The Northeast Institute

The Institute for the Culture and History of Germans in Northeast Europe (IKGN e.V.) in Lüneburg – the Northeast Institute for short – began its work in 2002. It is a research institute whose scholarly faculty undertake their own research as well as other projects, and present their results for discussion at conferences and in scholarly publications. In addition, the Institute maintains the Northeast Library, a specialized, field-oriented resource containing some 170,000 entries in various media which are available for public use. The Northeast Institute operates on the basis of a cooperation agreement (or ‘an’-affiliation) with the University of Hamburg. Here, as well as at other schools of higher education in Germany and abroad, the faculty of the Institute regularly schedule courses. The Institute cooperates with numerous scholarly entities and universities in Germany and Northeast Europe, and also brings its resources of learning to a wider public. The Institute’s work is supported with funds from the Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media. Individual projects can be financed with third-party funds. A charter establishes the legal, organizational and content-related basis of the Institute’s work, and also regulates the work of the committees (board of directors, board of trustees, membership meeting).

More information:
www.ikgn.de/en/institute.html

Translation by Dr. Louis Marvick

Institute for the Culture and History of Germans in Northeast Europe (IKGN e.V.)
The perspective of orders refers to the fact that modern Northeast Europe can be understood as a place of various systems of ordering. From an historical point of view, it addresses the question of how orders come into being, how they develop, and how they change.

The appropriation of political, cultural and geographic spaces in Northeast Europe was a central strategy for articulating and asserting national ideas, ideologies and changing cultural or local interests. The perspective of experiences focuses on the conditions of life and experience of broad sections of the population. Thus, the terms Orders, Appropriations and Experiences provide a framework for the Institute’s research into the history of political, social, cultural and everyday processes.

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The “Northeast Archive” appears annually. Each volume is dedicated to a particular theme, raising research questions that address the regional, cultural and inter-relational history of the areas in which German and other ethnic groups lived with and alongside one another. By virtue of the thematic focus of the reviews included in each volume, the “Northeast Archive” serves an important function among scholars and public intellectuals who would otherwise not discover the ways in which the texts came to be written, their historical context as well as the scholarly debate surrounding them are presented in concise introductions. Contributions to the online series “Translated History” thus aims to facilitate the transnational scholarly and public discussion of research findings and the development of cultural memory, and to contribute to an objective basis for this discussion.

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