

Boekpresentatie | Moderate Modernity

The Newspaper Tempo and the Transformation of Weimar Democracy

Activiteit van Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam

Datum: donderdag 11 januari 2024 om 20:00 uur
Locatie: SPUI25, Spui 25-27, Amsterdam / Online
Informatie: Voertaal: Engels
Toegang: Gratis. Aanmelden via de website van SPUI25

De ineenstorting van de Weimarrepubliek is nog steeds een van de meest besproken onderwerpen in de moderne geschiedenis. Nu westerse democratieën wereldwijd onder druk staan door populistische en autoritaire regimes, is de vraag waarom de Weimarrepubliek faalde opnieuw urgent en relevant geworden. In zijn boek *Moderate Modernity* biedt Jochen Hung een nieuw perspectief op deze vraag. Op 11 januari spreekt hij met Moritz Föllmer en Mario Daniels hierover in Amsterdam.

Focusing on the fate of the Berlin-based newspaper *Tempo* during the 1920s and 1930s, Jung's new book chronicles the transformation of a vibrant and liberal society into an oppressive and authoritarian dictatorship. *Tempo* proclaimed itself as "Germany's most modern newspaper" and attempted to capture the spirit of Weimar Berlin, giving a voice to a forward-looking generation that had grown up under the Weimar Republic's new democratic order. It celebrated modern technology, spectator sports, and American consumer products, constructing an optimistic vision of Germany's future as a liberal consumer society anchored in Western values. However, under the mounting economic and political crises of the early 1930s, the newspaper gradually developed a much more reactionary and illiberal voice.

The case of *Tempo* and its discursive fluctuation between democratic and illiberal values shows that the idea of Weimar politics as a standoff between pure democrats on the one hand and rabid extremists on the other does not do justice to the historical complexity of the period. Rather, we need to accept the Nazis as a lethal product of a German democracy itself. The history of *Tempo* teaches us how liberal democracies can create and nurture their own worst enemies. During this event, Jochen Hung will discuss his new book and the meaning of Weimar

democracy for today in conversation with Moritz Föllmer (UvA) and Mario Daniels (DIA).

[Register](#)

About the speakers

[Jochen Hung](#) is Assistant Professor of Cultural History at Utrecht University. His research focuses on the relationship between media, culture and society in modern history. He has published on gender representations in interwar culture, German-Jewish publishing and national identity, and youth culture in the Weimar Republic. Hung received his PhD in 2013 from the University of London (School of Advanced Study). His work was awarded the joint Essay Prize of the German History Society and the Royal Historical Society in 2012. He is also a regular contributor to international publications, including The Guardian, the BBC, the Washington Post and Die Zeit.

[Moritz Föllmer](#) is Associate Professor of Modern History at the University of Amsterdam, having previously taught at the University of Leeds and the Humboldt University Berlin. Among his many publications on twentieth-century German history are *Individuality in Berlin: Self and Society from Weimar to the Wall* (Cambridge UP, 2013) and *Culture in the Third Reich* (Oxford UP, 2020).

[Mario Daniels](#) is the DAAD-Fachlektor of the Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam. He holds a PhD from the University of Tübingen, taught at the Universities of Tübingen and Hannover, and was twice a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. From 2015 to 2020 he was the DAAD Visiting Professor at the BMW Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University. His latest book, co-authored with John Krige, *Knowledge Regulation and National Security in Postwar America*, was published with University of Chicago Press in April 2022.

Dit is een artikel gedownload via [duitslandinstituut.nl](https://www.duitslandinstituut.nl).

Artikel: <https://www.duitslandinstituut.nl/agenda/12804/boekpresentatie-moderate-modernity>