

- Ronald G. Asch, born in Hamburg in 1953, is a graduate of Tübingen University where he also completed his doctorate on the counts of Fürstenberg in the 16th and 17th centuries after having studied earlier in Kiel and in Cambridge. He has held a research fellowship at the German Historical Institute London (1985-88) and a lectureship at the University of Münster in Germany (1988-1996). From autumn 1996 to spring 2003 he held the chair of early modern history at the University of Osnabrück and is now teaching at the University of Freiburg as successor to Wolfgang Reinhard. He is the editor or co-editor of *Politics, Patronage and the Nobility: The Court at the Beginning of the Modern Age* (1991); *Der Absolutismus - ein Mythos? Strukturwandel monarchischer Herrschaft ca. 1550-1700* (1996), *Der Adel im Ancien Régime. Von der Krise der ständischen Monarchien bis zur Revolution (ca. 1600-1789)* (2001), and *Frieden und Krieg in der Frühen Neuzeit. Die europäische Staatenordnung und die außereuropäische Welt* (2001) and the author of *Der Hof Karls I. Politik, Provinz und Patronage 1625-1640* (1993), a study of the English court before the Civil War. He has also published a short history of the Thirty Years War in 1997 and a biography of James VI and I: *Jakob I. von England und Schottland: König des Friedens im Zeitalter der Religionskriege* (Stuttgart 2005). In 2008 he published *Europäischer Adel in der frühen Neuzeit* (Cologne, 2008). At the moment he is preparing for publication a study on the English and French monarchies in the 17th century: *Sacral monarchy between disenchantment and re-enchantment*.
- He was a member of the advisory council of the German Historical Institute London for eight years, and belongs presently to the review board for Feodor-Lynen fellowships of the Humboldt foundation and of the advisory board of the journal *Virtus – Jaarboek vor de Adelsgeschiedenis*. His principal areas of research are British History c. 1558-1660, the comparative history of the European nobilities and of early modern monarchy as an institution, but he has also worked on German history in the early modern period.
- He is a member of the Heidelberg academy of arts and sciences and of the Academia Europaea. From 2006 to 2012 he was chair of the DFG-research group (Graduiertenkolleg) Friendship and Patronage in Freiburg and is presently one of the vice-chairs of the *Sonderforschungsbereich 948 Helden*,

Heroisierungen, Heroismen (roughly translated: Constructing heroes - doing/living heroism).