

The Department of History Colloquium Series
presents
2nd Annual Driedger Lecture sponsored by the Driedger Fund



(Co-sponsored by the Faculty of Arts & Science
and Institute for Child and Youth Studies)



Humanitarian Imagery and the Irresistible Appeal of 'the Child'

Dr. Heide Fehrenbach (Northern Illinois University)

On social media and in our newsfeeds and mailboxes, heart-rending images of needy or suffering children confront us on a daily basis. They seek to grab our attention, prick our moral conscience, stimulate empathy and political action, or open our wallets for a good cause.

Modern humanitarianism and photography emerged in the 19th century and came of age together. But when did humanitarian campaigns first begin to feature children? How do these images appeal to their audiences, and why does this focus persist? This talk will consider the history of humanitarianism through the lens of the camera and its focus on the child. History suggests that while depictions of children-in-need may appear static and predictable, for over a century they have been deployed in various ways for a surprising array of political agendas.



Heide Fehrenbach is Board of Trustees Professor and Distinguished Research Professor in the History Department at Northern Illinois University. She previously taught at Emory University and Colgate University. Her scholarship has focused on European and U.S. history, German-American relations, transnational histories of race, gender and visual culture, and most recently, humanitarianism and children. She has published five books, including *Race after Hitler: Black Occupation Children in Postwar Germany and America* (Princeton U Press, 2007), and most recently, *Humanitarian Photography: A History* (Cambridge U Press, 2015). In addition, she has written on military occupation, war children, international adoption, and child migration, and has served as consultant on several film and television documentaries. A former Guggenheim Fellow, she was Haniel Fellow in residence at the American Academy in Berlin, and the recipient of an ACLS and two NEH fellowships.

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017

Location: L-1060 (Library, University of Lethbridge)

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free Reception to follow in L-1050.

Everyone is welcome. Free parking is available.

Note: L-1060 and L1050 are located in the hallway leading into the entrance of the library.

The Driedger Fund supports the study of history through scholarships and special events, and is made possible by Dr. Gerhard Driedger's children to honour their father's lifelong love of history.

This presentation is part of the History Homecoming Weekend & UL50 celebrations.

