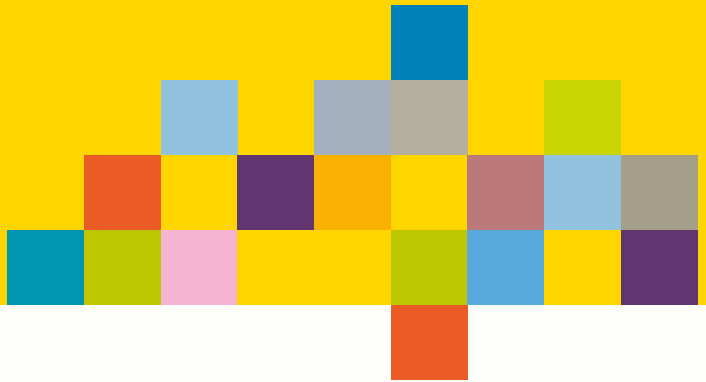


IMRE KERTÉSZ KOLLEG JENA

1989 AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

**Challenges and Ambiguities
of Democratic Transformation in
Central and Eastern Europe**



**5 – 7 JULY 2023
BERLIN-BRANDENBURG ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES**

funded by



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FRIEDRICH-SCHILLER-
UNIVERSITÄT
JENA



WEDNESDAY // JULY 5

14:00 // REGISTRATION / ARRIVAL

15:00 // WELCOME

Opening Address: Minister of State *Carsten Schneider*,
Federal Government Commissioner for Eastern Germany
Introduction to the conference: *Joachim von Puttkamer*

16:00 // **DISCUSSION: WHICH EUROPE DO WE WANT TO LIVE IN?**

The panel will discuss the normative implications of future-oriented transformations. "Which Europe" refers to the political and social constitution of European countries and the European Union, as well as their relationship to their respective neighbours. Is it still possible to imagine a democratic Russia as a natural part of Europe?

Andreas Wirsching, Munich

Irina Scherbakowa, Moscow / Jena

Karolina Wigura, Warsaw

Henri de Bresson, Paris

Chair: *Joachim von Puttkamer*, Jena

17:30 – 18:00 // COFFEE BREAK

DIAGNOSES OF EUROPEAN TRANSFORMATION

18:00 // **PANEL 1: FREEDOM – CONTESTED CONCEPTS**

The guiding ideas of East German and Eastern European dissidents and opposition figures were not only multifaceted, but also came into tension with each other – if not into open conflict – soon after 1989. The definitions of freedom and liberty, the democratic rule of law, as well as the restoration of national sovereignty, were all up for debate. Which ideas of freedom were able to gain consensus in their respective societies and which were not? Which disappointments were perhaps pre-programmed?

Marta Bucholc, Warsaw

Evgenia Lezina, Potsdam

Anne Rabe, Berlin

Michael Werz, Washington D.C.

Chair: *Gwendolyn Sasse*, Berlin

19:30 // RECEPTION

THURSDAY // JULY 6

09:00 // **PANEL 2: EQUITY AND ECONOMY**

The economic conditions in state socialist dictatorships at the end of the 1980s were as diverse as their eventual transitions to a market economy. Yet, the upheaval was dramatic everywhere, and the losers initially far outweighed the winners. The panel will highlight the societal balance sheets of this economic transformation and search for new approaches to an old discussion. To what extent is the assumption still valid today that economic prosperity and fair participation are necessary, but by no means sufficient, conditions for democratic stability?

Steffen Mau, Berlin

Viktoriya Sereda, L'viv / Berlin

Vera Šćepanović, Leiden

Chair: *Alexander Libman*, Berlin

10:30 – 11:00 // COFFEE BREAK

11:00 // **PANEL 3: THE RULE OF LAW – CONTROVERSIES**

The commitment to the rule of law looks ever more fragile – and this is by no means only the case in Eastern Europe. Simultaneously, simply pointing to authoritarian or populist undercurrents is hardly sufficient as an explanation. As culture wars over different interpretations of the rule of law increase in intensity, the question of how liberal democracies can react to social shifts and renew themselves from within is pushed further into the background. Is their foundation really at risk in Europe?

Adam Bodnar, Warsaw

Philip Manow, Bremen

Veronika Bílková, Prague

Chair: *Kai-Olaf Lang*, Berlin

12:30 – 13:30 // LUNCH BREAK





THURSDAY // JULY 6

13:30 // **PANEL 4: CULTURE WARS**

Climate change, gender diversity, immigration – can we still debate these issues constructively? The idea of discursive rationality and a democratic balancing of interests seems to have reached its limits when it comes to the big picture. How much plurality can European democracy take?

Andrea Pető, Vienna / Budapest

Piotr Stasiński, Warsaw

Julia Friedrichs, Berlin

Axel Salheiser, Jena

Chair: *Holly Case*, Providence

15:00 – 15:30 // COFFEE BREAK

15:30 // **DISCUSSION: EAST GERMAN EXPERIENCES – BEYOND JUSTIFICATIONS AND DISINTEREST**

Lutz Rathenow, Dresden / Berlin

Axel Doßmann, Jena

Daniel Schulz, Berlin

Katharina Warda, Berlin

Chair: *Volkhard Knigge*, Weimar

16:30 // **PANEL 5: WAR, NATION, SHIFTING MEMORIES**

Right-wing populism, nationalist memory politics, and – with particular force and ruthlessness – the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine have directed our attention once again to the dark side of historical remembrance, which is otherwise shrouded by empathetic rhetorics of memory: the political mobilization and misuse of history for power- and geo-political purposes. Is (transnational) post-heroic memory coming to an end in the form of the revival of (ultra-)national heroic memory that marginalizes responsible injustice? What place is then left for the Russian memory, critical of communism or Putin, which has largely been forced into exile?

Martin Schulze Wessel, München

Ivan Kurilla, St. Petersburg

Dariusz Stola, Warsaw

Volkhard Knigge, Weimar

Chair: *Sybille Steinbacher*, Frankfurt / Main

18:00 – 18:45 // COFFEE BREAK

18:45 // **READING & DISCUSSION: TANJA MALYARCHUK IN CONVERSATION WITH KATERYNA RIETZ-RAKUL**

(event in cooperation with the Ukrainian Institute in Germany)

FRIDAY // JULY 7

09:00 // **PANEL 6: WAS GERMANY TOO SELF-ASSURED?**

“Europe’s sleeping giant”— reunified Germany was expected and continues to play a central role in European transformation processes. As part of a critical self-reflection, the panel looks back at possible shortcomings of German politics in the past three decades and draws political conclusions for the present and the future.

Raphael Gross, Berlin

Piotr Buras, Warsaw

Wolfgang Schäuble, Berlin

Lars Klingbeil, Berlin

Ekaterina Schulmann, Berlin

Chair: *Sonja Zekri, Munich*

10:30 – 11:00 // COFFEE BREAK

11:00 // **PANEL 7: DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE – CHALLENGES AND DILEMMAS**

Democracies must be resilient; they must be able to defend themselves, both internally and externally, against anti-democratic actors and efforts within state and society as well as against attacks on democracies and democratic values from the outside. Yet, it is not always possible to distinguish clearly between these two aspects, for example when the democratic formation of opinion is manipulated online. Where does freedom of opinion end today? How far should established protective mechanisms be allowed to go? What repercussions must be taken into account in terms of the military defence of democracies?

Ralf Fücks, Berlin

Olexandra Matviichuk, Kyiv

Marek Prawda, Warsaw

Valentina Pisanty, Bergamo

Chair: *Thomas Krüger, Berlin*

12:30 // CONCLUSION



