



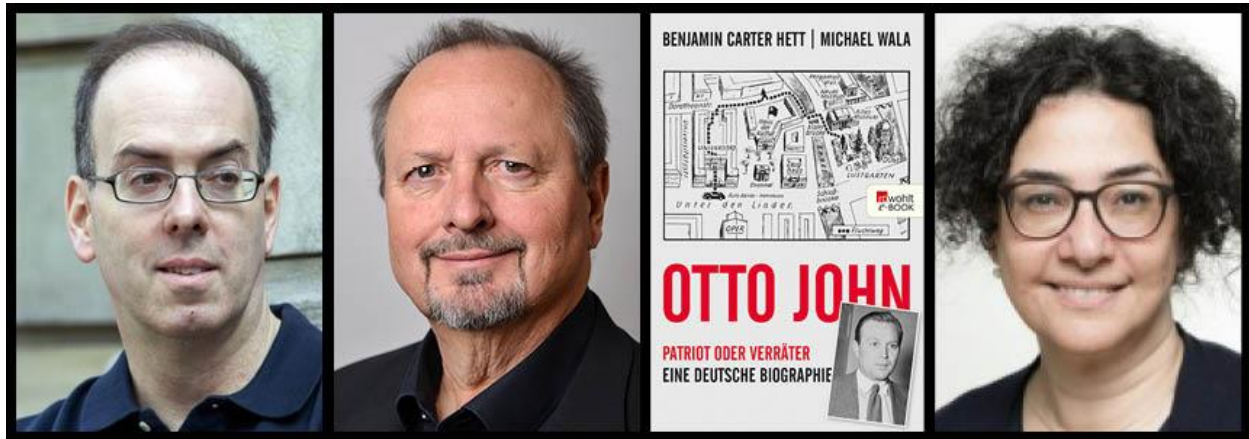
invites you to attend

A new public program
presented in person and on Zoom

BENJAMIN HETT & MICHAEL WALA

on their new book

OTTO JOHN: PATRIOT or TRAITOR



BENJAMIN HETT

MICHAEL WALA

YASEMIN PAMUK

Wednesday, July 20, 6:00 PM (ET)

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

Reception to Follow

Welcome address and moderated by Consul **Yasemin Pamuk**
from the German Consulate General New York

Co-presented with University Alliance Ruhr (an alliance between the three largest universities in Germany's Ruhr region), the German Consulate General of Germany in New York, and the Hunter College Department of German, Roosevelt House is pleased to present a discussion of *Otto John: Patriot or Traitor* by Hunter College professor of history **Benjamin Hett** and professor of North American history at the Ruhr University Bochum **Michael Wala**. The authors will be in conversation with Consul **Yasemin Pamuk** from the German Consulate General New York.

On July 20, 1954, the President of the German Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution disappeared from West Berlin and reappeared a few days later in East Berlin. 17 months later, Otto John returned to the West and was immediately arrested as a defector. A member of the German anti-Nazi resistance that had organized the failed assassination of Hitler ten years before, John had barely escaped the Gestapo in July 1944, he hid in Spain as well as in Portugal, and was eventually evacuated by British intelligence to support their anti-Nazi propaganda efforts, before returning to the Bundesrepublik in 1949. For decades it has remained unclear whether John went voluntarily to the GDR or, as he claimed, was kidnapped by Soviet intelligence.

In *Otto John: Patriot or Traitor*, co-authors Hett and Wala shed new light on a man who was part of the resistance and who made a career in Germany in the post-war period. The book is an exciting spy thriller from the Cold War that also presents an historic milestone for the nascent German republic.

Michael Wala is professor of North American history at the Ruhr University Bochum. His research, teaching and publications focus on various aspects of American history, international and transatlantic relations, and the history of intelligence services. He recently concluded research for a book “Spy v. Spy: West German Counterintelligence and GDR Espionage” that will next year be published by Ch. Links.

Benjamin Carter Hett is a former lawyer and a professor of history at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. He is the author of many books, among them *Crossing Hitler*, winner of the Fraenkel Prize, and *The Death of Democracy*.

Yasemin Pamuk heads the Cultural Affairs and Science section at the German Consulate General New York. Previously, she served as liaison officer and personal advisor to Professor Volker Perthes, a former director of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin and a senior advisor to Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy for Syria at the United Nations in Geneva.

Please click the link below to join the program via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83763990548>



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**Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination will be required for all who attend.
Please click [here](#) to upload your vaccination proof.**



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