



News from Germany: The Competition to Control World Communications 1900–1945

Prof. Heidi Tworek

University of British Columbia

9 July 2019, 15:15, room F 428

Abstract:

Information warfare may seem like a new feature of our contemporary digital world. But it was just as crucial a century ago, when the great powers competed to control and expand their empires. This talk uncovers how Germans fought to regulate information at home and used the innovation of wireless technology to magnify their power abroad. Communications networks became a crucial battleground for interwar domestic democracy and international influence everywhere from Latin America to East Asia. Imperial leaders, and their Weimar and Nazi successors, nurtured wireless technology to make news from Germany a major source of information across the globe. The Nazi mastery of global propaganda by the 1930s was built on decades of Germany's obsession with the news. News from Germany is not a story about Germany alone. It reveals how news became a form of international power and how communications changed the course of history.