

# Ideologies in National Socialism

## International conference

**16/17 July 2020**

***History and Documentation* in co-operation with the Department of Historical Studies (Prof. Dr. Christoph Nonn) and the Department of the History, Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine (Prof. Dr. Heiner Fangerau) to be held at [Manor House Schloss Mickeln](#), the guesthouse of Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf**

English language historiographical study of the Third Reich and National Socialism has concentrated overwhelmingly on the political, economic, and military aspects of this enormously rich topic. Yet, comparatively little scholarly attention has been given to the *ideological* aspects of National Socialism which maintained a belief-structure underpinning the thoughts and actions of all major and minor players on the stage in Hitler's Germany.

We see ideology not as opposed to rationality, but rather a precondition guiding considered rational thought. We here intend the term 'Ideology' to refer to a systematically interconnected structure of ideas that has specific political, social and epistemic relevance and implementation and which effectively constitutes both the practical and theoretical *denkwelt* which determines or overwhelmingly influences both the general cognitive and psychological orientation of individuals and groups within society and of the society in which those groups exist. Ideology is, in this sense, the cognitive substrate of cognitive values which underlies both the individual and group-level crystallization and expression of all normative, political, juridical and cultural opinion that are given expression at the level of the state and people interacting with the state (like scientists). Ideology is, in other words, the optic through which individuals, groups and the political state see the world and endow it with experiential meaning and relevance.

This conference – planned as the first in a series – is predicated upon the conviction that if we fail to understand the ideological worldview which sustained National Socialism, we will not adequately come to hermeneutic grips with the relationship between ideological belief and the perpetration of extreme and inhuman atrocities such as those which occurred during this period.

We believe the time is ripe for such a series of international scholarly conferences on this important yet complex historical topic which will provide the ideal forum for the very best scholarship, as well as preparing the ground for future paths of research and collaboration. The series of conferences will aim to cover all aspects of National Socialist ideology, embracing the complete spectrum of social activity: from the military to the family household, scholarship in the humanities, sciences and medicine, covering ecology, racial science, religion and theology, myth and pagan history, symbolism, language, law, and aspects of popular and elite culture.

Conference lectures (as well as additional articles by international scholars) will be published together in an international scholarly resource entitled "Ideologies in National Socialism". This will consist of four volumes:

I. People, II. Institutions, III. History of Ideas, IV. Keywords and Encyclopaedia.

The series of conferences will form the basis for Volumes I.-III. Each Conference will have one major focus and two or three additional areas.

### **2020 Conference**

NS-Ideology in Medicine and the Life Sciences (major focus 2020)

Language of violence – language of euphemisms

NS-Ideology in economics, business, and legislation

NS-Ideology in ministries

### **2021 Conference**

Sciences and Humanities

Armed Forces – Germany and the “Axis”

Regime’s leaders, celebrities and popular culture

### **2022 Conference**

NS-Ideology and Volk – *Ideengeschichte* of Antisemitism, Ostforschung, Westforschung, Volkstumsforschung (in Germany, South Tirol, Slovenia, etc., Völkische Ideology, etc.)

Ideology of Organisations 1933-1945 (SS, SA, NSKK, Reichskulturkammer, Freundeskreis Reichsführer-SS, Ahnenerbe, Reichsverband der Automobilindustrie, Reichsärztekammer, etc.)

***We invite scholars and dedicated researchers in any and all aspects of the Nazi 'denkwelt' to join us in this exciting conference.***

***We invite presentation on the topics of the 2020 conference from now on. Please send a brief abstract (max. 1.000 characters) of your presentation and a CV before April 1, 2020. You will be informed on acceptance of your abstract by May 1, 2020. We grant travel tickets and accommodation for all accepted contributors. We expect a chapter based on your presentation to be published in "Ideologies in National Socialism".***

***Further information: <https://hi-do.org/how-to-participate/>***

***Also, if you are interested in joining our team in organizing future conferences or contributing to "Ideologies in National Socialism", please contact us: [ideology.conference@hhu.de](mailto:ideology.conference@hhu.de)***

**History and Documentation is an independent network of scholars, based in the UK, Ireland, Germany and the USA. The administrative office of the non-profit-organisation is based in Berlin. The objectives are organisation of international scholarly conferences, editing and publishing "Ideologies in National Socialism" and other scholarly books and editions.**

**Please visit our website [www.hi-do.org](http://www.hi-do.org).**

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