Conference

“Heimat” – an explosive topic between kitsch and utopia
Saarland University, Saarbruecken, November 11-12, 2016

Call for papers

What “Heimat” means is an open question and controversially discussed (not only in academia). It seems reasonable to deal with the term and the discourses it generates in a strictly epistemological way, to outline contesting definitions of “Heimat” and to, thus, evade the problem of conceptual determination. This approach, however, tends to neglect the manifold phenomena of “Heimat”. Our conference aims at dealing less with the discourses concerning “Heimat” than rather with its phenomena and with different forms of marking “Heimat”. We invite colleagues from the cultural sciences as well as artists to explore the plurality of “Heimat”-phenomena via significant examples or projects in different media.

Among other things, we want to investigate the relevance of spatial and temporal dimensions. Are “Heimat”-phenomena linked to specific places? How and to what extend does relatedness to place change, for example due to the experience of transfer and migration? Does “Heimat” primarily relate to a site specific experience in the past, or can it entail a perspective for the future as well – a kind of longing for something and somewhere, which can only be reached in a distance? What role do individuals, social practices, images and objects play in the perception, construction and presentation of “Heimat”? How was and is “Heimat” commercialized via souvenirs and kitschy objects of all kinds? How and where are “Heimat”-objects/-images placed and exploited by politics and the culture industry? Migration and the experience of losing one’s home, the adjustment to and building of a new or second “Heimat” far from home will be further topics we want to investigate at the conference.

We invite you to send abstracts for papers (max. 2,500 characters) as well as a short biography to Sandra Nöther (ha-ee.sek@mx.uni-saarland.de) until April 1, 2016.

Saarland University, FR 3.6
Jun.-Prof. Dr. Amalia Barboza, Juniorprofessur Theorien und Methoden der Kulturwissenschaften

Prof. Dr. Barbara Krug-Richter, Professur für Historische Anthropologie/ Europäische Ethnologie

Prof. Dr. Sigrid Ruby, Art History Institute