1 September 2026

Questions for Week 1 Day 1 - ESEM Migration and Modern Germany

What is Germany and Who is German?

Before class, please read and consider the Hoyer and Blackbourn texts on the formation of the German Empire and migration. We will discuss these a bit on our first day on Tuesday, and they provide the necessary background for our Thursday session.

Katja Hoyer, “Introduction,” Blood and Iron (2022), pp. 7-12.

David Blackbourn, “On the Move,” *Germany in the World* (2023), pp. 250-72, 296-309. [note that I have provided the whole chapter; you only need to read the specific pages mentioned here; we will read the section on “colonies” in week 2]

Below are questions I would like you to consider that we will discuss in class. Note that many of the questions do not have a single *right* answer. Some are asking you to make your best guess; some are asking for your opinion.

1. Who are David Blackbourn and Katja Hoyer?

2. What interested you about these texts? What questions did they raise for you?

3. In your own words, what argument is David Blackbourn advancing? He is not as explicit about it as Hoyer, but take a stab at finishing this sentence: “Blackbourn is arguing that…. “

4. In your own words, what is Hoyer’s argument?

5. What answers do Blackbourn and Hoyer offer to the questions: What is Germany and Who is German?

6. How does Blackbourn portray xenophobic backlash?

7. What point does Blackbourn make about the spread of infectious diseases?

8. How easy or difficult to read were these texts?

9. If you think one or both of them were good, what specifically do you think made them good? If you think they were bad, what specifically made them bad or difficult?

10. How do you currently approach writing assignments?

11. What organizational and writing strategies do you use?