Seminar of the research network “Migreval”

Historical perspectives into exile – Shanghai Jews and Ovaherero in the United States – Crossed Perspectives

Institute DynamE, University of Strasbourg, February 14, 2020

Location: Salle Amériques (265), MISHA, Allée du Général Rouvillois, 67000 Strasbourg

Arrêt de tram : Observatoire

This seminar will be held at the occasion of the venue of Kevin Ostoyich, Professor at the Valparaiso University (Indiana, USA). Kevin Ostoyich is Professor of History, specialized in Oral history. Over the past years, he has worked specifically on Jews who fled to Shanghai from Nazi persecution.

9-10 AM: Presentation of Kevin Ostoyich’s and Elise Pape’s joint work on Shanghai Jews and Herero

This discussion will reflect on ways to connect biographical experiences of two groups: Jews who fled Nazism in the 1930-40s and who found refuge in Shanghai and Herero, who experienced political exile at two historical moments: during the genocide committed against their ethnic group under German colonial rule in today’s Namibia between 1904-1908 and between the 1960-1980s during South African rule of Namibia.

The presentation will aim at working out historical perspectives on the situation of refugees in (post)genocidal and (post)colonial contexts. It will furthermore address methodological challenges for historians and sociologists working on these topics.

10-12 AM: Case study 1 on Shanghai Jews by Kevin Ostoyich: "Three Families and Shanghai: The Abrahams, Kisches, and Sternbergs"

Analysis of case studies of survivors of the Holocaust who fled to Shanghai during Nazism and who later migrated to the USA.

Lunch

2-5 PM: Case study 2 on Shanghai Jews by Kevin Ostoyich: "Three Families and Shanghai: The Abrahams, Kisches, and Sternbergs"

Analysis of case studies of survivors of the Holocaust who fled to Shanghai during Nazism and who later migrated to the USA.

Joint discussion on the methods of oral history and sociological biographical interviews.