

David Blackbourn's lecture argues that treating the nation as a "container" gives too little attention to the movement of people, things and ideas. It overlooks the porousness of borders, underplays zones of contact and exchange, and favours the homogeneous over the hybrid. His lecture, which ranges from the age of discoveries and the Reformation to the reunification of Germany, outlines how we might write a truly transnational history of German-speaking Europe in the period 1500-2000.