



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

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### Registration requested to | Anmeldung erwünscht an

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## Democracy and Europe's 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Cultural and Intellectual Histories

### An International Workshop at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Friedrichstraße 191 – 193, Raum 5009

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 Forner (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 Forner (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.

