HUMA SEMINAR

DATE: Thursday, 14 September 2017

TIME: 13h00 – 14h30

VENUE: Huma Seminar Room, 4th floor, Neville Alexander Building

Thomas Reinhard (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany)

“Remember to Forget Haiti! De-Memorizing a Black Revolution that Changed the World”

HUMA and CALDi (Centre for African Language Diversity) are jointly hosting this event.

The impact of the Haitian Revolution on the history of the Western hemisphere can hardly be overrated. Indeed, the world would look very different today, had it not been for the events that took place in the Caribbean around the turn of the 19th century.

Between 1791 and 1804, an army of former slaves led by charismatic generals like Toussaint Louverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines successfully overthrew the French colonial regime on the island of Hispaniola and established the world’s first modern Black republic. While contemporary newspapers and magazines in Europe and the U.S. closely followed the events that led to Haiti’s independence, news coverage stopped almost immediately after the last white settlers had been forced to leave the island.

Over the years, history’s silence on Haiti turned out to be so comprehensive that Europe all but forgot the events that enabled the U.S. to become a hegemonic player on the world’s political stage. The talk will take a look at the Haitian revolution and its main actors and explore the strategies of forgetting that deleted it from Europe’s historical map.
Bio

Thomas Reinhardt is professor of cultural anthropology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany. He has published extensively on Afrocentricity, identity discourses and memory politics. His research explores topics at the intersection of anthropology, history, philosophy, postcolonial- and literature studies.

