



Colloquium

Tuesday 24 April 2012, 5 p.m. (c.t.)
Small conference hall, MPI for Human Development

Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht, Stanford University, Wissenschaftskolleg
zu Berlin, Institute for Advanced Study

PRESENCE, STIMMUNG, LATENCY ABOUT THE OBJECTIVITY OF PAST FEELINGS AND HOW TO DESCRIBE THEM



In this talk, I will try to look back at a trajectory that was never meant to be one, a trajectory also in which the dimension of the past came back, obsessively and inevitably, however much I tried to be more strictly "philosophical." In what has been its end so far [and in a forthcoming book under the title "After 1945 -- Latency as Origin of the Present"] this sequence led me to the question [perhaps relevant to real historians] whether there is a dimension where what we are all so very much aware of in our "inner lives" [and refer to with concepts

as vague as "feelings," "emotions" or "mentalités"] can show an objectivity that makes it accessible to description.

Professor Gumbrecht is Albert Guérard Professor in Literature in the Departments of Comparative Literature, of French & Italian, of Spanish & Portuguese at Stanford University. His research interests include: Medieval "literature" and culture; Spanish, French, German, and (to a lesser extent) Italian literatures since the Renaissance; Argentinian and Brazilian literatures in the 19th and 20th centuries; Aesthetics; History of Ideas, History of Scholarship.

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The colloquium is open to the public.