

Panel

INTERMENT CAMPS IN THE CARIBBEAN DURING WORLD WAR II
ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH ON INTERMENT AND EVACUATION

With the declarations of war in September 1939, thousands of formal German citizens on British and French Caribbean Islands, among them thousands of Austrian refugees, became enemy aliens. In the following months the governments in London and Paris began considering the internment of these enemy aliens. Because of the Blitzkrieg in 1940, mass internment and evacuation became reality. Thousands of so called enemy aliens as well as evacuees ended up in internment and transit camps on several islands in the Caribbean. With the entry of Cuba alongside the United States into World War II in December 1941, the Cuban government also interned enemy aliens in several camps. Some of internees on Caribbean islands remained in camps until 1948.

This panel will highlight the history of the internment camps in Jamaica and Trinidad and the Cuban Camp on the Isle of Pine (today Isle of Youth) from a historical and archaeological perspective. On the one hand the politics behind internment measures and the construction of camps and on the other, life in the camps will be considered taking the different categories of internees such as residents, refugees, evacuees, temporarily workers and employees, men, women, children into account.

Transatlantic and Inter-American perspectives allow not only the perpetrators and victims to be seen but also those in colonial societies in which internment camps were set up. Hence the presenters of this panel are from the different regions of Europe and the Americas.

Paper 1

Claudia Theune and Iris Winkelbauer

(University of Vienna)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN CARIBBEAN INTERNMENT CAMPS

While forced and internment camps are well known in Europe and numerous archaeological excavations have been carried out there, the Caribbean internment camps are largely unknown. In this lecture, the first results of the excavations on the Five Islands, Trinidad and Mona, Jamaica are presented.

Claudia Theune has been professor of Historical Archeology at the University of Vienna since 2007. She studied prehistory and early medieval archaeology, European ethnology, Christian archeology as well as geology in Marburg and Bonn (Germany). In 1988, she graduated from the Philipps- University of Marburg with a Ph.D. on early medieval cemeteries in the Western Lake Constance area, the Hegau. After her habilitation "Structural changes in the Alamannia due to the archaeological sources from the 3rd to the 7th century" at the Humboldt University zu Berlin 2001 she opened new research fields in medieval and early modern archaeology; she started an archaeological research project in the former concentration camp Sachsenhausen, north of Berlin. Her current research focuses on archeology of the 20th century, especially former concentration camps, and other internment camps and research on survival strategies in internment camps. In addition, she conducts investigations on archeology of the early Middle Ages and on medieval and early modern settlement structures in marginal areas. Among her latest publications related to the topic of this conference, are the monography "A Shadow of war – Archaeological approaches to uncovering the darker sides of conflict from the 20th century" (Leiden 2018) and the journal article "Karibische Geschichte – fern und doch so nah." (Archäologie in Deutschland 5/2018)."

Since 2018 **Iris Winkelbauer** has been a predoc Assistant at the University of Vienna. She has studied pre- and early history at the University of Vienna, where she graduated in 2013. After her graduation, she worked as an independent archaeologist on historical buildings. Her main research areas focus on medieval and modern archeology, especially in historical building research, research on medieval and early modern monasteries and castles, as well as on contemporary internment camps. In 2017 she joined the project: "Internment camps in the Carribean: Five Islands (Trinidad & Tobago) and Mona Camp (Jamaica): History and Archaeology of Claudia Theune and Christian Cwik on the Five Islands in Trinidad and Tobago.

Paper 2

Christian Cwik (University of Graz)

AUSTRIANS IN TRINIDADIAN INTERNMENT CAMPS BETWEEN FLIGHT, INTEGRATION, AND INTERNMENT, 1940-45

More than 500 Austrian citizens have been interned as German enemy aliens in Trinidadian Internment camps during 1940 and 1945. Most of them were Jews from Vienna who arrived on the islands before the outbreak of World War II. The lecture presents the escape routes, the time of internment and the liberation from the camps during 1940 and 1945 using the latest archive material from selected biographies and prosopographys.

Christian Cwik: Before the Vienna born historian joined the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz in October 2019, he was professor at the Department of History at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad (2013-2019), visiting professor at the University of Havana (2012-2013) and the University of Cartagena in Colombia (2009-2011) as well as interim-professor at the Universities of Cologne (2015-16) and Erfurt (2020-11). From 2006 to 2007, he was professor at the Department of Political Sciences and Government Studies, Venezuelan Bolivarian University in Caracas. He is the Vice-President of the Association of Latin American and Caribbean Historians (ADHILAC). He received his Ph.D. from the University of Vienna where he studied history and philosophy. He has published more than 100 journal articles and book chapters. His current research topic is on "Internment Camps in the Caribbean during WWII".

Paper 3

Zachary J. M. Beier (University of the West Indies, Mona/Jamaica)

'A LIVELY LITTLE TOWN' INSTITUTIONAL AND EVERYDAY LIFE AT THE GIBRALTAR CAMP, JAMAICA, 1940-1944

Following the end of agricultural production on the Mona estate in the first decade of the twentieth century, this area was developed as a haven for evacuees from Gibraltar and other areas in Europe during the Second World War. By 1940, three camps were in operation, including housing and other facilities for refugees as well as German and Italian prisoners of war. Historical archaeological investigations beginning in 2017 have documented architectural evidence along with artifacts that are testament to this important time in global history and the role of Jamaica in supporting the war effort. In this paper, we summarize this collaborative research effort that focuses on the human experience in Jamaican internment camps, revealing the role of institutional and individual forces in the daily lives of camp occupants.

Zachary J. M. Beier is Lecturer in Archaeology at The University of the West Indies, Mona in Kingston, Jamaica. He specializes in the archaeology of the Caribbean with a particular focus on the historical archaeology of British colonial fortifications in the Atlantic world. Before joining the Department of History and Archaeology at Mona, he completed a Fulbright on the Caribbean island of Dominica investigating the material and spatial patterns of enslaved African laborers and soldiers at the Cabrits Garrison. In 2011, he was a Digital Archaeological Archives of Comparative Slavery (DAACS) Fellow at the International Centre for Jefferson Studies, where he worked on providing public access to research findings that aid in comparative approaches to Atlantic world slavery. He is supervising archaeological investigations on the UWI Mona campus (a former sugar plantation as well as the internment camp during World War II), and at the White Marl Taíno settlement, which was one of the largest indigenous villages in Jamaica between c. AD 900 through Spanish contact and colonialism. Finally, he has co-authored an edited volume with Dr. Christopher DeCorse featuring archaeological case studies of fortifications and their associated communities from around the British imperial world

Paper 4

Michael Zeuske (University of Bonn)

INTERNMENT OF ENEMY ALIENS IN CUBA DURING FULGENCIO BATISTA S RULE, 1941-44

Before Cuba entered into World War II in 1941, thousands of German refugees reached the island in search of a safe exile from European fascism. Many of them used the island as a hub for onward migration to the United States (Hotel Caribbean theory). Among the refugees were also famous members of the German Communist Party such as August Thalheimer or Heinrich Brandler. This lecture will discuss with Fulgencio Batistas policy towards German enemy aliens after Cubas entry into World War II, in particular with the internment of German citizens in camps on the Isle of Pine from 1941 to 1945.

The German historian **Michael Zeuske** is currently Senior Professor at the Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies of the University of Bonn since he retired from the University of Cologne where he has been Professor for Latin American and Iberian History from 1993-2018. The GDR born historian (Halle an der Saale) became 1992 professor for comparative history at the University of Leipzig where he has studied history and philosophy. During 1963-1964 Zeuske went to school in Havana (Cuba) where his father Max Zeuske used to work for the government of the Cuban Revolution. Zeuske has been Visiting Fellow at several US-universities such as Indiana (Bloomington), Yale (New Haven) and Michigan (Ann Arbor) and Herder Visiting professor at the University of Havana in Cuba. Furthermore, he was Fellow at the BeiDa Uni (Peking University) in Beijing. He is the author of more than 30 books and about 300 journal articles and book chapters. His current research on the topic of this conference is about the Internment camp on the Isle of Pine in Cuba during World War II.