



Philosophische Fakultät



*EINLADUNG* zum  
**JAHRESVORTRAG  
UND SOMMERFEST**

*des Historischen Instituts*

**8. JULI 2026 | 17 UHR s.t.**  
Campus Am Neuen Palais

# Sheldon Garon

Princeton University

*Nissan Professor of History and East Asian Studies*

spricht zum Thema:

## **“Toward a Global History of the Second World War”**

The Second World War was the most global war in history, yet efforts to write a global history of the conflict have been disappointing. Global historians have generally regarded the war as a rupture in the processes of “globalization,” while historians of the Second World War have been reluctant to insert Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union within a transnational framework because of their exceptional natures. Just as important, most historians remain challenged by the war’s genuine globality, in which one of the key belligerents – Japan – was a non-Western society. I’d argue, on the contrary, that the years between 1914 and 1945 witnessed intense transnational learning about war and society among major and minor powers alike. The global circulation of these ideas and practices culminated by the Second World War in a veritable war on civilians. It had become “normal” for nations to seek to win wars not only by defeating armies but also by destroying entire cities. At the same time, transnational learning shaped how nations constructed “home fronts” to protect civilians while mobilizing them for the war effort. This presentation suggests new ways of transcending nation-centered histories to tell a more global, connected story of the war.



Sheldon Garon is the Nissan Professor of History and East Asian Studies at Princeton University, and Associate Researcher, Centre d'histoire, Sciences Po, Paris. A specialist in modern Japanese history, he also writes transnational/global history. Awarded a European Research Council Advanced Grant in 2024, he currently directs the project, "The Global War on Civilians, 1905 – 1945." His publications include *Molding Japanese Minds: The State in Everyday Life* (1987), *Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves* (2012), "On the Transnational Destruction of Cities: What Japan and the United States Learned from the Bombing of Britain and Germany in the Second World War," *Past & Present* (2020).

Das Historische Institut  
und der Fachschaftsrat Geschichte  
laden zum **Jahresvortrag**  
mit anschließendem **Sommerfest** ein.

### Wann?

am Mittwoch,  
dem 8. Juli 2026,  
um 17 Uhr s.t.

### Wo?

Campus Am Neuen Palais, Haus 9,  
Raum 1.02 (1.9.1.02)

Nach dem Vortrag bietet der  
FSR Geschichte auf der Freifläche  
vor Haus 11 und Haus 12  
Speisen und Getränke an.

**Sie sind herzlich zum  
gemütlichen Verweilen eingeladen!**

*Eine Anmeldung ist nicht nötig.*

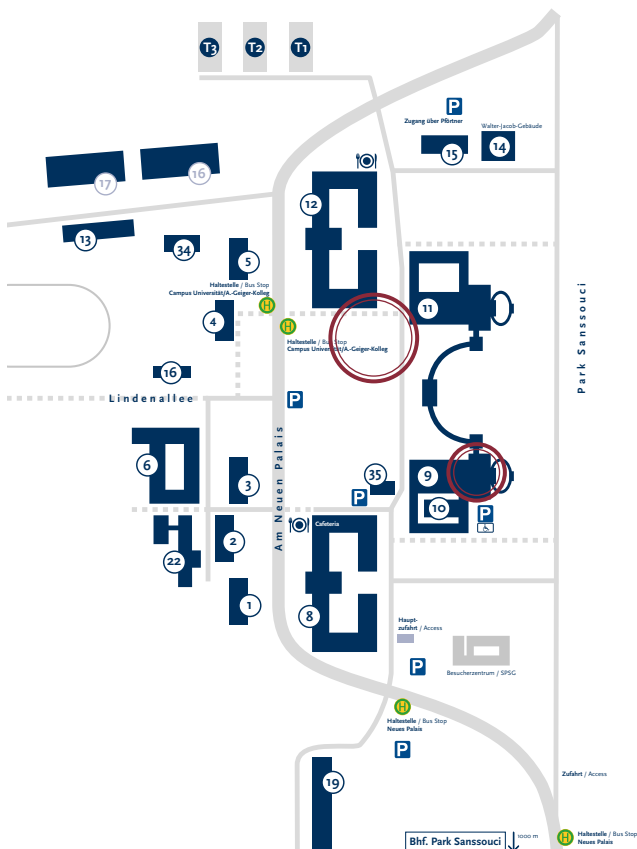
# Lageplan und Kontakt

## Universität Potsdam

Campus Am Neuen Palais

Raum 1.02 in Haus 9 (Jahresvortrag)

Freifläche vor Haus 11 und 12 (Sommerfest)



## Universität Potsdam

### Historisches Institut

Am Neuen Palais 10 | Haus 11 | 14469 Potsdam

E-Mail: [hi-geschaeftsfuehrung@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:hi-geschaeftsfuehrung@uni-potsdam.de)

[www.uni-potsdam.de/hi](http://www.uni-potsdam.de/hi)