DR. HILARY EARL

“From Perpetrators of Genocide to Ordinary Germans: The Reintegration of Nazi Perpetrators to German Society”

30 million people were killed during World War II; 17 Million of them were civilians. Of these, 6 million were Jewish—deliberately targeted and murdered by Nazi perpetrators in a European-side campaign of mass murder. Murdering that many people required thousands of individual perpetrators. Very few of these men were ever fully prosecuted and even fewer were punished although 185 of were prosecuted in the 13 Nuremberg trials between 1945 and 1949 and, for a variety of reasons this paper will discuss, most of them were released from prison in the early 1950s before their sentences were complete. Using legal and archival sources, this talk explores the means by which convicted war criminals reintegrated into German society, their criminal pasts all but forgotten and ignored, and it will assess the factors that enabled such men—perpetrators of genocide—to become ordinary Germans again.

Date: February 2, 2017
Time: 11:30 - 1:00
Room: F210