

IMPACTS OF COMMUNISM IN WEST EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES SINCE 1945

The conference explores Western European communisms since 1945 in their interactions with liberal-democratic orders: What did democracy do to communism and what did communism do to democracy?

Conference languages are German and English with simultaneous translation.

Participation in the conference is possible on site in Berlin or via live stream.

The Hermann Weber Conference on Historical Communism Research preserves the memory of the Mannheim historian Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hermann Weber (1928–2014) and is intended to network and initiate projects on the history of Communism. The conference contributions will be published in the *Jahrbuch für Historische Kommunismusforschung* (Yearbook of Historical Communism Research) founded by Hermann Weber, which has been continued by the Federal Foundation for the Study of Communist Dictatorship in East Germany since 2004. The conference series is made possible by a donation from the widow to the Gerda and Hermann Weber Foundation.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH 2023, PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- 18.00** **Welcome**
- Keynote**
 Sonja Levsen (Trier)
 **How the Marginality of Communism shaped
the Federal Republic of Germany: Comparisons
with West European Neighbours**
- 18.45 – 20.00** **Discussion**
 Sonja Levsen, Thomas Kroll, Till Kössler,
 Claudia Gatzka
- Chair: Ulrich Mählert
 (Gerda-und-Hermann-Weber-Stiftung)
- 20.00** **Drinks**

THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2023, CONFERENCE DAY I

- 9.00** **Introduction**
 Claudia Gatzka (Freiburg)
 Dominik Rigoll (Potsdam)
- 9.30–10.45** **Panel I: Communists in Power**
 Paolo Capuzzo (Bologna)
 **Democracy and Communism in Bologna
(1945–1956)**
 Teresa Malice (Bielefeld)
 **Between Politics and Local Administration:
Communist Women and Welfare in “Red”
Bologna in the 1960s and 1970s**
- Chair: Christian Jansen (Trier)
- 11.15 – 12.30** **Panel II: Communists without power?**
 Maximilian Graf (Wien)
 The Role of Communism in Austrian Democracy
 Till Kössler (Halle-Wittenberg)
 **Communism and Democracy in the Federal
Republic of Germany**
- Chair: Sonja Levsen (Trier)
- 12.30 – 13.30** **Lunch**

13.30 – 15.15 Panel III: Communists and democratic institutions

Philipp Kufferath (Bonn)
Political Impulses and Learning Experiences of Former Communists within German Social Democracy after 1945

Fiammetta Balestracci (Turin)
Il balzo in avanti. Communist Women in the Italian Parliament during the Long 1970s

Harm Kaal (Nijmegen)
Dutch Communism, Electioneering, and Democracy, c. 1945–1970s

Chair: Zoé Kergomard (Zürich)

16.00 – 17.15 Panel IV: Communists across borders

Franck Schmidt (Heidelberg)
Popularization of a Communist Cause: the France-GDR Friendship Society and the Institutions of the French Republic (1958–1989)

Grazia Prontera (Salzburg)
Karolina Novinscak Kölker (Regensburg)
The Communist Parties of Italy and the SFR Yugoslavia and their Relationship to “Guest Workers” in Munich in the 1970s and 1980s

Chair: Isabella Löhr (Berlin)

17.45 – 19.30 Panel V: Communists in transition

Raquel Varela (Lissabon)
The Role of the Portuguese Communist Party in Transition to Democracy: a global History Approach

Pablo Gil Valero (Paris)
Eurocommunism and Democracy: Jordi Solé Tura during Spain’s Transition to Democracy

Thorsten Holzhauser (Stuttgart)
From Communism to the „Left“: (Post-)Communist Parties in Western Europe after 1989

Chair: Juliane Fürst (Potsdam)

19.30 Drinks

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2023, CONFERENCE DAY II

8.30–9.45 Panel VI: Communist Counter-Memories

Yves Müller (Halle)

Benet Lehmann (Gießen)

Contributions of Jewish Communists to the Democratic Culture of Remembrance in the Federal Republic of Germany: Emil Carlebach and Esther Bejarano

Corinna Bittner (Cologne)

Collection as Encounter. Communist Survivors and the Memorial Movement in Emsland

Chair: Cornelia Siebeck (Hamburg)

10.15–11.30 Panel VII: Communism and the New Left

Lea Fink (Berlin)

Utopia and Non-Places of Communism. The Relationship of Critical Theory to Democracy and ‚Real-Existing‘ Socialism

Johanna Wolf (Frankfurt am Main)

Communists at Work. The Agitation of the New Left at the Bremer Vulkan Shipyard in the 1970s

Chair: David Bebnowski (Munich)

12.00–13.15 Panel VIII: Communists as Observers

Mario Keßler (Potsdam)

Communists and Ex-Communists as Democracy Researchers in the “Old” Federal Republic of Germany

Jörg Arnold (Nottingham)

A British Road to Socialism? Communism and the 1984/85 UK Miners’ Strike

Chair: Thomas Kroll (Jena)

13.15 Lunch + Farewell

DATE

15.–17. March 2023

LOCATION

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (House 1)
Hiroshimastraße 17
10785 Berlin

CONVENORS

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
www.uni-freiburg.de

Leibniz-Zentrum für Zeithistorische
Forschung Potsdam (ZZF) e. V.
www.zzf-potsdam.de

Jahrbuch für Historische
Kommunismusforschung
www.bundesstiftung-aufarbeitung.de/jahrbuch

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REGISTRATION

Please register for participation in the
conference on site or via livestream at
ortdeskommunismus@zzf-potsdam.de.

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