009 | Postdoctoral Research Scholarship, German Historical Institute Washington |
| 2007 | Dissertation Prize in Humanities, University of Kiel |
| 2004-2007 | Postgraduate Scholarship, Gerda Henkel Foundation |
| 2003-2004 | Postgraduate Scholarship, Province of Schleswig-Holstein |

Research Grants

- Successful grant application for conference funding: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, November 2018, 8.400 €
- Successful grant application for the research project ‘The War Diaries of Theodor Habicht, 1941-1944‘ (University of Mainz / GHI London, 2011-2013): Gerda Henkel Foundation, 28.000 €
- Collaboration in the successful grant application for the research project ‘Cultures of Intelligence Services‘ (LSE / University of Augsburg / GHI London, 2013-2016): Gerda Henkel Stiftung, 151.000 €
- Collaboration in the successful grant application for the research project ‘Frames of Reference in War, 1939-45‘ (University of Mainz / GHI Rome / KWI Essen, 2008-2011): Fritz Thyssen Foundation / Gerda Henkel Foundation, 370.000 €

Academic Conferences

- London, November 2018: ‘The Global Knowledge of Economic Inequality. The Measurement of Income and Wealth Inequality since 1945’
- Muenster, September 2018: ‘The Global Knowledge of Divided Societies’, panel at the Biannual Conference of the Association of German Historians (in cooperation with Dr Christoph Lorke)
- London, June 2018: ‘The Measurement of Economic Inequality’ (in cooperation with the research group „History and Inequality”, Dr Poornima Paidipaty / Dr Pedro Ramos Pinto, University of Cambridge)
- London, September 2015: ‘Interdisciplinary Inroads into the Social History of Post-War Europe’ (in cooperation with Prof. Christina von Hodenberg / Prof. Bernhard Rieger)
- Berlin, May 2015: ‘Social Change and Changing Concepts of Inequality in Britain and Germany since 1945’ (Annual Conference of the German Association for British Studies, in cooperation with Dr Bernhard Dietz)
- London, December 2013: ‘The Consumer on the Home Front: World War II Civilian Consumption in Comparative Perspective’ (in cooperation with Dr Jan Logemann / Dr Sergej Kudryashov)

Academic Leadership

- Organiser of the Lecture Series at the GHI London (2012-2018)
- Delegate of the GHI London to the German History Society (2012-2018)
- Temporary Replacement for Prof. Dr. Sönke Neitzel at the History Department / JGU Mainz (Summer Term 2010)
- Referee for various international publishers and journals

Membership in Academic Associations

- German History Society
- Arbeitskreis Militärgeschichte
- Verband der Historiker und Historikerinnen Deutschlands
- Deutscher Hochschulverband

Teaching

London School of Economics and Political Science | Department of International History

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| Academic Year 2015/16 | HY 322: Nazi Germany and the Second World War. Causes and Course, 1933-1945 (as teacher responsible for the course) |
| | HY 226: The Great War, 1914-1918 |
| | HY 116: International History since 1890 |
| Academic Year 2014/15 | HY 322: Nazi Germany and the Second World War. Causes and Course, 1933-1945 |
| | HY 226: The Great War, 1914-1918 |
| Academic Year 2013/14 | HY 322: Nazi Germany and the Second World War. Causes and Course, 1933-1945 |

University of Mainz | Department of History

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| Winter Term 2010/11 | Hauptseminar [Seminar for third and fourth year students]: “Media in the Third Reich” (with Professor Sönke Neitzel) |
| Summer Term 2010 | Übung [seminar for students of all qualification levels]: “Introduction in Theories and Methods of Historiography” |
| Summer Term 2010 | Proseminar [seminar for first and second year students]: “European Colonialism during the 19th Century” |
| Winter Term 2009/10 | Proseminar: “The Culture of High Imperialism and the Path to the Seminal Catastrophe: Mentalities and International Relations, 1890-1914“ |
| Winter Term 2009/10 | Seminar at the Centre for Further Academic Education: “The Wehrmacht in the Third Reich: Sources and Debates” |
| Summer Term 2009 | Proseminar: “Stasi. The History of the Security Service in the GDR, 1945 – 1990” (including an excursion to the BStU-Office and the former Stasi detention centre in Erfurt) |
| Winter Term 2008/09 | Übung: “Ordinary Men in the Second World War: New Sources on Mentalities of Wehrmacht Soldiers“ |

Public Lectures and Conference Papers (Selection)

- Constance, April 2019: paper to the research seminar for modern history
- Berlin, February 2019: paper to the research seminar for social and economic history
- London, October 2018: paper to the seminar for contemporary British history, Institute of Historical Research, University of London
- Münster, September 2018: paper at the biannual conference of German historians in the panel ‘The Global Knowledge of Divided Societies’
- Leicester, September 2018: paper at the annual conference of the German History Society
- Amsterdam, March 2018: paper at the workshop ‘Social Justice in Twentieth Century Europe’ (Univ. Amsterdam / Oxford)
- Potsdam, December 2017: paper to the research seminar of the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung (ZZF)
- Jena, October 2016: paper at the conference ‘How bourgeois was National Socialism?’
- London, June 2016: paper at the Conference ‘The Impact of WWII on European Society and Culture’ (University College London)
- Berlin, January 2016: commentary at the book launch ‘Verhört’ (GHI Moskow) at the German-Russian Museum
- Berlin, May 2015: paper at the conference ‘Social Change and Changing Concepts of Inequality in Britain and Germany since 1945’
- Arras, April 2015: paper at the conference ‘Wages and Global Development since the 1950s/1960s’ at the University of Arras
- London, October 2014: paper at the workshop ‘Defining Perpetrators in Relation to State-Sanctioned Violence’ (University College London)
- Bielefeld, August 2014: paper at the annual conference of the History of Concepts Group
- London, März 2014: lecture at St Paul’s School
- London, März 2014: paper to the modern German history seminar, Institute of Historical Research
- Berlin, December 2013: paper to the research seminar on twentieth-century German history at Humboldt University (Michael Wildt)
- Oświęcim, November 2013: lecture at the Centre for Dialogue and Prayer
- London, September 2013: paper at the annual conference of the German History Society
- Berlin, November 2012: paper at the conference ‘War of Annihilation: Reactions and Remembrance’ (German-Russian Museum)
- Baku, October 2012: lecture at the conference ‘The Role of Azerbaijan in World War II’
- Edinburgh, September 2012: paper at the annual conference of the German History Society

- Paderborn, January 2012: lecture at the Museum Wewelsburg
- Moskow, April 2010: paper at the conference ‚The War of Extermination‘, Foundation for Historical Memory
- Oakland, October 2010: paper at the annual conference of the German Studies Association
- Dorsten, October 2009: lecture at the Museum of Jewish History
- Bielefeld, June 2009: paper to the research seminar in contemporary history at Bielefeld University
- Münster, June 2009: lecture at the Museum Villa ten Hompel
- Rome, April 2008: paper at the conference ‚The Axis at War‘, GHI Rome
- Salford, February 2008: paper to the research seminar in military history, University of Salford
- Tübingen, January 2008: paper to the research seminar of the research group (SFB) ‚Experiences of War‘
- Calgary, September 2007: papers to research seminars at the History Department / Centre for Strategic Studies
- Munich, October 2006: paper at the conference ‚Biographies in the Era of the World Wars‘, Institut für Zeitgeschichte
- Lüneburg, October 2005: lecture at the Nord-Ost-Institut

Publications

Monographs

1. [*Die narzisstische Volksgemeinschaft. Theodor Habichts Kampf, 1914 bis 1944*](#) (Frankfurt / Main: Fischer Verlag, 2017)

Reviews: [American Historical Review](#), [The Journal of Modern History](#), [German History](#), [Historische Zeitschrift](#), [H-Soz-Kult](#), [Sehepunkte](#), [Militärgeschichtliche Zeitschrift](#), [Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung](#)

2. [*Kameraden: Die Wehrmacht von innen*](#) (Munich: Piper Verlag, 2012)

Translations and Editions: Paperback edition (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, 2012); Paperback Edition (Piper, 2013), Dutch (Atlas Contact, 2014); Chinese (Shenghuo-Dushu-Xinzhi Joint, 2017); [English \(forthcoming with Oxford University Press, 1 June 2019\)](#)

3. [*Der Kommissarbefehl: Wehrmacht und NS-Verbrechen an der Ostfront 1941/42*](#) (Paderborn: Schöningh Verlag, 2008)

4. co-authored with Jörg Döring and Rolf Seubert, [*Alfred Andersch desertiert. Fahnenflucht und Literatur, 1944-1952*](#) (Berlin: Verbrecher Verlag, 2015)

Edited Volume

1. co-edited with Hartmut Berghoff and Jan Logemann, *The Consumer on the Home Front. Second World War Civilian Consumption in Comparative Perspective*, Oxford University Press, 2017

Articles in Refereed Journals

1. 'Milieus in the Military: Soldierly Ethos, Nationalism and Conformism among Workers in the Wehrmacht', *Journal of Contemporary History* 48 (2013), pp. 166–190
2. 'Die Wehrmacht und der Kommissarbefehl: Neue Forschungsergebnisse', *Militärgeschichtliche Zeitschrift*, 69 (2010), pp. 243–74
3. 'Alfred Andersch abgehört: Kriegsgefangene "Anti-Nazis" im amerikanischen Vernehmungslager Fort Hunt', [*Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte*, 58 \(2010\), pp. 563–98](#)
4. "'Im alten Deutschland wäre solcher Befehl nicht möglich gewesen": Rezeption, Adaption und Umsetzung des Kriegsgerichtsbarkeitserlasses im Ostheer 1941/42', *Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte*, 56 (2008), pp. 53–99
5. with Johannes Hürter, 'Alte und neue Geschichtsbilder von Widerstand und Ostkrieg: Zu Hermann Gramls Beitrag "Massenmord und Militäropposition"', *Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte*, 54 (2006), pp. 301–22
6. 'Das Heeresgruppenkommando Mitte und der Vernichtungskrieg im Sommer 1941: Eine Erwiderung auf Gerhard Ringshausen', *Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte*, 53 (2005), pp. 451–60

Chapters

1. 'Der Formwandel des Bürgerlichen: Alltagskultur und soziale Praxis im Krieg', in Norbert Frei, ed., *Wie bürgerlich war der Nationalsozialismus?* (Göttingen, 2018) (forthcoming)
2. 'Der Kommissarbefehl bei den Frontdivisionen des Ostheeres 1941/42', in Babette Quinkert, Jörg Morré, eds., *Deutsche Besetzung in der Sowjetunion 1941-1944. Vernichtungskrieg, Reaktionen, Erinnerung* (Paderborn 2014), pp. 95-112

3. 'La Wehrmacht dans la guerre des idéologies : l'Armée de terre et les ordres criminels d'Hitler sur le front de l'Est', in Jean-Paul Cahn, Stefan Martens, Bernd Wegner, eds., *Le Troisième Reich dans l'historiographie allemande* (Villeneuve d'Ascq, 2013), pp. 295-309
4. 'The Wehrmacht in the War of Ideologies: The Army and Hitler's Criminal Orders on the Eastern Front', in Alex J. Kay, Jeff Rutherford, and David Stahel, eds., *Nazi Policy on the Eastern Front, 1941: Total War, Genocide, and Radicalization* (Rochester, NY, 2012), pp. 73–100
5. 'Literarische Vergangenheitsbewältigung: Alfred Andersch und seine Gesinnungsgenossen im amerikanischen Vernehmungslager Fort Hunt', in Jörg Döring, Markus Joch, eds., *Alfred Andersch revisited: Werkbiographische Studien im Zeichen der Sebald-Debatte* (Berlin, 2011), pp. 153–88
6. "'A New Weapon in Modern Warfare": Militärische Nachrichtendienste und strategische "Prisoner of War Intelligence" in Vernehmungslagern der USA, 1942–1945', in Christian Gudehus, Sönke Neitzel, Harald Welzer, eds., „*Der Führer war wieder viel zu human, viel zu gefühlvoll*“: *Der Zweite Weltkrieg aus der Sicht deutscher und italienischer Soldaten* (Frankfurt am Main, 2011), pp. 116–39
7. 'Volksgemeinschaft in der Wehrmacht? Milieus, Mentalitäten und militärische Moral in den Streitkräften des NS-Staates', in Christian Gudehus, Sönke Neitzel, Harald Welzer, eds., „*Der Führer war wieder viel zu human, viel zu gefühlvoll*“: *Der Zweite Weltkrieg aus der Sicht deutscher und italienischer Soldaten* (Frankfurt am Main, 2011), pp. 55–94
8. 'Gewaltsame Geschlechterordnung: Wehrmacht und "Flintenweiber" an der Ostfront 1941/42', in Klaus Latzel, Franka Maubach, Silke Satjukow, eds., *Soldatinnen: Gewalt und Geschlecht vom Mittelalter bis heute* (Paderborn, 2011), pp. 331–51
9. "'Seid hart und unerbittlich . . .': Gefangenenerschießungen und Gewalteskalation im deutsch-sowjetischen Krieg 1941/42', in Sönke Neitzel, Daniel Hohrath, eds., *Kriegsgreuel: Die Entgrenzung von Gewalt in kriegerischen Konflikten vom Mittelalter bis zum 20. Jahrhundert* (Paderborn, 2008), pp. 317–35
10. 'Truppenführer als Täter: das Beispiel des Majors Günther Drange', in Christian Hartmann, ed., *Von Feldherren und Gefreiten* (Munich, 2008), pp. 69–80
11. "'Im Kampf festgestellte Greuel dürften auf das Schuldkonto der politischen Kommissare kommen": Die Befolgung des Kommissarbefehls im Kontext der Brutalisierung des deutsch-sowjetischen Krieges 1941/42', in Timm C. Richter, ed., *Krieg und Verbrechen: Situation und Intention. Fallbeispiele* (Munich, 2006), pp. 185–95

Newspaper Articles and Online Publications

1. 'Der Narzissmus der NS-Funktionäre', [SPIEGEL ONLINE, 8. September 2017](#)
2. 'Alfred Rosenberg: Unbeirrt, bis in den Tod', [DIE ZEIT, no. 30 \(23 July 2015\)](#)
3. 'Kriegsende 1945: Weitergekämpft bis kurz nach zwölf', [Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8 May 2015](#)
4. 'Erlebt und erforscht', [DIE ZEIT, no. 51 \(11 December 2014\), 54](#)
5. 'Hitlers Soldaten unter sich', [SPIEGEL ONLINE, 7 January 2013](#)
6. "'Kein Problem für die Truppe": Der Kommissarbefehl', [ZEIT Geschichte, 2/2011, 42–5](#)
7. 'Das Geheimnis von P.O. Box 1142', [SPIEGEL ONLINE, 4 January 2010](#)
8. 'Absondern, erschießen', [SPIEGEL ONLINE, 12 December 2008](#)
9. 'Kein Problem für die Truppe', [DIE ZEIT, no. 45 \(30 October 2008\), 102](#)
10. 'Der Kriegsgerichtsbarkeitserlass', in [100\(0\) Schlüsseldokumente zur deutschen Geschichte im 20. Jahrhundert](#)
11. 'Der Kommissarbefehl', in [100\(0\) Schlüsseldokumente zur deutschen Geschichte im 20. Jahrhundert](#)

Reviews: Sehepunkte, Nordost-Archiv, Forum für osteuropäische Ideen- und Zeitgeschichte

Television: Interviews for the programmes 'Die Wehrmacht' (ZDF, 2007), '12 Städte, 12 Schicksale' (Vox, 2015)

Radio: Interviews for the 'Südwestdeutschen Rundfunk', 'Deutschlandfunk'

Current Research Project: The Making of Economic Inequality. A History of Knowledge of Income and Wealth Distribution in Britain after 1945

Income and wealth inequality is among the most critical political topics of our time. In political debates, statistics about the gap between rich and poor are frequently used as key indicators for social conditions and the direction a society is taking. These statistics shape the ways and the language in which we think and speak of our societies – and how we see other societies. At the same time, they play a prominent role in all political debates that touch on distributional issues such as welfare or tax reform. The Gini coefficient or the figure of the top 1 % are deeply ingrained in our political culture, yet historians have only begun to analyse the origins of these concepts.

The availability of detailed statistics on economic inequality seems to be a given in the modern world, and they suggest mathematical certainty and objectivity. In fact, income and wealth statistics are a rather recent phenomenon with a history – they were produced by government officials, statisticians and academics, based on changing concepts, cultural assumptions and political objectives. It was not until the decades after 1945 that more reliable income and wealth statistics were developed, pioneered by survey projects in the United States and Great Britain.

Studying the transnational history of these statistics helps us to understand their contingent nature, as various countries followed markedly different approaches, depending on the underlying theories, chosen categories and societal self-perceptions. Initiatives towards an international standardisation of income and wealth statistics were launched in the 1960s/70s, but made only slow progress. It was a consequence of the global fixation on national accounting, growth and GDP that economic inequality was marginalised as a statistical and political issue for most of the second half of the twentieth century.

My research at the GHIL explores the transnational history of the measurement of economic inequality from the perspective of the history of knowledge. It analyses the production, circulation, representation, interpretation and application of knowledge about income and wealth distribution. The analysis focuses mainly on Britain, but is interwoven with the global history of endeavours in this field, incorporating case studies from countries such as the US or West Germany and taking into account the role played by the UN, the OECD and other international organisations.

The project traces and contextualises the preoccupation with economic inequality that occurred in waves after 1945, in connection with changing theoretical thinking, notably the shift from functional to personal distribution theory that altered the way of looking at the dividing lines in society. The project explores how the knowledge produced by official statistics was circulated among government agencies and how it was transformed when it was shared with the public and presented in the media. The project places particular emphasis on the evolving modalities of description and graphic representation, which were important factors in the popularisation of knowledge about economic inequality and its influence on existing images of society: while earlier statistics were more difficult to digest, the introduction of the Gini coefficient and analysis by deciles made income statistics more accessible and raised public awareness.

Finally, the project also analyses how knowledge about economic inequality was interpreted and used. During the post-war era, flawed knowledge about the amount of redistribution fuelled narratives of an “income revolution” in the United States and a “great transformation” of society in Britain – the contested history of economic inequality was used as a political argument in debates about the welfare state and became a central part of national self-descriptions. Another line of enquiry is the history of the redistribution analyses that were pioneered by British statisticians from the 1950s. The measurement of distributional effects of public finances and government budgets became a fixture in British politics, whereas in other countries such as the Federal Republic of Germany official statistics failed to provide their citizens with similar analyses. The project will thus highlight not only the impact of knowledge production, but also the significance of non-knowledge in the political process.