East Central Europe in the First Half of the 20th Century – Transnational Perspectives

International Conference
14–16 January 2016

Venue:
Leipzig Centre for the History and Culture of East Central Europe (GWZ0)
Specks Hof (Eingang A), Reichsstr. 4–6, 04109 Leipzig

12:30 – 14:00  **Greetings and Opening**  
Christian Lübke (Director GWZO)  
John Keiger (President AIHCE)

- Frank Hadler and Matthias Middell (Leipzig): What is a Transnational Perspective on East Central Europe?  
- Oldřich Tůma (Praha): What is contemporary history in the Czech Context?

14:30 – 17:30  **Economy**  
*chair: Dirk Suckow (Leipzig)*

- Uwe Müller (Leipzig): Introduction  
- Žarko Lazarević (Ljubljana): Peasant’s Debts in Southeast Europe in Interwar Period (Cases of Yugoslavia, Romania and Bulgaria)  
- Roman Holec (Bratislava): Capital in the shadow of the policy. Business at the Crossroads of Central European Development  
- Jaromír Balcar (Berlin): From Nazi War Economy to Soviet Style Centralized Planned Economy. Aspects of Business History in Czechoslovakia and East Central Europe in the Decade of Extremes (1938–1948)

18:00 – 19:30  **Evening Lecture**  
Isabel Wünsche (Bremen): Transnational Perspectives on the St. Petersburg Avant-Garde: Art, Science, and Intellectual History

**Reception with wine and pretzels**

FRIDAY 15.1.2016

8:30 – 11:30  **International Organizations**  
*chair: Adamantios Skordos (Leipzig)*

- Katja Naumann (Leipzig): Introduction  
- Ondřej Matějka (Praha/Geneva): The constitution of a transnational “epistemic community”. Czech Barthians between East and West 1920s–1950s  
- Kateřina Čapková (Praha): Pitfalls of Minority Rights in East Central Europe. German and Jewish minorities in Poland and Czechoslovakia

**Coffee Break**

- Martin Kohlrausch (Leuven): The Experiment of ‘Ciam-Ost’. Urbanism and Regional Development Against the Background of Postimperial Structures, National Agendas and the Lure of internationalism  
- Bartha Ákos (Budapest): Internationalized Conceptions of National Territorialization? Foreign Policy of Endre Bajcsy-Zsilinszky (1886–1944)

**Lunch**
12:30–16:00 **Migration**

*Chair: Katrin Steffen (Hamburg)*

- Michael G. Esch (Leipzig): Introduction
- Andrea Komlosy (Wien): From Imperial to National Scale. How Internal Migration Became International After the Collapse of the Habsburg Monarchy
- Andreas Fahrmeir (Frankfurt am Main): From Imperial to Post-Imperial Citizenships. Implications for Migration and Migration Control
- Friederike Kind-Kovács (Regensburg): Refugee Slumming. Budapest’s Housing Crisis after the Great War
- Péter Bencsik (Szeged): Border Regimes in the Dual Monarchy, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. A Long Duree Perspective

16:30–19:00 **Culture**

*Chair: Tanja Zimmermann (Leipzig)*

- Beata Hock (Leipzig): Introduction
- Sarah M. Schlachetzki (New York): International Style on the Margins. Wrocław’s / Breslau’s Architectural Modernity Beyond Regional History
- Fedora Parkmann (Paris): An Example of Interwar Czech-Russian Cultural Transfer. The Czech Worker Photography Movement
- Comment: Peter Zusi (London)

**SATURDAY, 16.1.2016**

9:00–12:00 **Territorialization**

*Chair: John Keiger (Cambridge)*

- Steffi Marung (Leipzig): Introduction
- Iryna Vushko (New York): Lost Fatherland. Europe Between the Empire and Nation States, 1900–1939
- Catherine Gibson (Firenze): Discrete vs. Thick Borders. Imperial and National Symbolic Geographies in the Belarusian-Latvian Borderland, 1864–1924
- Reiner Fenske (Dresden): Imperial Societies against Territorialization. The example of the German “Ostbund”
- Zoriana Melnyk (Firenze): Territorialization Under the Influence of Mass Mobilization in Austrian Galicia

12:30 **Resume and Final Discussion**

*Chairs: Jan Zofka and Katja Naumann (Leipzig)*
Traditionally the decades of the first half of the 20th century appear as a period of nationalization and de-globalization, and seems to be true also for the region East Central Europe. After World War I (Nation)states such as Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia were (re)established after the monarchies of the Habsburgs, Hohenzollerns, and Romanovs had fallen apart. Wilsonian idealism, promoting national self-determination, gained a fertile ground. The 1930s were dominated by the Great Depression, autarkic economic policies and nationalist ideologies. Following World War II and in an ex-post perspective, these “national” lines of development were made more prominent in historical narratives so that the whole period seemed as a “road from war to war”. In this reductionist view, aspects of continuities across the apparent historical breaks of 1914/18 or 1939/45 often are marginalized. What about the sense for the beginning of a “New Europe” in a “New World” after the break-up of the empires, or the openness of the moment felt by contemporaries once the wars were over? How changed the conditions under which people migrated? How enterprises gained new markets? How cultural exchange was revived? How territorialization processes were globalized? A transnational perspective can help to find answers concerning the region and the period under question in the conference.