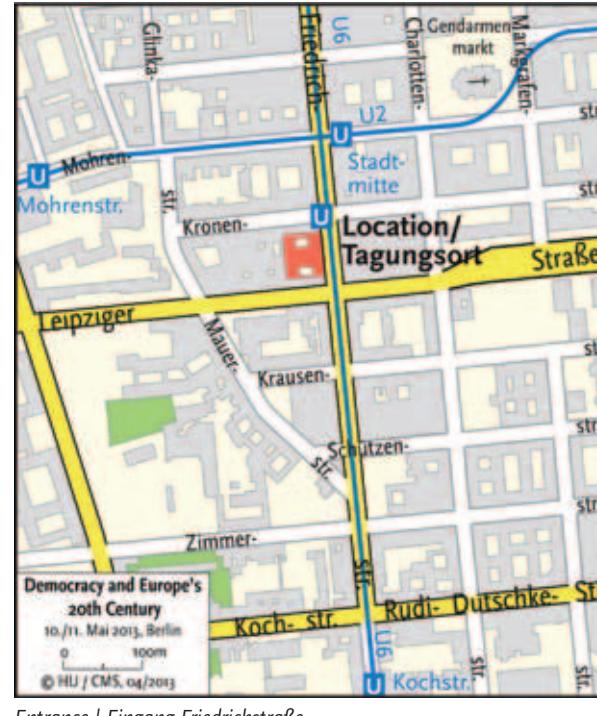




Reichstag building, Berlin, June 1945

“Democracy” is a keyword

of Europe's twentieth century, as it was lived at the time and as it is analyzed by historians. The interwar period witnessed the short-lived triumph and resounding collapse of liberal democracy, as fascism and communism – each presenting itself as a purer form of democracy – rose to prominence. In the postwar era, liberal democracy was rebuilt on new ground in Western Europe, locked in confrontation with an antagonistic model of “people's democracy” in Eastern Europe. These conflicting ideologies were realized in a wide array of national and international institutions, all of which claimed legitimacy in democratic terms. Within and beneath – but also outside and against – these institutions, politicians and intellectuals as well as regular citizens sought their bearings and staked their claims. As concept and practice, twentieth-century democracy was essentially contested.



Entrance | Eingang Friedrichstraße

Directions | Anfahrt

U2 / U6 Stadtmitte

Conveners | Veranstalter

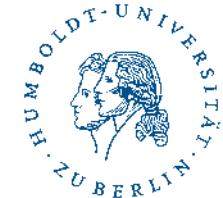
Sean Forner, Thomas Mergel

Contact | Kontakt

Lehrstuhl für Europäische Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften
Tel.: +49 (0)30 2093 70584

Registration requested to | Anmeldung erwünscht an

Dagmar Lissat
Institutssekretariat
lissatd@geschichte.hu-berlin.de



Democracy and Europe's 20th Century: Cultural and Intellectual Histories

An International Workshop at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

May 10 – 11, 2013

Institut für Geschichtswissenschaft
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Friedrichstraße 191 – 193



Photo: Wolfgang Volz © 1995 Christo

Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Wrapped Reichstag, Berlin, 1971-95

Democracy and Europe's 20th Century: Cultural and Intellectual Histories

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The workshop seeks to bundle and build on current research that historicizes democracy from a range of perspectives: social, political, and intellectual history, but also the cultural history of politics, the history of emotions, and political theory. It brings together scholars addressing various empirical topics and using diverse approaches, in hopes of illuminating larger questions beyond the scope of any single research agenda. How were the parameters and bounds of “democracy” – of who should count as “the people” and what should count as their “rule” – negotiated across the century? With what symbols, meanings, and ideas was “democracy” invested? With what passions, prejudices, and interests? How was it enacted in practical contexts, both in politics per se and on the wider field of “the political”? In what local, regional, and national traditions was it embedded, and how were these shaped by larger-scale forces? In what ways did the shifting political fortunes of “democracy” – in both everyday practices and elite discourses – relate to long-term transformations in social order and experience?

Workshop languages are German and English.

Program

Friday, May 10, 2013 (13:00–19:00)

Introduction | Einführung

Sean Fomer (Michigan State University/Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Plenary I. Talks | Vorträge (13:15–14:15)

- The Idea of Democracy in Western Europe, 1945-73
Martin Conway (University of Oxford)
- Framing the Euro-Atlantic History of Democracy in the 20th Century: Some Considerations
Paul Nolte (Freie Universität Berlin / Historisches Kolleg München)

coffee break (ca. 15 min.)

Plenary II. Interventions | Interventionen (14:30–15:30)

- Clumsy Democrats: Forms, Style, and Passions in Postwar Germany
Till van Rahden (University of Montréal / Morphomata Kolleg Köln)
- Legacies of Dissidence in East-Central Europe: From Democratization to Post-Socialist Post-Democracy?
Michal Kopeček (Institute for Contemporary History, Prague / Kertész Kolleg Jena)
- Zum Verhältnis zwischen Populismus und Faschismus
Paula Diehl (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- Gestaltwandel der Demokratie und dramaturgisches Handlungsmodell
Harald Bluhm (Universität Halle-Wittenberg)

Discussion (to 16:45)

Moderator: Thomas Mergel (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

coffee break (ca. 30 min.)

Panel I. Frames | Rahmen (17:15–19:00)

Commentator: Hannes Grandits (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

- Selbstbestimmung, Selbstregierung und Souveränität. Zum Zusammenhang von internationaler Politik und Demokratie nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg
Marcus Payk (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- Staatenlosigkeit und Zugehörigkeit in Westeuropa 1919-61
Kathrin Kollmeier (Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam)
- Equality, Democracy, Socialist Internationalism: Women’s Rights in Eastern Europe after 1945
Celia Donert (University of Liverpool)

Saturday, May 11, 2013 (9:30–14:00)

Panel II. Arenas | Räume (9:30–11:15)

Commentator: Moritz Föllmer (University of Amsterdam)

- Legitimation durch Verwaltung. Wirtschaftspolitik und demokratischer Wohlfahrtsstaat in der Zwischenkriegszeit
Tim B. Müller (Hamburger Institut für Sozialforschung)
- Democracy and Compromise: Budget Negotiations and the Expression of Legitimate Difference in West Germany in the 1950s and 1960s
Philipp Nielsen (Max Planck Institut für Bildungsforschung, Berlin)
- „Alternative“ Demokratie? Macht und Raum im alternativen Milieu (1977-1985) (BRD)
Susanne Schregel (Weimar)

snack & coffee break (ca. 30 min.)

Panel III. Visions | Ordnungsentwürfe (11:45–13:30)

Commentator: Bernd Weisbrod (Universität Göttingen)

- Managerialism and Mass Democracy: Intellectuals and Unions in 1950s Western Europe
Sean Fomer (Michigan State University / Humboldt-Universität)
- Vom Abendland zum Neokonservatismus. Transnationale Elitenzirkel und der Wandel konservativer Ordnungsvorstellungen in Westeuropa nach 1945
Johannes Großmann (Universität Tübingen)
- Demokratie, Freiheit und Verteilung im Spätsozialismus (Beispiele aus Polen und der Tschechoslowakei)
Natali Stegmann (Universität Regensburg)

Discussion (to 14:00)

Moderator: Thomas Mergel (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

This event is made possible by support from the VolkswagenStiftung.



VolkswagenStiftung