

Caroline Rothauge

History, Research

The Prix Gaïa jury is honouring Caroline Rothauge for her many foundational studies re-viving the historiography of German time measurement with a cultural approach which brilliantly combines archive sources and material artefacts.

Career

Born in Eckernförde in Northern Germany in 1981, Caroline Rothauge attended Lüneburg University from 2000, mainly studying social and cultural history and graduating with a master's degree in modern and contemporary history, communication and journalism in 2007, with a year (2003 - 2004) spent in Santiago de Compostela as part of the Erasmus programme.

In 2008, she started her doctorate at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture at the Justus Liebig University Giessen, which she completed in 2012 with the submission of her thesis on the Spanish Civil War through film and television. She then took up a post as an assistant professor to the Chair of modern and contemporary history at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, before starting work at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt in 2015. There she specialised in the cultural history of timescales through a research project led jointly with the Universities of Berlin (2017-2018) and Freiburg (2019-2020), focussing on the role of time in daily life in the German Empire circa 1900.



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In her research and teaching, Caroline Rothauge concentrated mainly on the history of time and time measurement in the 19th and 20th centuries. Through this richly diverse academic journey, she has made a significant contribution to the exploration and diffusion of knowledge relating to the measurement of time and to time-based cultures, in an approach combining objects and various kinds of archives.

In 2021, she completed her professorial habilitation thesis in modern and contemporary history, which bore the title "Zeiten in Deutschland 1879-1919. Konzepte, Kodizes, Konflikte (Times in Germany 1879-1919: Concepts, Codices, Conflicts), under the direction of Prof. Dr. Friedrich Kiessling.

Her research was undertaken in eight archive centres, and based on printed source materials and the study of artefacts. This work, rich in empirical evidence, demonstrates a deep level of expertise and offers major new perspectives on the notions of time and how it was handled in around 1900. She shows how the negotiation processes around time in Germany were both extremely dynamic and riddled with conflict. Contrary to expectations, these processes did not lead to the standardisation

of time, but rather to further pluralisation of time-based concepts.

In 2022, she received the prize for "best habilitation" from the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt for her work on the history of time measurement in Germany. The edited version of her habilitation thesis was published in 2023 by Brill, and quickly became a standard in the field. Before reaching this milestone, Caroline Rothauge had already published in prestigious academic journals, including the *Historische Zeitschrift* (2017) and *German History* (2021). The profile of, and interest in, her research into time is also underscored by the number of grants awarded and the many invitations to seminars and conferences, both at national and international level. Since 2023, Caroline Rothauge has been an interim professor of 19th Century German and European History at the University of Hamburg. She has maintained a broad and constant interest in the history of time, both in her research and her teaching, in particular in the field of the standardisation of time in western industrialised countries. She has also created and led a course on the history of time in the 19th century, and several seminars on the conception and handling of time in the modern era.

Publications (selection)

Zeiten in Deutschland 1879 – 1919. Konzepte, Kodizes, Konflikte (= *Times in Germany 1879 – 1919. Concepts, Codices, Conflicts*); Reihe/series: *Geschichte der technischen Kultur/History of Technical Culture*, Vol. 16; 577 p. Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh/Brill 2023.



Zum Scheitern temporaler Ordnungsvorschläge. Kalenderreformen im Deutschen Kaiserreich um 1900 (= *On the Failure of Proposals of Temporal Order: Calendar Reforms in the German Empire around 1900*). In: Manuel Trummer et al. (eds.): *Zeit. Zur Temporalität von Kultur*. Münster und New York: Waxmann 2023, pp. 100 – 108.

Normal Times? (Pluri-) Temporality in Everyday Life in Imperial Germany around 1900. In: *German History* 39/2 (2021), pp. 222 – 237.

Zur Einführung der „Mittleuropäischen Zeit“ im deutschen Kaiserreich 1893. Temporale Transformationsprozesse in verflechtungsgeschichtlicher Perspektive (= *On the Introduction of 'Central European Time' in the German Empire in 1893: Temporal Transformation Processes in an Interconnected Historical Perspective*). In: *Themenportal Europäische Geschichte* (7/15/2020)

Zeitumstellung. Uhren und Zeitchaos im Kaiserreich (= Changing Time. Clocks and Time Chaos in the German Empire). In: Deutschlandfunk. Aus Kultur- und Sozialwissenschaften (10/24/2019).

Es ist (an der) Zeit. Zum „temporal turn“ in der Geschichtswissenschaft (= It's (about) Time. On the “Temporal Turn” in Historical Science). In: Historische Zeitschrift 305/3 (2017), pp. 729 – 746.

The Present: An 'Unknown Time' in the German Kaiserreich around 1900. In: Sibylle Baumbach; Lena Henningsen; Klaus Oschema (eds.): The Fascination with Unknown Time. Cham (Schweiz): Palgrave Macmillan 2017, pp. 211 – 229.