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## Newsletter des Collegium Carolinum 12/2012

(5.6.2012)

### Buchvorstellung

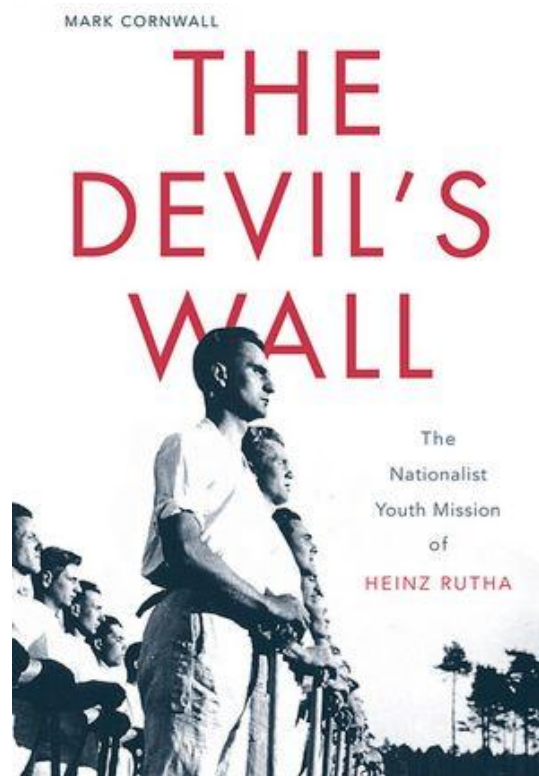
Das [Collegium Carolinum](#) lädt zusammen mit dem [Kulturreferenten für die böhmischen Länder im Adalbert Stifter Verein, München](#), und dem [Tschechischen Zentrum München](#) ein zu der Buchpräsentation

**Mark Cornwall**

**The Devil's Wall: The Nationalist Youth Mission of Heinz Rutha**  
(Harvard University Press, 2012)

am 19. Juni 2012, 18 Uhr,

im Collegium Carolinum, Hochstr. 8, München



This lecture will launch a new book, *The Devil's Wall*, which is a radical reinterpretation of nationalist politics and sexuality in the Bohemian lands in the early twentieth century. It uses the short life of the youth leader Heinz Rutha (1897-1937) as a means to rethink the tortuous relationship between Czechs and Germans in central Europe, revealing how a local nationalist mission centred on north Bohemia constantly interacted with the national and the international. Mark Cornwall particularly probes the fluid nature of national allegiance for those living under Austrian and Czechoslovak rule through forty years. But he also grapples with the taboo subject of homosexuality and youth in the region – presenting the first such study of its kind. Since Heinz Rutha in the 1930s was also Konrad Henlein's foreign minister with links to London and Geneva, the book examines 'Sudeten foreign policy' on its own terms, reassessing from a fresh angle the international crisis that led to Munich in 1938. While Rutha's life ended in a public homosexual scandal and suicide, his life-mission on behalf of male youth tells us much about the unusual Sudeten German nationalist mindset, how it emerged in the First World War, and how it was shaped in interwar Czechoslovakia.

For further details [click here](#).

Mark Cornwall is Professor of Modern European History at the University of Southampton. He is also a member of the editorial board of *Bohemia (A Journal of History and Civilisation in East Central Europe)* and chair of the British side of the 'Forum of British, Czech and Slovak Historians'. His main fields of research in the last thirty years have been the Czech-German relationship in the Bohemian lands and the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. His published works include *The Undermining of Austria-Hungary. The Battle for Hearts and Minds* (2000); *The Last Years of Austria-Hungary* (2002); and, with R.J.W. Evans, *Czechoslovakia in a Nationalist and Fascist Europe* (2007). *The Devil's Wall* (2012) is the culmination of his long interest in the Czech-German relationship with a focus on the interwar period. He is now researching a new project on 'Loyalty and Treason in the late Habsburg Monarchy'.

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