

Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen

The Research Centre was founded in 1982 at the instigation of Willy Brandt and Hans Koschnick. Its purpose is the analysis of current developments in culture and society of Central and Eastern Europe. Since its foundation, its work has been reflected in numerous monographs, yearbooks, and essays. At the present time, the institute's Archive of Samizdat literature comprises more than 150,000 original documents from the literary and artistic, civil rights and social underground of the former socialist countries. Since the mid-nineties personal bequests and private collections complement the collections. Besides research and archive the institute is involved in policy consulting.

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Eichwede has been the centre's director since its foundation. The institute received the *Erich Brost Award* of the City of Gdansk and the *Pro Cultura Hungarica* award by the Hungarian State.

Registration

www.forschungsstelle-osteuropa.de
Registration deadline: June 8th, 2007

Venue

University of Bremen
Building IW 3
Room 0390
Hochschulring/Am Biologischen Garten
28359 Bremen
Germany

Conference language

Conference languages are German and English. Simultaneous interpreting (German, English and Russian) will be provided for all speeches.

Conference fee

€ 20 (€ 10 students). This fee covers the costs of conference participation, comprehensive documentation, lunch, coffee breaks as well as soft drinks.

The organisers reserve the right to alter the programme as may be necessary.



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Conference
University of Bremen
Building IW 3
Room 0390
Hochschulring/Am Biologischen Garten
28359 Bremen
Germany

How to get there

arriving by car

coming from motorway A 27

- take exit *University*, follow signs to *University*
- turn right at next traffic lights entering *Hochschulring*
- turn right into the second street
- turn right into *Am Biologischen Garten*.

coming from the city centre

- at the crossroads *Am Stadtwald / Universitätsallee* turn left into *Wiener Straße*
- at the end of *Wiener Straße* turn right entering *Hochschulring*
- turn left into *Am Biologischen Garten*

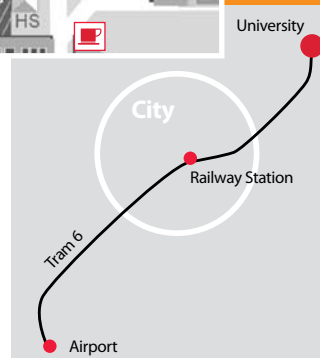
There is parking space in front of the building

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Contact

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arriving by tram 6

- take tram no. 6 going to *University*, stopping at the Airport as well as the Railway station, get off at last stop *Klagenfurter Straße* (appr. 20–30 mins)
- there is a ticket machine on the tram (fare: 2.10 Euro)

Design: kube und trink, Bremen



Anniversary

Conference Bremen, June 15th – 16th, 2007

The Other Eastern Europe – from the 1960s to the 1980s.
Dissent in Politics and Society, Cultural Alternatives





The Other Eastern Europe – from the 1960s to the 1980s. Dissent in Politics and Society, Cultural Alternatives

The conference aims at bringing together different perspectives on the contemporary history of Eastern Europe, from Stalin's death in 1953 to the "velvet" revolutions in 1989. In particular the interrelations between political, societal, and cultural developments shall be considered. Furthermore, one should move beyond the totalitarianism and the modernisation debates. Emphasis is therefore placed on questions of cultural profiles, spaces of action in the various societies, and the functioning of political systems.

The conference is not devoted to the Samizdat worlds per se. Rather, by analysing these one may learn more about the societies and cultures where they have emerged and may be able to position them within their historical context. In view of the high differentiation among the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, a comparative perspective seems germane. Common or similar systemic conditions are accompanied by diverging historical experiences. Moreover, further research should not rest on a comparative component within this region but seek for overarching parameters.

The conference draws on a research project under the same title that the Bremen Research Centre has started together with five partner institutes in Eastern Europe.

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Eichwede
Director
Research Centre for East European Studies

Friday, June 15th

9¹⁵_{a.m.} **Registration**

10⁰⁰_{a.m.} **Opening speech**

Wolfgang Eichwede • Bremen
Contradictions of the Systems, Dissent in the Societies

10³⁰_{a.m.} **Panel 1: Political Systems: Functional Deficiencies, Reform Fragments and Patterns of Repression**

Speakers
Klaus von Beyme • Heidelberg
Modernization in the 1970s and 1980s. Necessities and Constraints

Peter Reddaway • Washington
Patterns in Soviet Policies towards Dissent. 1956 – 1988

Jiří Příbáň • Cardiff
Political Dissent and Legality in Communist Regimes

Ivo Bock • Bremen
Institutional Change of Censorship: USSR and Czechoslovakia from the 1960s to the 1980s

Chair
Dieter Senghaas • Bremen

1³⁰_{p.m.} **Lunch**

3⁰⁰_{p.m.} **Panel 2: Conformity and Dissent in Socialist Societies**

Speakers
Boris Dubin • Moscow
Russia as an Adopting Society (Mass Contentment, Forms of Discontent, Limits of Protest)

Malte Rolf • Berlin
White Shirts for Labour Day! Cultural Conventions and Unconventional Cultures in the Postwar Soviet Union

Ilko-Sascha Kowalczyk • Berlin
Society and Opposition in the GDR

Tomáš Vilímeček • Prague
Becoming a Dissident. Pathways into Confrontation with the Regimes in Czechoslovakia and the GDR

Chair
Melanie Tatur • Frankfurt/M.

Saturday, June 16th

9⁰⁰_{a.m.} **Registration**

9³⁰_{a.m.} **Panel 3: Pluralisation of Public Spheres**

Speakers
Egbert Jahn • Mannheim
The Cautious Pluralisation of the Political Opinion in the Soviet Union since the 1960s

Jan Pauer • Bremen
Dissent as Independent Public Spheres in the GDR and Czechoslovakia

Ann Komaromi • Toronto
Samizdat Periodicals and Publics

Wolfgang Kissel • Bremen
Samizdat and the Erosion of the Soviet Literary Canon

Chair
Dietrich Beyrau • Tuebingen

12³⁰_{a.m.} **Lunch**

14⁰⁰_{a.m.} **Panel 4: Resistance Movements and Cultural Alternatives from a Historical Perspective**

Speakers
Melanie Tatur • Frankfurt/M.
"Learning" through Social Movement? – The Solidarność as "Symbolic Breakthrough" – from Today's View

Barbara Falk • Toronto
Between Past and Future: Central European Dissent in Historical Perspective

Benjamin Nathans • Philadelphia
Historicizing Soviet Dissent: Between Embeddedness and Seclusion

Georg Witte • Berlin
Interference writing. Samizdat as Poetical Medium

Chair
Wolfgang Eichwede • Bremen

16³⁰_{a.m.} **Concluding remarks**

Wolfgang Eichwede