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**SILENT WITNESS: WAR
AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN
BRANDENBURG, 1627-1680**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019
6:00-7:30PM | BRNG 2280

Interest in war and its effects on the environment is growing rapidly and yet what Tait Keller observed in 2014 for the environmental history of World War I remains true: that "[w]hile many contemporaries mourned the fate of blasted lands along the front lines, the natural world often remains a voiceless casualty of war in current scholarship." Virtually all writing about wars, including early modern ones, however, discusses environmental and ecological damage if often only tangentially or implicitly. The circumstances are familiar: ruined farms, trampled fields, clear-cut or "traumatized" forests, burned-out sacred and secular buildings. Sometimes, too, we hear about ruptured dams, collapsed or exploded bridges, obstructed locks and canals. The immediate effects of such destruction were obvious, but early modernists, unlike historians of the modern world, have been less active in exploring the enduring impact of war on the environment and its ability to shape long term "changes in the land" as well as to affect identities. Although destruction and recovery were interactive processes, even less thought has been given to the massive changes rebuilding wrought on the environment. "Silent Witness" analyzes how the wars of the mid to late seventeenth century affected the natural, built, and human landscapes of Brandenburg during turbulent times.

*Mary Lindemann is Professor and Chair of the History Department at the University of Miami. She works on early modern German, Dutch, and Flemish history in the early modern world. She is the author or editor of several books and numerous articles. Her first book, *Patriots and Paupers: Hamburg, 1712-1830* (Oxford University Press, 1990), was named "An Outstanding Academic Book for 1990" by Choice. Her second monograph, *Health and Healing in Eighteenth-Century Germany* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996) won the 1998 American Association of the History of William H. Welch Medal Book Prize. Professor Lindemann has served on several editorial boards and was, until early 2018, one of a team of three editors of *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal* based at the University of Miami. She is currently Past-President of the German Studies Association and President-Elect of the American Historical Association (President in 2020).*

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