

– Institute’s Colloquium –



**The Institute of Ethnology  
of the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität  
is glad to welcome**

**Dr. Nadine Rossol  
(University of Essex)**

**Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> 2022, 4-6 p.m.**

**Police History in Germany: New Perspectives and Old Challenges**

Traditionally police history, especially in Germany, was a rather small field dominated by questions on the role of the police in authoritarian and dictatorial systems. There were good reasons for this focus that—after an initial concentration on the Gestapo and the Stasi— included a greater concentration on ‘ordinary’ police officers and their role(s) in dictatorial regimes. Consequently, new approaches and historiographical developments reached police history belatedly which further added to the impression that methodologically important discussions were happening elsewhere (for example within military history). This picture has changed by now and approaches focused on gender, emotions, cultural practices & everyday history have substantially informed works on the police. So too have fruitful interdisciplinary exchanges especially with the social sciences. However, focusing on everyday activities of police forces still requires justifying that this is not meant to minimise or divert attention from more unscrupulous police activities. Using the example of traffic policing & traffic safety education, I want to demonstrate that these seemingly mundane tasks of the police can tell us quite a lot about normalised patterns of behaviour, perceptions of citizenship and the role of the police as societal agent even, and perhaps particularly, when these actions happen alongside more dramatic actions of the police.

The Institute’s Colloquium will take place at Aegidiistraße 5 (Room AE-209).

**Everybody is welcome!**