Kiel to Otley – Women of the German Revolution 1918

In November 1918, Germany was gripped by a revolution. Learn about the revolutionaries, their aims and motivations at this talk. The First World War brought misery to the German home front. The population suffered deprivation and hunger for four years as the government struggled to coordinate their limited resources across the nation. For almost the entirety of the war, Germany experienced strikes, unrest and violent action as people protested their living conditions. This culminated in the German revolution of November 1918 and the end of the war.

This talk will introduce some of the female revolutionaries, what roles they played and how the revolution shaped their lives. This talk will also introduce Hilde Kramer (1900-1974), a revolutionary who was only a teenager at the time but quickly took on leadership positions. It will share her perspective on the revolution, how the events shaped her life and chart her path across Europefrom Munich to Moscow, Berlin to Otley.

Dr Corinne Painter is a researcher in the German Department at the University of Leeds. She is currently researching women involved in the German revolution of November 1918 and this research will be used to create a new play "Women of Aktion" (October 2018).