

This workshop explores historical and contemporary forms of the pledge as a uniquely cross-disciplinary tool and practice of security. From the Greek symbolon to mortgage, warranty, bail, and seal, the pledge calls up an age-old history of securing or crediting an expectation, relation, or undertaking that is curiously absent from the modern disciplinary landscape. The pledge spans legal, financial, and security aspects yet has no prominent place in law, economics, or security studies. Casting a wide net, this workshop aims to take a first step towards a cross-sectional account of the history and politics of the pledge and its continuing relevance today. This comprehensive perspective shall serve to detect the peculiarities of distinct forms of pledge, as well as form a basis to collectively explore how these can inform the theorization of security.

Questions this workshop seeks to address are:

- What types of pledge exist throughout the ages? Why have specific forms, such as oaths, hostages, seals or tally sticks, appeared and disappeared?
- How were types of pledge interpreted by contemporary actors and did they become associated semantically with security?
- How does a history of pledge complement or disturb the history of security as protection?
- How does an understanding of the 'original' performative act of the oath (Austin) as security affect securitisation theory?
- What underlying notions of uncertainty/insecurity do practices of contract security reflect? What temporality do they entail and produce?
- How does the pledge produce credit? What values does it mobilise and/or rely on?
- What form of power does the pledge display as basis and limit of political liability? What voluntary/coercive aspects of power are involved?
- What does a theoretical focus on and excavation of the pledge mean for modern disciplinary boundaries?

PLEDGE

Interdisciplinary Workshop on the History and Politics of a Persistent Security Device

21-22 November 2019

Philipps University Marburg

Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe
Lecture Hall | Gisonenweg 5-7 | 35037 Marburg

Convenors: Nina Boy (Warwick) | Christian Wenzel (Marburg)



Thursday, November 21 2019

- 9.15 Coffee
- 9.30 **Welcome and Introduction**
- 10.00-11.30 **Money and Security** Chair: Ute TELLMANN
Andrew HURLE (Independent, Berlin):
Forging value: An etymology of monetary signification
Laura BURNETT (Exeter):
Trade tokens – creating trust or compensating for the lack of it?
Nina BOY (Warwick)/Daniela GABOR (UWE)
Collateral times: Three historical constellations of money and pledge
- 11.30-12.00 Coffee
- 12.00-13.00 **Oaths** Chair: Tanja AALBERTS
Sari NAUMANN (Gothenburg):
The force of words: Political oaths in Sweden 1520-1718
Johanna MÜSER (Gießen):
Eid-Genossen – Companions by oath? Role and importance of the oath in the Old Swiss Confederacy
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-15.00 **Pledge in Peace and Conflict** Chair: Christian WENZEL
Janos INCZE (CEU):
What is pledging? A case study of Sigismund of Luxemburg in Hungary
Tamás SZEKELY (Marburg):
Loyal to whom? Pledges and oaths of Hungarian county leaders in the Austro-Hungarian Era
- 15.00-15.15 Coffee
- 15.15-16.15 **Securitisation** Chair: Rebecca VALERIUS
Daniel MOBLEY (Edinburgh):
'The final debt for America's greatness': History and security constructed through sacrifice in Vietnam
Andreas LANGENOHL (Gießen):
Pledge as relinquishment: Recent dynamics of financial governance and budget coordination in the European Union
- 16.15-17.15 **Discussion: Pledge as a Security Device I**
- 19.00 Dinner

Friday, November 22 2019

- 9.00-10.30 **Securing Treaties** Chair: Nina BOY
Tanja AALBERTS (Amsterdam):
Colonial legal ordering: Signatures and blood
Heinrich SPEICH (Brno):
Udel and other guarantee amounts: stability at a high price
Christian WENZEL (Marburg):
Security and trust in Early Modern peace treaties (16th-18th century)
- 10.30-11.00 Coffee
- 11.00-12.30 **Collateral** Chair: Andreas LANGENOHL
Huon CURTIS/Jesse CUNNINGHAM (Sydney):
Collateral as a formula for contingency
Jürgen SCHRATEN (Gießen):
Pledge, person and property in consumer credit
Ute TELLMANN (Darmstadt):
Habitat as pledge: a material political sociology of financialisation
- 12.30-13.30 **Discussion: Pledge as a Security Device II**